

**MEMOIR OF SARAH KNIGHT,
WIFE OF THOMAS KNIGHT, OF
COLCHESTER, WHO DIED THE
28TH OF FIFTH MONTH, 1828**

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Memoir of Sarah Knight, Wife of Thomas Knight, of Colchester, who Died the 28th of Fifth Month, 1828 by Various

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VARIOUS

**MEMOIR OF SARAH KNIGHT,
WIFE OF THOMAS KNIGHT, OF
COLCHESTER, WHO DIED THE
28TH OF FIFTH MONTH, 1828**

Mary Haase
MEMOIR. *Haase*

OF

SARAH KNIGHT,

WIFE OF THOMAS KNIGHT,

OF

COLCHESTER,

WHO DIED THE 26TH OF FIFTH MONTH, 1828.

London:

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1829.

PREFACE.

IN the publication of the following Memoir, the friends of the deceased are influenced, solely, by the belief, that instruction and encouragement may be derived, by an extensive circle of her acquaintance, from the opportunity of tracing for themselves, in her own letters and memoranda, that gradual, but decided change of character, which was particularly apparent in the last three years of her life; affording an evidence, that the work of Divine grace in her heart, had, in good measure, subdued her naturally volatile temperament and unbending will; evincing, that in the trying hour of sickness, and in the awful prospect of death, she was favoured with that hope, which is "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and

steadfast;" and whilst humbled under the consciousness of her own "peculiar unworthiness," was consoled with the evidence, that, through the mercy of the dear Redeemer, her sins were forgiven; and with the belief, that an entrance would be ministered unto her into His everlasting kingdom.

MEMOIR
OF
SARAH KNIGHT.

SARAH KNIGHT, daughter of Samuel and Mary Jesup, was born on the 22d of ninth month, 1798. In the fifth month of the following year her mother was removed by death, after an illness of about two weeks ; during which time, in the prospect of her dissolution, she expressed her belief, that her two dear children would not be permitted to know the want of a mother's care. In the eighth month, 1803, the surviving parent took a second wife, upon whom devolved the interesting and important charge of the daughter, until she had attained the age of about thirteen years, after which time she passed two years at school. On her return home, she continued under the parental roof, until her marriage with Thomas Knight, of Colchester, in the fifth month, 1821.

During her minority, Sarah found it difficult, from the extreme vivacity of her disposition, to cherish that self-denying principle which leads into

true simplicity; and she often keenly felt those restraints, which her parents believed it their duty tenderly though firmly to enforce, frequently evincing compunction on account of the prevalence of her vain propensities.

In reference to this subject, an extract from a letter is here given, which she wrote in the year 1818, to one of her young friends.

"If I had been but enough inclined to profit by advice on important subjects, I see and believe, that ere this I should have missed many an hour of remorse and sorrow." After other observations, she adds: "My heart seems to open unbidden, to pour forth its complaints to one, who though far before me, can yet condescend to turn back, and cast an eye of pity on those who, daily giving way to temptation, and seeing their errors, sometimes *almost* earnestly crave to be what their Creator intended them to be—a people not conformed to this world. Though we are not all called to the same work, yet we may all forward the great cause, by becoming preachers of righteousness in conduct and conversation. This is what I want; but oh! my very disposition is contrary to every thing plain and simple."

After her marriage, there is reason to believe that her mind was renewedly visited by Divine grace, and that she sincerely desired to fulfil the duties of her new and important station with propriety; yet the extreme buoyancy of her spirits,

with good natural abilities, and a peculiar quickness of perception, not unfrequently betrayed her into a too unguarded and satirical mode of expression, which, on reflection, occasioned her to feel concern and deep remorse.

In the spring of 1822, she became the mother of a little girl. She has often since been heard to remark, that her love of taste was too much suffered to prevail, instead of simplicity, in her views respecting this interesting charge.

In the autumn of the same year she was visited with long and severe illness, which confined her for several months; during which time she was deeply humbled, under a consideration of former unwatchfulness, and was led to desire, that greater circumspection might in future prevail. Yet, when favoured with returning health, the force of these impressions, in degree, abated; she still stumbled at the cross, and thus the growth of the pure seed was retarded. But it pleased Infinite Mercy to follow her with his chastisements, and in the autumn of 1825 she had another long and severe attack of illness, when her recovery appeared doubtful. Under this dispensation, deep instruction was sealed upon her mind; and the truths of the Gospel were so mercifully unfolded, that the foundation was laid for that decided change of character, which was *gradually* developed during the remainder of her life.

A memorandum, dated 5th of the eleventh month,

1826, referring to this illness, was found after her decease, which is here introduced.

“ And now, oh! how shall I commemorate the Almighty’s gracious and wonderful condescension to me, who has plucked my feet, in degree, out of the mire and clay, and set them upon a rock; and hath put a new song into my mouth, even praises to our God! Humility and gratitude, I think I endeavour to pray for. It is now about twelve months since I lay ill of a brain fever, and the mercy and goodness I then experienced, may I *never* forget! I think I then saw things too mighty for me to record *now*. Oh! that I may not forget the vows I then made; but rather, that I may pray daily for strength to fulfil them in the *right* time. Of late I have been much favoured with sensible goodness from on High. I wish I may not feed too much upon it; but rather be willing to go down into the deep.”

The following letters also refer to the same period.

“ I confess to thee that I have been troubled with a reasoning mind; and it pleased Infinite Wisdom, in His adorable mercy, when I was laid on that bed of sickness, which I hope and pray I may never forget, clearly to unfold some of the mysteries which my poor weak nature had at times stumbled at; and so clearly to point out the *necessity* and efficacy of the Saviour’s *atoning sacrifice*, for otherwise lost,