

**MEMOIR OF CATHARINE  
SEELY, LATE OF DARIEN,  
CONNECTICUT**

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Memoir of Catharine Seely, Late of Darien, Connecticut by Catharine Seely

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**CATHARINE SEELY**

**MEMOIR OF CATHARINE  
SEELY, LATE OF DARIEN,  
CONNECTICUT**



MEMOIR  
OF  
CATHARINE SEELY,

LATE OF

DARIEN, CONNECTICUT.

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The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.—Psalms, chapter 34—verse 18, 19.

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1843.

## PREFACE.

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IN looking over the private papers of the late Catharine Seely, whose painful pilgrimage terminated 10th month, 27th, 1838, her friends believed that a small volume might be selected from them which would be interesting to the serious reader, and to the afflicted generally, but peculiarly so to those who are lingering, as she did, year after year upon beds of pain and sorrow, with that most afflicting malady—a diseased spine.

Her numerous letters, and a diary, commenced in her juvenile years and continued to the last months of her life, afford ample materials for a large work; yet, as brevity seems preferable, in many respects, to a repetition of the best sentiments, or of the continual changes incident to the complicated diseases under which she was a daily and hourly sufferer for nearly twenty years, but a very small portion has been selected for publication.

The disadvantages under which the greater part of it was written—a recumbent posture, in a darkened room, with a trembling hand and throbbing brain, rendered errors inevitable, some of which have been corrected, where it could be done without affecting the meaning in the least degree; while they have been mostly overlooked for the sake of giving her sentiments in her own words. As she “fought the good fight and kept the faith,” we doubt not but that she has received “a crown of glory;” therefore these memoirs are no longer any thing to her, and the hope that they may prove a blessing to survivors, by inciting others to follow her as she endeavored to follow Christ, is the only reason why an attempt is made to lay them before the public.

If, while perusing the following pages, the reader will bear in mind, that, (as an intimate friend of hers has written concerning her,) “she was subject to many privations from early life in consequence of ill health, and was confined to her bed for the last fourteen years, during which she was a considerable part of the time in extreme suffering,” he can scarcely fail of being deeply impressed by the spirit of humble piety, of fervent devotion, and of patient resignation to the will of her Heavenly Father, which pervades her writings. May the impression prove abiding and salutary! The same friend also observes that, “her patience was admirable, and when able to see company, she was remarkable for her pleasant and instructive conversation, which induced many to visit her.”

P R E F A C E .

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Several circumstances have combined to delay the publication of her writings, of which the difficulty of getting a manuscript prepared for the press has not been one of the least ; and it is only from a conviction that they will not otherwise be presented to the public, that the compiler of the following pages has been induced to undertake the arduous, though in some respects, pleasing task of revising and arranging them.



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## MEMOIR OF CATHARINE SEELY.

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CATHARINE, daughter of Wyx and Catharine Seely, was born in Darien, Fairfield County, Connecticut, 6th month, 2nd, 1799. As a tendency to scrofula was early manifested, her constitution was extremely delicate, and her health variable, from her infancy. She was naturally of a lively, amiable and affectionate disposition; combined with much energy and decision of character, which, in after life, contributed not a little towards enabling her to surmount many of the difficulties, trials, and discouragements by which she was surrounded. In her manners, she was diffident and retiring. While writing upon the subject a few years before her decease, she remarked, — "I possessed a gay and active disposition, which was often restrained by diffidence, with which I suffered much during childhood and youth, though it probably preserved me from committing offences which my volatile disposition might otherwise have led me into."

Although subject to frequent serious attacks of illness,—

“ Her spring, like other springs, was gay,  
And roses bloom'd around.”

And while enjoying the society and friendship of her youthful associates, or admiring the beauties of nature, amid the continually varying scenes of which she was delighted to be able to ramble, her pleasures were often of as pure a nature as earth can afford.

In her twelfth year she met with a severe trial in the death of her brother, Sands Seely, who died in New-York, 12th month, 1811, aged 23 years. He gave satisfactory evidence of his own preparation for the event, and exhorted others to “*prépare* while in health and strength for such a solemn scene—a painful, dying bed.” In speaking of this bereavement, she says,—“ My mind was naturally meditative and enquiring, but not pious, I think, at as early an age as some are. I do not remember any abiding seriousness until the death of my dear brother. He was very fond of scientific engagements; and being qualified for teaching at an early age, he followed it principally when his health would permit. I am self-condemned for having neglected the improvement I might have attained under his tuition, and by his example of dignity, sobriety and piety. His death made me sensible of my own hourly danger of being taken out of life. I reflected that it would have been as easy for the Almighty to have taken me as him, and resolved that I would try to be in readi-