

**A JOURNAL OF THE LIFE, TRAVELS,  
RELIGIOUS EXERCISES AND LABOURS IN  
THE WORK OF  
THE MINISTRY OF JOSHUA EVANS, LATE  
OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP, GLOUCESTER  
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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A journal of the life, travels, religious exercises and labours in the work of the ministry of Joshua Evans, late of Newton Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey by Joshua Evans

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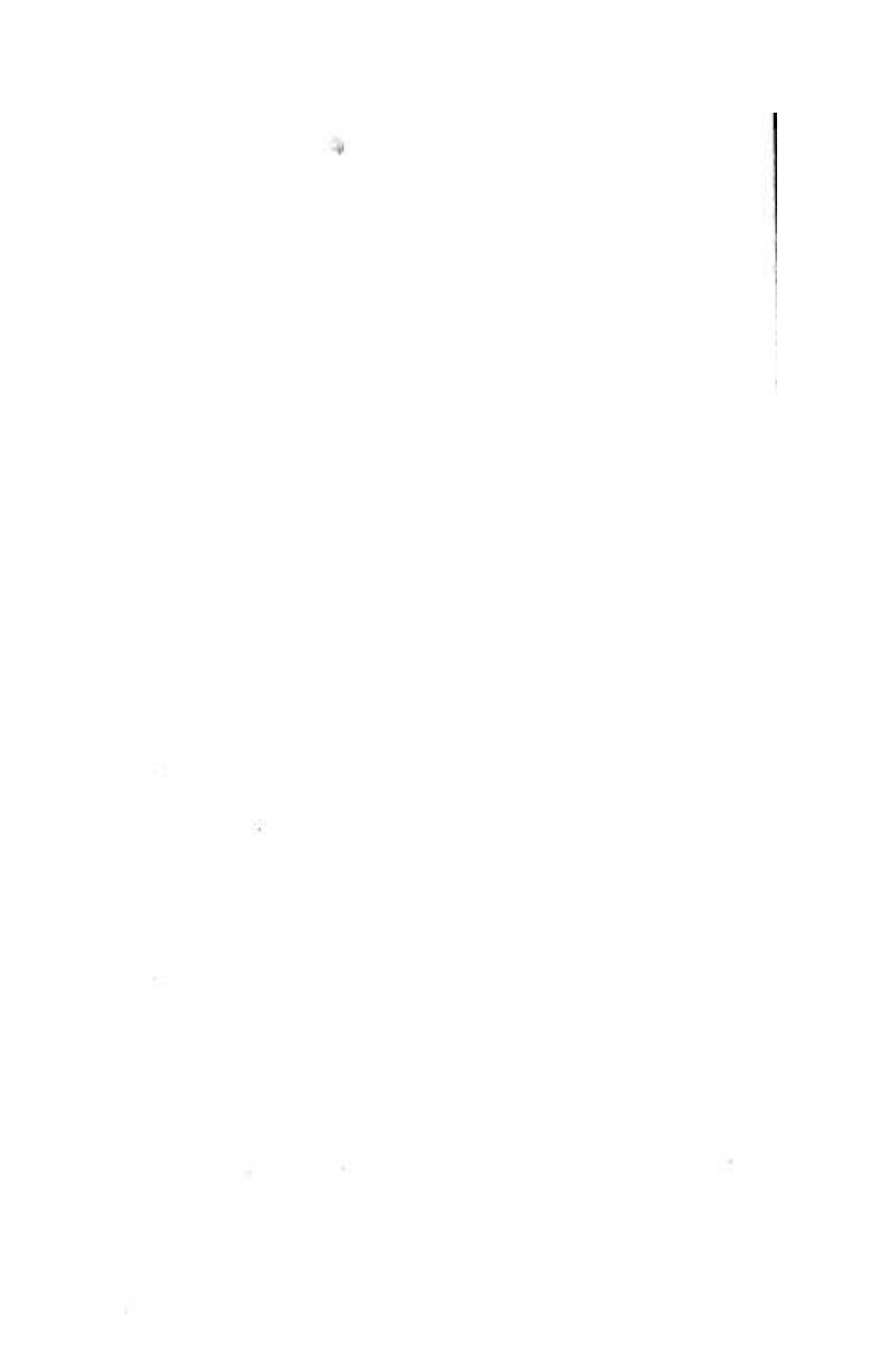
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## JOSHUA EVANS'S JOURNAL.

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### INTRODUCTION.

In the year 1804, George Churchman transcribed and abridged the notes, memorandums and diary, kept by Joshua Evans; from which transcript the following account is taken. He called the work, An abstracted Journal of the life, early baptisms and religious exercises of Joshua Evans, late of Gloucester county, West Jersey, dec'd;—together with a brief account of his extensive travels and labours in the service of gospel ministry, through the American continent; or, from Canada and Nova Scotia, south-westward as far as Tennessee and Georgia.

George Churchman, in a brief preface which he wrote, speaks of the satisfaction he had in perusing the original minutes and diary or journal of Joshua Evans; and adds, "On looking over and going thro' his said minutes and diary, and from the personal knowledge and acquaintance I had with him, being nearly his co-equal in age, it did appear from time to time, amongst whatsoever kind of people his lot was cast, whether of high or low degree in the world's account, that he exhibited a commendable and very uncommon degree of mortification, patience and self-denial; which were manifest to all, not only in the remarkable simplicity of his dress and demeanour, but in the sparing and simple diet he partook of to sustain nature."

“Upon viewing the whole subject, I believe the following Narrative of the substance (not without a little alteration of the style in some parts) of a plain countryman’s deep exercises, who had not the advantage of much outward learning,—will not need a long preface to introduce it to the serious perusal of the candid reader, to whom it is affectionately recommended by the transcriber.” G. C.

George Churchman gives the following testimony concerning Joshua Evans. “For many years of his life, he appears to have been a man of sorrows, on account of the many deviations from the self-denying path in which our worthy ancestors walked.— He often had to bear testimony against many particular things in dress, the furniture of houses, the costliness of living, and the use of many foreign articles, such as tea, coffee, fine silks, lawns, muslins, &c. and the common use of tobacco. He thought many things were incautiously given way to, and suffered to prevail or come into practice among Friends,—which had a tendency to divert or raise the minds of men and women above the pure witness of Truth; and thus, by captivating the mind, to hinder the work of regeneration.”

“His self-denying and exemplary life, with his unremitting labours of love for many years, in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, greatly opened his way in the hearts of his friends and fellow members of society, as well as the people at large. In the latter part of his life, he believed it was required of him to disengage himself from the incumbrances of this world, and dedicate the remainder of his time, as far as ability might be afforded, to the service of the Lord, and the benefit of his fellow creatures.—

In the course of his travels and labours in the work of gospel ministry, it appears that he was much respected, and generally well received by people of all ranks, being mostly treated with remarkable tenderness, even in places where another kind of disposition might have been supposed prevalent. People in all places where he travelled, seemed willing to hear the counsel he had to impart, though it was often attended with very plain dealing."

"After having patiently passed through many trials of a very close and uncommon nature, as briefly mentioned in the early part of his journal,—those who for some time appeared to disapprove of his singular conduct, came to be affectionate and friendly, and heartily concurred with his labours."

It is related of Joshua Evans, that he was often engaged in the neighbourhood where he lived, in visiting the sick and afflicted,—in labouring with those who were in habits of intemperance, and in extending admonition to others who, he apprehended, were copying after the world's fashions.

Although he appears to have been persuaded in his own mind, that it was right for him to walk in that narrow path of self-denial which led him into divers singularities, different from his brethren,—yet he found it would not do to judge others by his own views, and standard, as applied to outward things. He was aware that of others might not be required the same abstemiousness in living, nor the like singular appearance in apparel and in the wearing of the beard; but he believed they also, by attending to their proper business in their own allotments, might yet be equally in favour with the universal Parent. Hence, he thought the sincere in heart who