

**A BRIEF RELATION OF THE
MERCIES OF THE LORD, IN
PROVIDENCE AND GRACE**

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A brief relation of the mercies of the Lord, in providence and grace by William Westthorp

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WILLIAM WESTHORP

**A BRIEF RELATION OF THE
MERCIES OF THE LORD, IN
PROVIDENCE AND GRACE**

A BRIEF RELATION
OF THE
MERCIES OF THE LORD,
IN PROVIDENCE AND GRACE,
TO
WILLIAM WESTHORN.

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what
he hath done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and
he was extolled with my tongue."—PSALM lxxvi. 16, 17.

Some boast of their superior birth,
And of their pedigree;
Their great possessions, too, on earth,
But 'tis not so with me.



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INTRODUCTION.

DEAR SPIRITUAL READER,

There is something very humbling in taking a view of the Lord's gracious dealings towards us. Moses told literal Israel—"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no" (Deut. viii. 2). Also "Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children" (Deut. iv. 10). Again, "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up" (Deut. xi. 19).

Thus I trust it is from a spiritual impulse

that I have sent into the world this brief account of the Lord's gracious dealings towards the dearly beloved late partner of my sorrows and joys. I often felt a desire that he should himself write a little account of the Lord's dealings towards him, but, like most good men, he kept putting it off, and when urged to do so, would often reply, "It is so little worth;" but, as he had left three dear children, one son and two daughters—whom he had often taken to the throne of grace in prayer and supplication that the Lord would put His fear in their hearts, as well as those to whom he felt knitted and united in Church fellowship, having spoken to them of the Word of life—the consideration of these things made me reluctant that some account of all the Lord had brought him through should be forgotten, or unknown.

There were many obstacles in the way, for the painful affliction of rheumatism, that he had laboured under for many years, had greatly weakened the arm, and caused the hand to shake.

In February, 1828, a few months before he was taken with his last attack, I was reading to him the experience of that good man, Mr. James Bourne, how sweet and pleasant the Lord made the self-told tale of a brother's joys and sorrows, and while the tear was trickling down the cheek, I said, "Now let us have a little of what the Lord has done for you." He replied, "I cannot write well." I said, "Though I greatly feel my weakness, yet, the Lord enabling me, I will take

it down from your lips." I did so, and the little account now before you is the result.

Though his abilities were not of the highest order, yet his well-known truthfulness, honesty, firmness, and uprightness, commended him to those that feared God. He was fearful of going beyond his depth; what God showed him that he preached. He had a deep sense of man's ruinous fall, and would often say man was not half but wholly dead. The doctrines of grace he would declare God had sealed upon his heart Himself. The electing love of God was a theme so dear to him; he would say, "This blessed doctrine men reject, O Blessed Spirit, let it come nearer to me!" and he repeated the lines of Ryland :—

"Why was I saved and not another?
 Why was I called and not my brother?
 Lay there in me some excellence
 To allure and charm Omnipotence?
 Oh no, alas! I differed not
 From Adam's other sons in aught
 Except in this, I did excel
 In serving sin, deserving hell."

A few months before his last attack in 1868, being very feeble, as he was returning from chapel, leaning upon my arm, he suddenly stopped, and, looking at me, said, "My dear, the doctrines of grace and the truths I have been enabled to preach, are dearer to me than ever." I saw such a holy light and pleasure upon his countenance that I cannot easily forget.

Thus have I sent into the world this brief

account of the Lord's gracious dealings with a valuable partner. My husband omitted many trials he passed through in the ministry as they were so complicated, nor did he think they would be edifying to the Church of God. That the God of Israel will condescend to commend this narrative to the hearts of his savingly-taught people is the prayer of his bereaved partner,

TALITHA CUMI WESTHORN.

RELATION.

“Some boast of their superior birth,
And of their pedigrees;
Their great possessions, too, on earth;
But 'tis not so with me.”

I WAS born on the 5th of June, 1796, at a village called Castle Hedingham, in the county of Essex. Truly I was born unto trouble, to pass through many painful scenes of sorrow and affliction. My parents were very poor, to a great extent the result of my father's misconduct; he treated my mother very unkindly. There were six of us in family, three sons and three daughters, myself being the fifth child.

I recollect, when about six or seven years of age, taking a walk in the hop-grounds. No one was with me, or saw me. Seeing a willow-tree growing close by the brink of a fresh-water river, I thought I should like a bough. As I stood with my back towards a deep spot where men washed, the bough slipped, and I fell backwards into this deep hole, but, as the Lord would have it, I came up by the side of the bank and scrambled out, thus escaping a watery grave, the Lord's eye being upon me for good.

About this time England was at war with France. Provisions were very dear—flour, for