

**A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE,  
SICKNESS, AND DEATH OF ELIZABETH  
MERRITT: A CHILD ELEVEN  
YEARS OF AGE; ALSO SOME ACCOUNT  
OF THE LAST ILLNESS OF ANN WARING,  
LATE OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649265633

A Short Account of the Life, Sickness, and Death of Elizabeth Merritt: A Child Eleven Years of age; Also some account of the last illness of Ann Waring, late of the city of New-York by Sarah Ann Merritt & John Merritt

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**SARAH ANN MERRITT & JOHN MERRITT**

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**A SHORT ACCOUNT**  
**OF THE**  
**LIFE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH**  
**OF**  
**ELIZABETH MERRITT,**  
**A CHILD ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE;**

Also

*Some Account of the last Illness*  
**OF**

**ANN WARING,**  
*Late of the City of New-York.*

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**York:**

PRINTED FOR W. ALEXANDER.  
SOLD ALSO BY HARVEY AND DARTON, W. PHILLIPS,  
AND W. DARTON, LONDON;  
M. M. AND E. WEBB, BRISTOL;  
AND CHRISTOPHER BENTHAM, DUBLIN,

1820.

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A SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF  
*ELIZABETH MERRITT.*

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**BELIEVING** that some account of the life and last sickness of our daughter, Elizabeth Merritt, will prove instructive to the surviving part of the family, to her former associates, and perhaps to others of riper years, we are induced to publish the following memoir.

She was born in Dutchess County, State of New-York, on the seventh of fourth month,

1807. An affectionate disposition towards her little companions, and a tenderness of heart for every living creature were often manifested. And, being a child that early listened to the "voice of wisdom," she was endued with a remarkable judgment in spiritual, as well as in temporal things.

When between three and four years of age, she was visited with severe illness; during which, her attendants observed not only her patience under sufferings, but her thankfulness for the favours she received.

After her recovery, as she was particularly fond of learning, she soon began to read; her favourite companion then appeared to be her book; for the sake of which, she would frequently leave her little playmates. Before she was five years of age, she had, of her own accord, selected and learned the speech of the Apostle Paul before King Agrippa; and having remarked to her parents that she thought it a very extraordinary one, she repeated to them the first twenty-two verses.

When about nine years old, she was again brought so low that her life was despaired of. While lying upon her sick bed and in extreme pain, she several times appeared to be in supplication; but her fever was so high, and her tongue so much swelled, that the words she uttered could not be distinctly understood. From this attack she also recovered; and her faith seemed to be more firmly established, manifesting to those who knew her, that she was seeking "a Kingdom not of this world," and to which she had not been directed by the wisdom of men. She was fond of attending meetings, and her solid deportment when there, was frequently observed. Some who were older than herself were reproved by her for misconduct, both in and out of meetings; and on one occasion she remarked, that if people would only *think*, they would not go to sleep in them. She would frequently select some piece of a moral or religious nature, and read it to the family and her young associates.

When she was preparing to go to the Boarding-school at Nine-Partners, she said: "I do



not intend to transgress one rule of the school while I am there ;" and she so far fulfilled her intention, that she was indeed remarked for her orderly conduct. She loved the company of those who were older than herself; and frequently, when the little girls went out to play, preferred going into the young women's apartment, where she would employ herself in needle-work, or in copying some instructive pieces of poetry, or other composition.

The two following stanzas, which she selected, and wrought with her needle into mottos, for two of her friends, evince a serious and reflective turn of mind :

" Religion's sacred lamp alone,  
Unerring points the way,  
Where happiness for ever shines  
With unpolluted ray."

" All pleasures are imperfect here below—  
Our sweetest joys are mix'd with bitter woe ;  
The draft of bliss, when in our cup 'tis cast,  
Is dash'd with grief, or spill'd before we taste."

These mottos she afterwards requested her father to bring with her books, &c. from the

school, that her sister might finish them, and give them to the persons for whom they were intended.

She was finally taken ill at the Boarding-School before mentioned, the 29th of 4th month, 1818, about six weeks from the time she had entered it as a scholar. In the early part of her illness she was removed to the house of her uncle, Asahel Lyon; and as she frequently expressed some uncertainty about her recovery, her parents were sent for. Upon their coming, and finding her very ill, they were affected to tears. She observed them weeping and exclaimed: "Oh mother! don't, don't—I want thee to be reconciled to thy lot, be it what it may; it is what we all have to pass through. I feel perfectly willing to die, perfectly resigned."

A few hours after, having lain sometime in silence, a cloud seemed to overshadow her mind for a short time, when with much feeling she cried out: "Oh mother, I don't feel as happy as I did this morning." Being asked the cause

of this change of feeling, she answered : " Oh my sins ! my sins ! " Her mother stated her belief that she had been an innocent child, and added that she did not think there was much of which she would be accused. Elizabeth then became quiet ; and, not long after, was engaged in supplicating the throne of grace, on her own behalf ; but in so low a tone as not to be perfectly understood.

The next day, being the second of the week, she many times expressed her resignation to the Divine will. On her mother's manifesting some uneasiness at the doctor's delay, and not coming as soon as was expected, she said : " There is but one physician that can help me. " That night, her mother and two young women standing by the bed-side, she again prayed for some time ; and as far as her petition could be distinctly heard, it appeared to be on her own account.

On third day morning, being in great distress, she frequently said ; that " her pain was greater than tongue could tell ; and that if we knew