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 Choice Stories.

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NARRATIVES
 OF THE
 LIVES
 OF
 PIOUS
Indian Children.

—BY REV.—
 EXPERIENCE MAYHEW,
 Preacher to the Indians of Martha's Vineyard,
 One Hundred Years since.

Loring's Revised Edition.

BOSTON:
 PUBLISHED AT JAMES LORING'S
Sabbath School Bookstore,
 133 Washington-Street.

AN
ATTESTATION
TO THE
TRUTH OF THESE NARRATIVES
BY THE
Boston Ministers.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO WIT:

District Clerk's Office.
BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the first day of August, A. D. 1829,
in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of
America, JAMES LORING, of the said District, has deposit-d in this
Office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor,
in the words following, to wit:

"Narratives of the Lives of Pious Indian Children, who lived on
Martha's Vineyard more than One Hundred Years since. By Experi-
ence Mayhew, A. M. Preacher to the Indians of Martha's Vineyard at
that time. Carefully revised from the London Edition, originally print-
ed for Samuel Gerrish, Bookseller in Boston, New-England, 1727."

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled
"An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies
of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Cop-
ies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an Act, entitled, "An
Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the Encouragement
of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the
Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein men-
tioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing,
Engraving and Etching Historical, and other Prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS, *Clerk of the District*
of Massachusetts.

It will be seen by the following "Attestation," &c. that the
Christian ardour of Missionary Enterprise, which by some is supposed
to be of modern origin, glowed in the breasts of the enlightened Pastors
of the Churches in this city more than a century since, and led them to
noble efforts in the spread of the gospel.

So rich, so vast, so inexpressibly glorious are the bene-
fits arising to mankind from the true religion of Christ
where it is well understood and embraced, that the wan-
der of zeal for the propagation of it, in very many of them
that profess it, is a thing most unaccountable and inex-
cuseable. It is what more particularly calls for our lamen-
tation, that the churches of the Reformation have done so
little for the propagation of a faith, which emancipated
mankind from the worst of slaveries and miseries, and ha-
ve a fair and sure tendency to make us happy in both worlds
while the missionaries of Antichrist are more than can
be numbered, and the bigots are at prodigious pains to
propagate the Romish idolatries.

However, something has been done for the best of pur-
poses, among those who are under peculiar obligations to
approve themselves the best of Christians: wherein the
men of God now at work for him among the Malabarians
as far as we understand, have done excellent things
Indeed, the Romanists have their singular advantages
in the circumstances of their clergy, to go to and fro in
the earth, and walk up and down in it, every where seek-
ing whom they may seduce, and bring under their strong
delusions. But something has been done by the Protes-
tants, to make the joyful sound of the silver trumpet
heard in a gospel preached unto every creature. And, in
the prosecution of this noble intention, America has been
a field of some actions, not altogether unworthy to have
some notice taken of them.

We can by no means imagine, that the Apostles, o
Apostolical men, carried the gospel into the American
world, or beyond the bounds of the Roman Empire, which
was then called, *all the world*. The extent of Christianit;

celebrated by several of the ancients, is most certainly to be taken with proper limitations. What the Spaniards have done since the famous Columbus or Colonus opened a passage for their Colonies hither, has afforded but a very sad story, which a bishop of their own has given us with a pen dipt in blood. Their boasted conversions of the Pagans, wherein one poor friar has boasted of his having baptized some hundreds of thousands, what will they be found when they are inquired into?

It may after all be truly affirmed, that the first planters of New-England are the first preachers of what may be justly esteemed the gospel to the Americans, that we certainly know of; and that good work which was done in gospelizing the uncultivated souls which were found in this hideous and howling wilderness, most certainly deserves to be had in remembrance. And though there were some who did in the time of it reproach the first planters of this country as most negligent of this good work, a pious, candid, and learned person of Scotland, whose name is Millar, in his late History of the Propagation of Christianity, has done the justice to represent the good work done here, as worthy not only of a perpetual commemoration, but also of an universal imitation.

Most certainly, to humanize the miserable, which our first English planters found surviving the wasting plagues which had so swept away the Indians, as to make room for a better people, to tame and civilize them was a task of no little difficulty. But then, to raise them up into the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion, and bring them unto an acquaintance of the mystery of Christ, yea, to bring them into the experience of living to God, and by the faith of the Son of God, how much more difficult is the enterprise? But it has been done.

Twice seven years had not passed away, after the beginning of the Massachusetts Colony, before the renowned ELIOT, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit, and moved by him, set on the good work, and the hand of the Lord was with him; and, with a victorious labour, he became a master of the Indian language, and then in that language, preached to many villages of the savages, until, by the blessing of God on his laborious diligence, many believed, and were turned unto the Lord. In the harvest of God he soon had several companions, and successors, who did worthily in Israel, and have their names in the Book of Life.

The Indians being so successfully instructed in the

Word of Truth, and gospel of salvation, soon had schools erected among them; and learning to read and write, this indefatigable servant of God first of all translated the whole Bible into their language, and added a Version of the Psalms in Indian metre, whereof they became skilful and graceful singers. It has had several editions in this country, and is the only Bible that ever was printed in this hemisphere.

This great Light was quickly satellited with other books of piety in their language, which their necessity and edification called for. The consequence has been, that in the several villages of the Indians, there have been formed Assemblies, which meet every Lord's Day for the worship of God our Saviour, and occasional days of supplication and Thanksgiving. Besides these, and from among them, there were gathered churches of Indians, who after strict examinations of their higher attainments in experimental piety, made before English Synods, entered into a solemn covenant for the worshipping of the glorious Creator, into whose name they were baptized, into the church state of the gospel, and observation of all the evangelical institutions. An eminent person present at the examinations, then published to the world a large testimony concerning it, and made this remark on it, 'There is so much of God's work in this matter, that I cannot but count it a great evil, yea, a great injury to God and his goodness, for any to make light of it.'

This good work has gone on, and there are churches of Indians walking in the faith and order of the gospel, besides many worshipping assemblies preparing for the more advanced church state, under the teaching of some English and more Indian ministers. And though we are glad when we are told of what our Dutch brethren have done in the East Indies, where the School-masters have taught some hundreds of thousands to recite the Lord's-Prayer, the Creed, the ten Commandments, a morning prayer, an evening prayer, a blessing before eating and after; yet we in the West Indies have pressed after a more vital work in our Proselytes; and as little have we proposed the religion of a party, but have kept close unto the golden maxims of the everlasting gospel, which all good men approve as the things that are excellent, even pure religion and undefiled. And though this good work has had many adversaries, (for, as Austin long ago told the Christians, they should find the devil was not yet become a Christian) yet having obtained help from God, it continues to this day.

But it must be confessed and bewailed, that, if our memorable ELLIOT, when he lay in his dying languishments about six and thirty years ago, saw cause to mourn in that complaint, "There is a cloud, a dark cloud, upon the work of the gospel among the poor Indians, the Lord revive and prosper that work, and grant it may live when I am dead;" there has been since his death, a growing occasion for such a complaint. We cannot get the Indians to improve so far in English ingenuity, and industry, and husbandry, as we could wish for. Some of the English, notwithstanding the tender provision which the government has made for their protection, find ways to incommode their interests. Their numbers are sensibly decreased by a strange blast from heaven consuming them.

The Author of this history, Mr. EXPERIENCE MAYHEW, is a person of incontestable veracity. He was born and bred in the midst of the Indians, and has been all along intimately acquainted with occurrences among them, and is a descendant from ancestors that for several generations have laudably done their part in christianizing them. He is a judicious, faithful, constant preacher of the gospel to them, and on the week days, as well as on the Lord's days, he is an unwearied worker with God, and for him, among them. Among all the instruments of the good work which brings the Indians into the Kingdom of God, he shines as one of the first magnitude. Several things written by him, have by the press been heretofore conveyed into the world, and found a favourable reception. In these Narratives, we again say, his truth may be relied upon, his fidelity is irreproachable.

We commend this history to the due consideration of all that wish well to the cause of piety, and we bespeak the prayers of such for the preserving and prospering of the good work which it refers to.

COTTON MATHER,	Minister of Second Church, or Old North.
BENJAMIN COLMAN,	Brattle Street Church.
PETER THACHER,	New North Church.
JOSEPH SEWALL,	Old South Church.
THOMAS PRINCE,	Old South Church.
JOHN WEBB,	New North Church.
WILLIAM COOPER,	Brattle Street Church.
THOMAS FOXCROFT,	First Church, Chauncy Place.
SAMUEL CHECKLEY,	New South Church.
WILLIAM WALDRON,	Second Church, or New Brick.
JOSHUA GEE,	Second Church, or Old North.

*Boston, New-England,
June 14, 1726.*

NARRATIVES

OF

PIOUS INDIAN CHILDREN.



THE DAUGHTER OF AN INDIAN PREACHER.

ABIGAIL MANHUT,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1685, aged twenty years.

ABIGAIL MANHUT was a daughter of John Ammanhut, an Indian minister, and a sister of Hosea Manhut, formerly one of the pastors of the Indian Church on the west end of Martha's Vineyard: she was piously educated by her father and mother, who were both esteemed godly persons; and she appeared pious from her childhood.

She was taught to read while she was young, and delighted much in reading the Scriptures and other good books.

She also loved to go to meeting and hear the word of God preached, and was a strict observer of the Sabbath.

She was not inclined to run about with rude and wicked company, as many young people are, but constantly and seriously attended the worship of God in the family to which she belonged; and was always very dutiful and obedient to her parents.

She had not, so far as did appear, any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; but was, on the contrary, a zealous reprove of them.

Her relations yet living, do affirm that she used boldness and courage in reproving their indiscretions when she knew them to be guilty of any fault.

Such as were acquainted with her also affirm, that she used to pray by herself, and that very frequently; and, when she had none with her but children, she was sometimes found praying with them.

She used, in the time of her health, to discourse very seriously about the things of God and another life; and having learned of her mother, with whom she lived after her father's death, to sing

psalm tunes, she used not only to sing with the rest of the family before morning and evening prayer, but was also frequently heard singing Psalms by herself alone.

It is so long since this young woman died, that I cannot distinctly remember many things concerning her: but while I was writing this account of her, my aged mother came in and told me, that she lived and laboured for some time in my father's house, behaving herself very well while she was there; and that my father esteemed her a very pious person.

She died of a lingering consumptive distemper, and appeared sensible of the gradual approach of death towards her; and in the time of her sickness, behaved herself as one that had lived well ought to do. She prayed often to God, and desired others to pray with and for her, and gave many good exhortations to her relations, and others that came to visit her; and her mind appeared to be calm and serene, as being possessed with peace in believing.

When she was going to die, she was sensible of it, and told those about her, that she should now presently leave

them ; but seemed not at all surprised at the approach of the king of terrors. She comforted her relations by telling them, that she was perfectly willing to die, being persuaded that she was going to God, in whose presence there was fullness of joy ; yea, she rejoiced that that happy time was now come. She also exhorted and encouraged those about her to love God, and live to him ; telling them how good and profitable it was so to do.

Having spoken to this purpose, and seeming to be nigh to death, her friends that were with her committed her to God by prayer ; and she appeared evidently to join with them therein, by lifting up her hands and eyes to heaven, from whence she well knew that all her help came. After this she spake no more ; but being asked whether her desires were still after God, she by a sign answered that they were ; and so went to Him after whom her soul longed.

THE UNFORTUNATE YOUTH MADE HAPPY IN PIETY.

JOSEPH NAHNOSOO,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1685, aged twenty years.

THIS JOSEPH was a son of John Nahnosoo. Some time after the death of his father, he was committed to the care of Mr. Japheth Hannit, with whom he dwelt several of the last years of his life.

He was taught to read both in English and Indian, and was well instructed in his Catechism ; and I doubt not but that he was taught to write.

He spent much time in reading and meditation, and seemed to delight very much therein ; nor did he appear to be any way viciously inclined, or to delight in such company as were known to be so.

When good Japheth was at any time gone from home, as about that time on necessary occasions he often was, this sober and pious young man read the Scriptures, prayed, and sung Psalms in

the family, as he himself did when at home with them.

By wrestling at a husking, he broke one of his legs, and lay lame a great while with it; lamenting the vanity of which he had been guilty, and saying that he should not from thenceforth delight in such exercises.

When he was taken with the fever of which he died, he quickly declared his apprehensions, that it would put an end to his life; and expressed his willingness to submit to the will of God. He then also confessed his sins, and lamented them, and prayed earnestly to God for the pardon of them, and for cleansing from them.

He declared his firm belief of the great truths revealed in the word of God, particularly those which relate to the person of Jesus Christ, and his mediation between God and sinners; and professed that he did rely on the mercy of God through him.

He affectionately exhorted all that were about him, to pray constantly and earnestly to God, and to lay hold of him, and cleave continually to him; and so died, hoping in the Lord.

Good Japheth, from whom I received a considerable part of what I have written concerning this young man, was exceedingly troubled at his death, having had great hopes of his proving very serviceable among his own countrymen. But God had otherwise determined.



THE YOUTH WHO PRAYED IN SECRET.



JEREMIAH HANNIT,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1686, aged fifteen years.

THIS JEREMIAH was Japheth's eldest son, and was looked upon as a very hopeful youth by all that knew him, whether English or Indians.

He was much kept at school, and employed his time well at it. He was also taught his Catechism, and well instructed in the principles of religion, and had the advantage of a very strong memory to facilitate his learning.

He was very sober from a child, and not given to such idle talk as most young

people are addicted to; and was very obedient to his parents, and faithful and diligent in any business which they set him about. Nor was he known to be given to any of those vices, which persons of his age are apt to run into; and what more strongly argued his real piety than any thing yet said of him, was, that he used to pray in secret places, as some yet living can, of their own knowledge, testify.

He was long sick and weak before he died, and in that time expressed a deep sense of the sins of his nature and life, and earnest desires that God would pardon all his transgressions, and renew and sanctify his soul.

He said he believed that Jesus Christ was an all-sufficient Saviour, and would be a Saviour to him, if he could by faith lay hold of him. He declared his resolution to seek him as long as he lived, and did accordingly call often upon him. And he exhorted his relations, and others, to pray always to the Lord.

Falling more violently sick a few days before his death, he declared his expectations of dying speedily; and withal, his hopes of obtaining eternal life, through

Jesus Christ his only Saviour; and continued to the last calling on him for his mercy.

When he perceived himself dying, he looked about on his friends, and said, "*Fare ye well.*"

My father, who was acquainted with this youth, looked on him as truly pious, and very much lamented his death. Japheth had another son, whose name was Joshua, and he was also said to die hopefully; but of him I cannot give any particular account.



THE YOUTH WHO REFORMED HIS FATHER.



ELEAZAR OHHUMUH,

Who died at Gayhead in the year 1698, aged sixteen years.

THE parents of Eleazar, viz. Caleb Ohhumuh, and Deborah his wife, sent him to school to learn to read and write while he was a young boy; and he made such proficiency that he soon read competently well, and could write a legible

hand. He also learned his Catechism by heart, and was not ignorant of the first principles of the Oracles of God.

He was also taught to call upon the name of the Lord, while he was but a child, as many of our Indian children have been, which has proved of great advantage to some of them.

Not only his own parents, but Elisha also, an Indian minister of Gayhead formerly mentioned, who was his uncle, used to instruct and exhort him.

All that knew him, bear him witness, that he appeared sober and serious from his very childhood; and his mother, who was a professor of Godliness, and I hope a good woman, informed me, that he used frequently of his own accord, to pray to God while he was very young, and used also to tell others that they ought to do so.

I am likewise informed, that when he came to years of such discretion, as to be sensible that it would not be best for him to pray vocally where others were present, and yet not joining with him in the duty, he used frequently to withdraw himself into obscure places, whither it was supposed he went to pray in secret

to God, being there sometimes found kneeling down, or lying prostrate on the ground, or otherwise leaning against some tree, as though he was praying.

He was diligent in reading his book, willing to go to meeting, and used often to repeat his Catechism, and that without being called to it, and was very obedient to his parents.

He frequently confessed the sinfulness of that state in which he was by nature, and expressed earnest desires of being delivered therefrom; and used to manifest a dislike of the sins of others, and would sometimes reprove them for their faults.

The father of this lad was somewhat addicted to follow strong drink while the son lived, so that he was by bad neighbours too often drawn into the company of such as inflame themselves therewith. This pious youth laid grievously to heart, his sin and error therein, and several times went to the places where his father was drinking, and with such earnestness, and so many tears, entreated him to leave his drinking company and go home to his own house, that he was not able to withstand the importunity of his afflicted

child, but at his desire left the drinking tribe; and when he came home, owned the victory which his son had obtained over him.

Such was the gravity of his deportment, that all who knew him took notice of it; and his behaviour while he attended the worship of God, either in public or in the family to which he belonged, was remarkably serious.

It seems this youth thought it his duty sometimes, vocally to call upon God in the presence and hearing of others; for he often requested his honoured father, when the hour for family prayer had come, to permit him to call on the name of the Lord; which desire his father willingly granting, he discharged the duty with that understanding, gravity and affection, which argued that he had the Spirit of God helping his infirmities, and that he was no stranger to the duty of prayer: though what his particular expressions were at such times, cannot now be remembered.

He was sick something more than half a year before he died; and soon after he was taken ill, he told his relatives, that he thought the time of his dissolution

was now drawing on, and prayed them not to be much troubled at his death; for, that he hoped that God would, through his son Jesus Christ, have mercy on him, pardon his sins, and save his soul for ever. He told them that he had from his childhood chosen God for his portion, and that beholding with grief the apostacy of that wicked generation among whom he had lived, he had earnestly entreated the Lord, of his mercy, to keep him from the company and society of such as they were, and not suffer him to go astray in their paths; and that he therefore hoped that God would, when he died, take him to himself. He requested them to be earnest seekers of that God in whom he trusted, and to depart from all iniquity, that they might also go to heaven, where they might again see him with comfort.

The good hopes that this youth had, that it would be well with him after death, did not make him grow remiss in his preparation for his end. He, as long as he was able, made use of his books by reading in them, and meditating on what he read. He also called frequently and earnestly on God for the mercies he

needed, especially for the pardon of his sins, through the mediation of Jesus Christ his only Saviour.

He also sent for the elders of the church, Mr. Japheth, and many others, to come and pray with him, not to request that he might be recovered and live any longer in the world, (for he thought that God had determined the contrary, and declared his willingness to submit to his sovereign pleasure therein) but that which he desired was, that he might be prepared for his great change, and that the same might be made safe and comfortable to him.

The Ministers, meeting on this occasion, discoursed with him about the state of his soul, and received great satisfaction respecting the reasons of that hope which he had in him; some of them declaring that they had seldom seen so bright an example of piety in so young a person.

Not long after this, the youth perceiving himself nigh to death, sent for some of the neighbours to come and commit him to God, and, as he expressed it, to give him a lift towards heaven; which, according to his desire, they did, then also

singing a Psalm of praise to his God and Saviour; which he being well pleased at, and not being able to show it by joining with his voice, showed his consent to what was done, by laying hold with his hand on the book out of which they read and sung, and keeping hold of it till the Psalm was finished, and looking all the while with a most cheerful countenance.

Soon after this exercise was over, the pious young man looking up towards heaven, and smiling as though he had seen something that did greatly delight and comfort him, surrendered his soul into the hands of his Redeemer.

Some who were with him when he died have told me, that they thought themselves as sure that he was gone into the kingdom of God, when he left this world, as though they had seen the angels of God come down and convey him to that world of glory.

I have now finished what I had to say of this godly youth; but considering what has been before said of his father, it may perhaps be grateful to my readers, if I here give some further account of him.

He was much affected at the sick-

ness and death of his son, who had performed the part of a father towards him. He totally quitted his immoderate use of strong drink ; he lived very inoffensively among his neighbours ; he joined himself to the church in the place where he lived, and behaved himself like a good man among them, reproving their sinful propensities, and trying to reform them ; but at length, being extremely vexed and grieved at the evil conversation of many of his neighbours, he was so discouraged, that he would not hold communion with them any longer, but totally left them. After this, he seldom went to meeting ; but when he did so, it was to another assembly than that to which he had belonged. Nor was he now so constant in praying in his family as he had formerly been ; but he still continued in other respects a person of good morals. He dissuaded his family and friends from sinning against God, and heartily commended and pressed the internal duties of religion, and urged those of his house to be much in secret prayer to God ; and in this course he continued some years, and then died very suddenly. I do not

understand that he gave any account how he expected to be received in the other world.



THE DEVOUT LITTLE BOY.

WILLIAM TUPHAUS,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1703, aged twelve years.

THIS child's parents, especially his mother, (being a very discreet and pious woman,) instructed both him and their other children while young, endeavouring to teach them to know God, and call upon him. And this boy had been, for a considerable time before his death, a very orderly and obedient child ; and his friends observed, that he frequently retired into some place by himself, which was, as they supposed, for secret prayer to God.

Once when a brother of his, who was younger than himself, was suddenly taken very sick, and his mother had nobody else but him with her, who then stood

by, observing the sickness and pain of his brother, and the affliction and distress of his mother on the account thereof, he on a sudden said to her, let us pray; and immediately putting himself into a proper posture for it, began audibly to call upon the Lord; and he did then in the first place humbly confess his own sins, and utter unworthiness of the least of God's favours, and beg most devoutly the pardon of them; praying also that God would renew and sanctify him, and teach and enable him to do his duty. Then he prayed for his sick brother, that God would spare his life, and recover his health; and that he might be taught to know and serve the Lord; but that if otherwise, his brother were then to die, that yet God would have mercy on him, and save him with an eternal salvation. He also prayed for his poor afflicted mother, that she might be comforted, and enabled to endure the trial which she was then under. He prayed also for his absent father, that God would preserve him, endue him with his grace, and make him meet for his eternal kingdom: then he prayed for all his other relations, for all mankind, and particularly for children, that they might be partakers of special and

saving mercy with God; and in this prayer of his, he pleaded the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, the son of God, and only Saviour of sinners. This was when he was about ten years old.

After this youth had thus prayed, he appeared yet more grave and serious than he had formerly done. He did not any longer behave himself like a young boy; but rather like some man of years, who had his heart seasoned with the grace of God; he kept at home, and took care of the affairs of the house when his father was gone abroad to work, and was as dutiful to his parents as any child could be.

The mother of this lad took notice, that when his father began to eat without asking a blessing on the food prepared, (which though a good man, he sometimes did) he used to go out, and not begin to eat when the rest of the family did; but the reason of this she did not at first understand; but at length observing whither he went, and what he did, she perceived that he went by himself to pray to God, and she concluded it was to perform the duty which her husband

neglected ; because, as soon as he had done, he would come in and eat.

He was sick but three days before he died, in which time he called frequently and fervently upon God for mercy ; but generally spoke so low, that but little of what he said could be understood by those who were with him.

On the day on which he died, a little before it was light, his mother perceived that he was awake, and heard him praying to God, though with but a low voice, as he had done before, during the time of his sickness. At length, when his prayer was ended, she spake to him, and asked him if he were awake ; to which replying that he was, and was not sleepy, she told him that it was good to wake early in the morning, and to think upon God, and upon the things of another world, continuing her discourse till day-light ; which having finished, he thanked her for what she had said to him. But then appearing very ill and full of pain, much more than he had hitherto been, he again began to call upon God, and that with a louder voice than he had before done, so that he might be plainly heard and understood. He prayed God to

pardon all his sins, and to renew and sanctify him by his Holy Spirit, and so to fit him for his eternal and heavenly kingdom. He earnestly entreated that God would not cast him off and reject him ; and in the whole, pleaded the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, on whom he affirmed that he did put his trust, as the only Saviour of sinners, and refuge of his soul.

When he had thus prayed, his mother perceiving that he looked very earnestly upon her, asked him, if he desired any thing of her ; yes, said he, I have a great desire you should once more pray for me. She very readily complied with his desire, there being none but children in the house with her ; and she says, that God then enabled her, not only to ask for him the mercies which she then thought he needed, but did also help her to resign him up to that God who had lent him to her, and to give her consent that he should take him away from her, if so it seemed good in his sight.

Having thus resigned him to God, she, perceiving that he was nigh to death, presently sent for his grandfather, Jonathan Amos, to come and pray with and

for him ; which he having with much affection done, the pious youth presently expired.



THE CHILD WHO PRAYED FOR HER BROTHER.

BETHIA TUPHAUS,

Who died in the year 1704, aged four years.

MISS BETHIA was the amiable daughter of William and Bethia Tuphaus, and a sister of the youth last spoken of. Her godly father and mother began to instruct her in the things of God, as soon as she was in any measure capable of understanding them ; and it seems that these essays of her pious parents, to make good impressions on the young heart of their little daughter, had, by God's blessing, the desired effect. She seemed to take much notice of what they said to her, as though she desired to receive instruction, and know her duty. When she was but a little above three

years old, her good father being very sick, and nigh to death, her mother saw her kneeling down in the room where he lay, and soon perceived that she was speaking and praying to God ; when observing what she said in that address to him, she first plainly heard her confessing her sins, and utter unworthiness to speak to the Lord ; and then entreating of him to have mercy on, and pardon and save her. She then prayed God to have mercy on her sick father ; and she requested, that if it were not the will of God that he should recover and live longer in the world, yet that he would please to give him life eternal in heaven with himself : then she prayed for her little brothers, that God would bless and save them. And lastly, she prayed for all other little children, that God would extend his favour to them.

This was the first time that this child was observed to call upon the Lord ; but after this, her mother frequently heard her praying to God, and that with more enlargement than at first.

She was not at home, but kept with her godly grandmother at the time of her father's death ; which was not long

after her praying for him, as has been related. These facts, when heard by her, seemed to make a great impression upon her; insomuch, that she thereupon grew melancholy, and would be much grieved at every little thing that happened, which was not agreeable to her; and in a short time appearing not to be well, her illness grew so fast upon her, that in a few days she died.

Her mother observing what heaviness she was in, about the time that she was first taken ill, discoursed with her about the vanity and uncertainty of all the things and enjoyments of this lower world, and the excellency of those which are above, in the other, where Christ sits at God's right hand. Upon the hearing of this discourse, the child seemed to be much comforted, and expressed a willingness to die; yea, and a desire to go to heaven and be with God.

Her good grandfather was from home when she drew nigh to death, and did not return till after she was become speechless; but on his coming, he presently commended her to God by prayer; and she, soon after he had so done, left this world, and I hope went into the kingdom of God.

THE GIRL WHO WAS PIOUS BEFORE SICKNESS.

JEDIDAH HANNIT,

Who died in Chilmark, October 14th, 1705, aged seventeen years.

JEDIDAH HANNIT, of whom I here speak, was a daughter of Mr. Japheth Hannit, and Sarah his wife. She was religiously educated while she was a child; and it is very probable that the Spirit of God made good impressions on her soul some years before that in which she died. She was very obedient to her parents, was very apt and willing to learn her Catechism, and delighted much in reading her book. Nor was she much inclined to go into such vain company as many young people delight in: and her friends sometimes found her praying in secret places, where she intended that none but God should see or hear her.

The distemper with which she was taken being a fever, with a pain in her

side, was so very violent from the beginning of it, that she was neither able to say much to her friends, or do much for the safety or welfare of her soul, if that work had not been done already by her. Her illness still increasing, she in a little time appeared to be dying, and her friends were grieved and surprised at what was coming so suddenly on them. But having lain for some little time wholly speechless, and to appearance senseless, and almost breathless, she began to revive, breathed better, and was in a short time able to speak, and that sensibly, and remained so for several hours together; nor was her pain so violent as it had before been.

While she seemed to be dying, her brother-in-law went out of the house; and not long after him, her father also; and the last mentioned of these persons walking by the side of the hedge-fence, not far from the house, overheard the other, on the other side of the hedge, pleading most earnestly with God, that his sister might not be so suddenly taken away from her friends, as to appearance she seemed likely to be. Soon after this, the father of the maid returning to

the house, found her revived, as has been declared; and soon after, her brother came in also, and to his great comfort saw her, as one in a manner raised from the dead.

But lest the relations of this young woman, and particularly her brother-in-law mentioned, should be too much transported at the sudden alteration which they saw in her, Mr. Japheth made a very grave and seasonable speech to them, telling them that they should by no means conclude from his daughter's being thus revived, that God designed to recover her from this present sickness; but think it sufficient, that God had so far heard prayers for her, as not to take her so suddenly away as they feared he would have done, and had given her and them a further opportunity to speak one to another before she died and left them; and to this purpose he more particularly addressed himself to his son-in-law, who had prayed for his daughter, as has been declared.

However, the maid thus far revived, had now a further opportunity to look up to God for his mercy, and to let her friends understand that she did not leave

the world without committing the care of her soul to Jesus Christ, her only Saviour. Having such an opportunity, she now declared, that she did no longer set her mind on any worldly enjoyments, but was willing to die and leave them. There is, said she, but one thing that I am now concerned about. I am now troubled for my sins against my God, and my not keeping his commandments as I ought to have done. I have made promises to him, and have not duly performed them. I desire that God's people would pray to him for me.

After this she said, I believe in Jesus Christ, that he is my only Saviour: and then praying, called thus upon him, O my God, thou who takest away the sins of the world, forgive my sins I beseech thee, and save my soul forever.

She also took her leave of her relations and others in words to this effect. Farewell, all ye, my beloved friends! Farewell, all ye young people, fear ye God greatly, pray earnestly to him, sanctify his Sabbath, and be sober on that day in his fear.

As for me, said she, my days are cut off, and I groan by reason of the pain

which I endure; but I am willing to die because I believe in Christ, that he is my salvation.



THE BOY WHO WAS TRAINED IN THE RIGHT PATH.



JEREMIAH WESACHIPPAU,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1705, aged eighteen years.

The parents of this young man, Elisha Wesachippau and his wife, were both of them esteemed persons of a vicious conversation, and were, some years before their son died, both at once drowned in the sea, it being supposed they were intoxicated at the time. They had a son, that was esteemed a pious youth drowned with them.

But it is their son Jeremiah, that I am here to give a short account of; and as bad as his parents on other account were, yet they sent him to school when he was a child, where he was taught to read, and also learned his Catechism

and heard many prayers put up to God ; for the Indian School-masters used then to pray with their scholars. He was also taught to write a legible hand. Living also with an uncle of his, (his mother's brother,) especially after the death of his parents, that house then became his home ; he there enjoyed considerable advantages, reading and prayer being attended in that family, and something of good order upheld.

The lad enjoying these advantages, was enabled through grace, to make a good improvement of them. He was sober and orderly from a child, loved his book well, studied his Catechism diligently, delighted in going to meeting, and behaved himself soberly there ; was very obedient to his uncle, and faithful in any business which he set him about ; would not go into bad company, but saved himself from that untoward generation among whom he lived.

These things were observed in him by many of his neighbours ; but his piety did yet more evidently appear in that he was a praying youth. He was observed to pray in secret to God, being several times found at his secret devotions, in

obscure places, to which he used to retire. Nor did he pray in secret only, but gave honour to God, by praying in the family to which he belonged when his uncle was gone from home, and when there was no person present for whom it was more proper to lead in the duty.

He died of a violent fever, which carried him off in a few days ; but it is to be hoped that death did not find him unprepared. He in the time of his sickness, as well as before, sought earnestly to God for mercy, calling often upon him, and desiring others to pray with and for him ; and owning his unworthiness of the great salvation which he thus sought for, he professed his hope of obtaining it through the merits of Jesus Christ his only Saviour. Though a more particular account cannot be now given of him, yet he was so generally esteemed a pious young man by such as were acquainted with him, that I could not forbear noticing in him an example of early piety.

REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF ACTIVE PIETY.

ABIGAIL KENUMP,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1710, aged sixteen years.

ABIGAIL KENUMP was the daughter of Amos Kenump and Abigail his wife, who lived in Chilmark. She seemed to be very sober and considerate while she was but a child, was remarkably obedient and dutiful to her parents; and after she had learned to read, was observed to be often looking in her book, and seemed to meditate much on the things which she read in it. She loved to go to meeting while she was but young, and seemed to take heed that she sinned not, as if she had an awe of God in her heart.

One morning, when some young people who lodged in the house with her, were, when they first awaked, entering into a discourse which was vain and unsavoury, she very seriously reproved

them, telling them, that the God of their lives and of all their mercies, ought to have the first of their thoughts when they awaked in a morning; and declared to them, how unfit a thing it was for persons to begin the day with such vain and unprofitable talk.

Some time after this, she grew unhealthy, and was long sick of a languishing distemper before she died; yet she was not so bad for a considerable time, but that she could go to meeting; and being willing to omit no opportunity to wait on God in the public ordinances of his worship, while she had ability to attend them, she frequently desired some one to guide her on a horse, when she had not strength to go up to the house of God on foot.

When her strength so failed that she could not go to meeting any longer, she appeared careful to spend her time well at home; and reading and meditation was now a great part of her employment.

This pious youth was also much in prayer, or else she had not deserved such a character; but though she seemed to aim at secrecy herein, yet those that dwelt in the same house with her could

not but observe, that she was often alone, pouring out her heart before the Lord.

When young people came to visit her in her sickness, as sometimes they did, she used to desire such of them as she knew could read, to read some portion of God's word to her, and would take that opportunity to let fall some words of caution and counsel to them. She would then speak to them of the frailty and uncertainty of this present life, and declared to them the exceeding evil of sin, and let them know how needful a thing it was for young people to remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

In the former part of her sickness, she made use of medicines, for the recovery of her health; but some time before she died, she said, she had no need to make use of such medicines any longer; for, said she, the Lord Jesus Christ is the only medicine that I now stand in need of.

Some time after this, and a little before her death, she spake to this effect to her sorrowful mother. Be not, my mother, overmuch grieved at my death; for, though I have been guilty of many

sins, yet I have hope in the mercy of God, through Jesus Christ my only Saviour, that I shall when I die leave all my pain and affliction behind me, and enter into everlasting rest and happiness. And if you do, by a thorough repentance, turn unto God, and truly seek and serve him, you may yet again see me with great joy and comfort.

She was very sensible of the approaches of death towards her, as the time of her dissolution drew near; but was able, through grace, to look that King of Terrors in the face.

Just as she was dying, she called to her mother, and spake such good and comfortable words to her, as she had formerly done, and then lifting up her hands towards heaven, said, Oh! my gracious Saviour, have mercy on me, a miserable sinner, who am but dust and ashes; which having said, her hand dropped down, and she immediately expired.

THE GIRL WHO PRAYED AT THE SPRING.

ELIZABETH PATTOMPAN,

Who died at Tisbury, in the year 1710, aged seventeen years.

ELIZABETH was a daughter of Josiah Pattompan and Ruth his wife, both professors of religion, and, as I have been informed, diligent instructors of their children in the principles and duties of Christianity.

When this daughter of theirs was about eleven years of age, they put her to live in an English family in the town in which they themselves resided ; and she behaved herself very orderly and well while she tarried there, being willing to learn to read, and receive such other instructions as those she lived with thought themselves obliged to give her ; but the death of her pious mistress about a year after her first coming to that house, occasioned her returning to her father's house again, though her master would

not otherwise have parted with her, not having observed any thing in her deportment which he disliked.

After her return to her father and mother, she continued to behave herself well, being very obedient to them. She was very diligent in her business, minded her book, and was willing to go to meeting as often as she could.

She appeared also careful to abstain from sin, and her parents observed that she prayed in secret places ; and once when they had been abroad, and did not return till after she had done looking for them, they, when they came to the door, heard her praying with the children, which they had left in her care and charge.

As she took heed that she sinned not, but lived very blamelessly, so she was a very serious reprover of sin in others, especially those of the family in which she lived ; insomuch that her father assured me, that all who belonged to the house stood in awe of her, even her parents as well as others, she having the courage to let them know, that she was grieved at such bad conduct as she saw in them, or otherwise knew that they

were guilty of; and yet had the prudence to manage her reproofs so inoffensively, as not to give them any occasion to be offended with her.

Growing unhealthy some years before she died, as her bodily weakness grew upon her, her spiritual strength seemed to increase more and more: she therefore now discoursed more freely about the concerns of her soul and another world, than she had formerly done; and she told her relations, that the great seriousness which she observed in her mistress with whom she lived, and her earnestness in prosecuting the work of religion wherein she was engaged, was that which first put her upon a deep and serious consideration of her own state and ways. She said, that she then thought, that if she would obtain eternal life, she must work out her own salvation with fear and trembling, as she saw her mistress did, and indeed which all about her could not but observe.

One instance of this girl's following the example herein set her, shall be particularly mentioned.

One morning her father going out of his house before it was quite light, and

walking towards a spring not far off, from which the family used to bring water; he thought he heard near that place the voice of his daughter, who went out some time before him; and going a little further that way, he found that he was not mistaken; for he then plainly heard her speaking, and calling on God for his mercy to be extended to her. She then humbly confessed to him the sins of her nature and life, and earnestly entreated him, for the merit's sake of his son Jesus Christ, to pardon and blot out all her transgressions, and to renew and sanctify her heart; saying to him, that if he would graciously please so to do, she would be then willing to leave this world, and all her enjoyments in it, that she might go to him, and be happy in his presence for ever.

On the same day wherein her father heard her thus praying to God, she became more violently ill, and remained so till she died. Being now much worse than she had hitherto been, she expressed her apprehensions that she should not recover of the sickness with which she was visited, and her willingness to submit to the will of God; also her earnest

desire of being reconciled to him, and her hopes of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, her only Saviour. She also now called earnestly on God for the manifestation of his favour to her soul, and gave many good exhortations to all her relations.

Some days before she died, she earnestly desired her father to commit to writing, for the benefit of her relations, some things which she then uttered: which her father doing not long after, he since presented me with a copy of the same; which having now before me, I shall here insert the substance of it, which is as follows.

I know assuredly, said she, that such is the condition of mankind, that there is no rest for them any where in this world: I choose therefore to go to my father, rather than tarry any longer in it.

Then praying, she said, Therefore now, O my heavenly Father, if thou pleasest so to do, prepare my soul to be saved by thee in the place of heavenly rest, which thou hast prepared for thy people; and then I know I shall certainly have everlasting joy in thy salvation. If, therefore, O God, thou takest me

away, take away likewise my sinfulness from me. And O that thou, O God, wouldst deal thus mercifully with all my friends and brethren.

Having prayed, she then spoke thus to her relations: And you, my brethren and friends, I desire you would not be over much grieved at my death; but instead thereof turn to, and call on God, and then we shall see one another again in heaven.

Lastly, said she, I speak to you, my father. I find in my heart, my father, something that is a matter of very great consequence to you; it greatly concerns you, that turning to God, you call constantly upon him as long as you live, which if you do, your God will show a great favour to you, or will greatly bless you, and you shall have great joy, or comfort; but if you do not, you will be wretched and miserable for ever.

You ought to consider how exceedingly dreadful their pain and torment will be, who go to hell, or to the place of wicked spirits.

See that you abstain from drunkenness. I entreat you, my father, in the name of our merciful King in heaven,

that you would write these words for the use of my brethren and friends, that so they may duly consider their own souls.



THE LAD WHO LOVED THE BIBLE.

—
JOB TUPHAUS,

Who died in the year 1714, in the 15th year of his age.

THIS youth was a son of William and Bethia Tuphaus. His mother has informed me, that the first child she had being a daughter, and dying while very young, she had none but sons for many years after; and that being very desirous of having another daughter, she prayed earnestly to God, that he would, if it pleased him so to do, bestow one upon her; but if he saw good to deny her request herein, he would then please to give her such a son, as would be as great a comfort to her as a daughter would be if she had one. Her next child was Job, of whom I am now giving

some account of, and he appeared to have in him such good things as God does endue those with, for whom he has a favour, and intends to make heirs of his eternal kingdom.

This Job was one that feared God and eschewed evil. He seemed, when he was but a child, to stand in awe that he sinned not; he was not given to any of those vices to which the generality of boys are addicted. He was very obedient to his parents, and diligent and faithful in any business that he was set about. He was willing and desirous to go to meeting, and seemed loth to omit any opportunity of attending the public duties of religion. He was also very careful to attend family worship, and seemed to be very serious in it.

He was sick near a year before he died, in which time he showed a great delight in hearing the word of God read; and sometimes desired his mother to read in the book of Psalms to him. Psalms of prayer he was most desirous to have read in his hearing, and would seem to be delighted and refreshed when they were so, and would lift up his hands and give thanks. When Psalms

were sung in the family, he used to join with his voice in the singing of them, though the state of his body was very weak and low.

Once after family prayer, his mother asked him what were his thoughts of his own condition? He answered that he thought that he should quickly die. And are you, said she, willing to die? I am, said he, if God will please to bestow his grace upon me; for then he will deliver me from all my pain and sorrow for ever. I love my relations, said he, but I am willing to leave them all, and go to God; and I desire that God would help me more and more to put my trust in him. I would not have you troubled at my death, for we must all of us die, one as well as another. And though I go a little before my friends and relations, they must quickly follow after me. But do you, said his mother, hope you shall be saved? I earnestly desire, said he, that God would have mercy on me, and I put my trust in my God.

The day before his death, his mother again asked him, whether he was willing to die? He answered, that he was.

But do you, said she, love God? Yes, said he, I do.

After he was speechless, he held out his hand to his mother, grandmother, and brother, severally, and took them by theirs; and so, taking his leave of them, went, as it is hoped, to that God in whom he trusted.



THE AFFECTIONATE DAUGHTER.



JERUSHA OHQUANHUT,

Who died November 14th, 1714, in the 18th year of her age.

JERUSHA OHQUANHUT was a daughter of Peter Ohquanhut, and Dorcas his wife; Peter being one of the then Pastors of the Indian church on the west end of Martha's Vineyard.

Her religious parents taught her to read, and to repeat her Catechism, while she was but young; they also taught her to call upon God when she was but a little girl, and she seemed to

be very sober while but a child, and used to pray according to the instruction given her: nor was she addicted to any vice, but behaved herself well, and was very obedient to her parents.

When she was scarcely 15 years old, her father endeavouring to pass the Sound in a canoe, was there taken by a French privateer, and carried far away; but whither, neither his own family, nor any other here, could tell.

At this sad event, this daughter of his, and his family, were exceedingly troubled; but Jerusha encouraged herself and the rest of her relations, in the power, goodness, and providence of God, and expressed her dependence on him for the preservation and safe return of her father, in his good time. She now put her friends in mind how God delivered Daniel out of the lions' den, and the three children out of the fiery furnace, into which they were cast; and from thence inferred how easy a thing it was with God to set her father at liberty, and bring him home to his family again.

Having such a faith, she exercised the same in fervent prayer for her father's return; and her mother perceiving that

she was now very constant and earnest in her secret devotions, and knowing that she had been long used to call on the Lord, would sometimes invite and persuade her to pray in the family, there being none but themselves and little children in it; nor was she at a loss how to express herself pertinently in the duty, but prayed like one accustomed to it; as indeed she was, and had for a long time been.

In these addresses to Heaven, she prayed with much affection, and ordinarily with tears, enforcing her petitions with proper arguments taken out of the word of God, to which she was no stranger; nor did she fail of mentioning her father's case in any of the prayers thus presented to God by her.

While she was thus earnest with God for the return of her father, he put it in the hearts of the French to release him, and set him on shore; and he being at liberty, returned home to his family at Gayhead, in about a month after he was taken.

This young woman, on the news of her father's return, he being already come as far as the next town, was so

exceedingly affected, as to fall into a swoon; but being in a short time recovered out of it, she expressed her great joy and thankfulness to God for his great goodness manifested to him and his family.

Not long after this, she signified her intentions to her parents of renewing her covenant with God, and asking an admission to the table of the Lord. Being encouraged by them so to do, and giving good evidence of a work of grace on her soul, she was by the Church readily admitted when she was but very little above 15 years of age: nor did this young woman ever, by any improper conduct, bring reproach on religion, or the Church of which she was a member.

As she appeared to be a very pious person in the time of her health, so she did in the time of that sickness of which she died, behaving herself as became an heir of God's eternal kingdom. I shall conclude my account of her with the last words she spoke before she died; which being penned by her father, to whom, with the rest of her friends,

she spoke them, were in writing delivered to me as follows.

“My father, these are my last words to you, now at my death. Worship God fervently, and be not much troubled for me; for as for me, I am going to my heavenly Father. Serve God, therefore, with greater diligence and fervency than you used to do while I was in health. And all you, my other friends, whom I know to have loved me, and who are also beloved of me, if you are sorry for my leaving you, seek for me with Jesus Christ, and there you shall find me, and with him we shall see one another for ever.”



RELIGION IN A LITTLE CHILD.



LYDIA OHQUANHUT,

Who died in the year 1715, when she was five years old.

SHE was a sister of Jerusha Ohquan-
hut, and she was, like her, instructed in
the first principles of religion as soon as

she was capable of such instructions : and it seems that it pleased the Holy Spirit of God, by his sanctifying influence, to make very early impressions on her soul. She conducted herself on all accounts very inoffensively, before she was seized with the sickness of which she died ; being obedient to her parents, and not addicted to any vice : but it was not till after she was taken ill with that sickness that put an end to her life, that such things appeared in her, as did more fully discover her to be a new creature, and an heir of that salvation, of which, those who call on the name of the Lord, have a promise made to them.

Her father being affected with some of the expressions she then used, committed them to writing, and thereby furnished me with what I shall here further relate concerning her.

When her mother perceived that she was dangerously ill, she wept over her ; which the sick child observing, said to her, ' My mother, do not weep, for it is to heaven that I am going. Jerusha is already gone to heaven, and now I am going to heaven also.' And she further solemnly said at the same time, ' We

must all of us die, we must all of us die, we must all of us die !'

Two days after this, she called on the Lord, and said, ' Oh God ! have mercy on me ; Oh God ! have mercy on me ; Oh God ! have mercy on me.'

A while after, she spoke thus to her father ;—' My father, I desire you would teach me how I ought to pray.' Her father, in answer to her request, taught her several petitions which he thought proper, and suitable for her to make use of ; and she did as fast as she could, learn them, and with great affection, improve them, calling on the Lord in the words in which she was so directed to pray to him, and frequently repeating the petitions so put up by her. At length her friends, perceiving that she was just dying, her father taught her to call upon her Saviour in these words, Lord Jesus Christ, receive my soul ; and she most readily accepting her father's direction, thus to commit her spirit to the hands of her Redeemer, did frequently, while she lay dying, in these words call upon him : and after she was so far spent, as not to be able to speak audibly, she was supposed to continue so praying, her lips

moving as long as she had any life left in her.

Thus this child breathed out her soul into the hands of God her Saviour.



TRANSFORMING POWER OF PIETY.

LABAN PANU,

Who died at Gayhead, November 6th, 1715, aged ten years.

THE father of this child was a devoted Indian Minister, viz. Joash Panu. His mother was a pious woman who is yet living, Naomi Panu, a widow.

He did not appear to have any fear of God before his eyes till about two years before he died, but seemed rather to be an evident instance of the truth of that word of God, The wicked are estranged from their birth; they go astray as soon as they are born. Till he was nearly nine years old, he was rude and disorderly, was apt to profane the Sabbath day, and could scarcely be restrain-

ed from playing at meeting. Nor did the many good instructions and exhortations given him by his parents appear to have any good effect upon him.

His parents, grieved with his irregularities, at length began to deal more sharply with him, taking that advice of the wise man, Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest: and as they found the counsel good, so they found the promise true; for due corrections thus added to good instructions, did, by God's blessing, soon produce a remarkable change in the conduct and behaviour of their child. He very suddenly appeared to be much more sober and orderly than he used to be; and thus becoming sober, he soon discovered also a religious seriousness.

About this time he told his mother, that formerly he had not believed there was a God, but now he was persuaded that there was one, who had placed him here in this world. And for what end, said his mother, do you think that God has placed you here, as he has done? That I might seek and serve him, said the child; and as our Creator has placed us here upon earth, so he

will shortly remove us again from it. His intelligent and devout mother then stating the doctrine of the final judgment to him, he readily asserted his firm persuasion of the truth and certainty of that doctrine: and he behaved himself as one, that must be brought into judgment for all which he said and did.

Having thus become serious, he applied himself with diligence to the reading of his books, which he had before too much neglected; and he now also studied his Catechism, and would often of his own accord repeat by heart the questions and answers, which he had before learned. And he and some of the other children of the family that lived near, used by turns to catechise one another; by which means the knowledge of this child, as well as some of the rest, was considerably increased.

His mother sometimes hearing of him at these exercises, would ask him, whether he really believed the truth of the answers in his Catechism, which he repeated, making this demand more especially when he came to answers of the greatest importance; and he would still,

in answer to her, declare his firm belief of the truths which he so learned.

Thus believing, it might soon be said of him, Behold he prayeth: and he was sometimes heard and seen calling upon God his Saviour.

His mother several times observing that he was alone, saying something which she could not so hear as to understand, she once asked him what, and to whom, he used to speak in his retirements? To which he answered, that he used to speak to God, and pray to him, to pardon all his sins, and make him good. His father also sometimes found him alone in the woods, calling on the name of the Lord; and sometimes heard him in the depth of the night, when he was upon his bed, crying to God for his mercy and salvation; as in a paper, wherein he hath set down the time of his birth and death, he has declared.

The father of this child observing such good things in him, would sometimes tell his wife and others, that he thought he should not long enjoy him: by which he was supposed to intend, that his little son had his conversation so much in

heaven, that he thought he would be soon ripe for that place, and be removed to it.

He several times confessed the sinfulness of his heart and life, especially to his father, when he was instructing and exhorting him; and he particularly lamented his previous bad habits, and sometimes cautioned his younger brothers and sisters against such evils.

He talked often of his own frailty and mortality, and that even while he appeared to be in health; and sometimes let fall such expressions as seemed to intimate, that he thought he should very shortly die. And he did as he conjectured, living a natural life scarcely two years after he began to live a spiritual one.

He was sick but about a month before he died; in which time he behaved himself as became a youth that remembered his Creator.

Soon after he was taken ill, his mother asking him whether he was willing to die and leave this world, and all his enjoyments in it, he, after a little pause, said, that he found in himself an unwillingness at present so to do. But why? said his mother to him, this is a very

troublesome world, here are many afflictions to be undergone; whereas heaven is a most excellent place, wherein there is no trouble or sorrow to be endured. I am concerned, said the child weeping, for my little brother, (one younger than himself;) I now keep with him and look after him: but if I die, I can take no more care of him. Do not, said his mother, let that trouble you; if you die before your brother, it will not be long before he will follow after you; and if you go to heaven, he will, if he loves and serves God, come thither to you, and there live with you for ever; the which that he may do, I will endeavour to teach him to know and serve the Lord. Do you therefore seek to God to prepare you for your end; and be willing to die, and go to your God, when he sees it best to call you. Yea, said the lad smiling, I will be so: I will now set my heart no longer upon my brother, nor be unwilling to leave him. Come hither, Joseph, said he to him; who then coming to him, he took him by the hand and said, Farewell! my brother; you shall not offend or hinder me any longer; be thou diligent in seeking God.

After this, he never discovered the least unwillingness to die, but set himself to seek the Lord with his whole heart, and called daily upon him for his mercy to be extended to him, for the sake of Jesus Christ, his only Saviour; and also frequently desired his father to pray for him, and sometimes his mother also, in his father's absence.

He now discoursed much of the things of God and another world, frequently calling God his heavenly father, and speaking of Jesus Christ as his only Redeemer and Saviour: but what the sentences were he then uttered, cannot now be distinctly remembered, not having been committed to writing.

He underwent much pain in the time of his sickness, and sometimes said that he could not forbear groaning under his affliction; yet he said it was God that laid the same upon him; and he bore with much patience the mighty hand of God, which he was then under, constantly trusting in and crying to him only for deliverance.

When he perceived that he was nigh to death, he said but little to any that were about him, but kept almost contin-

ually praying to God, often saying, Oh! my heavenly father, have mercy on me.

When his friends asked him whether he was willing to die, and whether he had hopes that God would save him, he still answered affirmatively to these questions.

After his voice so failed him that he could not pronounce perfect sentences, he still kept praying to God, and saying, Woi—Woi—Woi; which may be rendered in English, I pray—I pray—I pray; which were the last words he ever was heard to speak.



THE GIRL WHO MADE CHRIST HER PORTION.

JANE POMIT,

Who died at Chilmark, in the year 1716, aged eighteen years.

JANE was a daughter of Jesse Pomit, an Indian of Gayhead. Her father died while she was very young.

She was early taught to read, and was also instructed in her Catechism,

and had by her mother and grandmother many good counsels given her. Nor were the means used for her good lost ; for she was obedient to her mother, willing to receive instructions, and loved to read her book and go to meeting.

When she was ten or eleven years old, the good instructions given her began to make a very observable impression upon her : she would then weep and be much affected, when spoken to about the things of God and another world, seeming to lay to heart what was said to her.

Some time after this, her mother being poor, and living with her and one or two more of her children in a little poor cottage, and having a little son some years younger than this daughter, then in a sick and low condition, she was put to great straits for a livelihood for herself and little ones ; and particularly her little son David, for that was his name, did somewhat suffer for want of such things as, in regard of his present low and weak condition, he needed. This being observed by his sister, of whom I am here speaking, she with great compassion and sympathy applied herself to him, condoling the misery of his present state,

and declaring to him how much better it would be for him, if he were fit to die, to leave this world, and go to that better country which is above in heaven ; and she earnestly pressed him to prepare for that place, telling him, as well as she could, what we must do to be saved ; as that he must love God, and pray to him.

Nor did she once only thus address herself to him, but did several times, with much affection ; telling him what an excellent and glorious place heaven is, and how dreadful the torments of hell were, and how much it concerned him to endeavour to escape the one and obtain the other ; declaring this to be her own resolution so to do : and so earnest was she sometimes with him, that she would not leave him till he owned the truth and importance of what she said to him. It is said that the girl herself was thus treated when she was a child ; and if so, it is the less wonder that she should deal so pungently with her little brother.

I desire my reader to pardon the digression, if I here, as in a parenthesis, give some further account of the little boy so instructed by his sister. He did not at first appear to be very much af-

fectured with what she said to him ; but before he died, which he did not long after, when he was about nine years old, he was concerned about his eternal state, and called upon God for mercy ; so that there was some ground of hope that he died well ; and this is all that I have to say about him.

The young woman being sick herself, after the death of her brother, called earnestly upon God to extend his favour to her ; entreating him to spare and lengthen out her life a little longer, and made promises that she would endeavour to live to him. God heard her request, spared her life ; and she performed her promises to him, owning her obligations to serve and love him.

Being now sixteen years of age, or something upwards, she expressed a great desire of enjoying God in all his ordinances ; and gave so good an account of her knowledge of the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, and her experience of a work of grace on her soul, that she was with good satisfaction admitted to full communion in the church, of which Mr. Joash Panu was the pastor. Nor did she ever, while

she lived, give the Church any cause to repent of their having admitted her.

About the time of her being admitted to the privileges of the Church, or rather before it, her mother's wigwam being gone to ruin, they had no house of their own to dwell in, but would get entertainment as they could in the houses of others. But this way of living did not please the daughter, who therefore told her mother, that she earnestly desired that she would again endeavour to get a little wigwam to live in ; for, said she, we cannot worship and serve God so constantly and comfortably in the way we are in, as we might if we had a house of our own, in which we might daily call upon him. She further told her mother, that being in an unhealthy state of body, she should on that account choose rather to have a house of their own, in which she might live and die, than to be in other people's houses.

Her mother hearkening to her, and getting a little wigwam according to her desire, they there lived together, and called daily on God, as the daughter had proposed ; and there she also died about a year after.

Being settled in their much desired wigwam, the daughter asked her mother to grant her the privilege of sometimes expressing orally, or with her voice, the prayers to be jointly put up to God by them; which request her mother readily and with much pleasure granted, desiring her daughter to pray every evening, she taking her turn in the morning: nor was the mother any ways disturbed by thus employing her daughter, but much edified with the gift of prayer with which God favoured her. She would say, that as her daughter was able, in a very suitable manner, to express the wants and desires of her own soul, and those of others whom she was bound to pray for, so she generally called upon God with much fervency and affection, and often with many tears poured out her soul before him.

Bodily weakness increasing rapidly on this pious young woman, she never was more than twice able to attend the administration of the Lord's supper, after she was admitted to a participation in it, though she very much desired to have partaken of it oftener; and yet the comfort she received at the table of the

Lord, when she was enabled to come to it, was such as that she was no loser by seeking the privilege.

When she came home in the evening, the first time she was at this feast, she opened her mouth in the praises of God, because he had granted her the favour which she had desired of him; and professed that she had met with comfort and refreshment in the duty she had been attending. She likewise experienced divine consolation the last time she was at the Sacrament, and declared the same to her relations at her return from it; adding at the same time, that she thought she should no more in this world partake of the feast at which she had then been entertained; but that she hoped she should be again admitted to it in the Church that is above.

This being in August, she died the next spring after, being in the mean time very diligent in her preparations for that great change which she expected and waited for. She often called upon God for the mercies she needed, not forgetting to pray for others also. She uttered also many excellent and savory sentences, which cannot now be distinctly

remembered. And she mightily encouraged her poor afflicted mother, desiring her to put her trust in God, and pray to him without ceasing. Mr. Joash, her pastor, often visited and discoursed with her, and was well satisfied with what she said to him : others, who were well acquainted with her, have also given her a good character.

One day, a little before she died, bemoaning her brother, whom she was to leave alone, (the rest of her brothers and sisters being dead) her mother told her she should not distress herself about him; God would provide for him after her death, as well as while she lived. Hearing this remark, after a little pause, she called to her mother and said, My mother, I will no more too much love my brother, or any thing else here ; I will henceforth love none but Jesus Christ.

Accordingly, after this, she spoke of this world and its enjoyments, as things which she did not set her heart upon ; but professing the hope of enjoying everlasting mercies through the merits of the Son of God, her only Saviour, she declared her willingness to die, and go to him ; and thus did she take her leave of this vale of tears.

AN EXAMPLE FOR CHILDREN WHO GO TO
SCHOOL.

—
BETHIA SISSETOM,

Who died in October 1721, aged nineteen years.

THIS young woman was the daughter of an Indian, commonly called Oggin, or Haukim, and his wife Hannah, who was a pious woman.

She had a very pious grandfather, whose name was Joel Sims, and a godly grandmother ; the last of whom had opportunity and a heart, by her good example and instructions, to promote her salvation. She was a great grandchild of that excellent Indian, who prayed very earnestly for his offspring when he was dying.

These were great advantages ; but it seems God still designed some better thing for her, of which those here mentioned were but means and steps towards her attainment. She behaved herself

from a child in some good measure as a person so privileged ought to do ; was very obedient to her parents, diligent and faithful in what she was set about, and not known to be any way vicious ; and yet not free from some of those vanities to which young people are very commonly subject.

There being seldom, while she was young, any school near to which she could be sent, and she being so exceedingly desirous to learn to read, that no difficulties lying in the way could discourage her from it, she used to embrace every opportunity she could obtain to read a lesson to any one that would hear her. Her mother was but a poor reader, and her father seldom at home ; but some of her neighbours seeing how much she was set upon learning her book, and kindly offering to hear her read if she would come to them when they could attend to it, she thankfully accepted the offer, going very often to them ; and though the circumstances of the family to which she belonged, were such that she could scarcely be spared long enough from it to go and read a lesson or two in a day ; yet she would, by her great in-

dustry, redeem time, for that in which she so much delighted. In this way she learned to read better than many do who have a school to go to, and time to attend it.

Having with difficulty attained this skill, she with a proportionable diligence improved it, delighting much in reading such books as might be advantageous to her ; and in this way especially, arrived to some good measure of knowledge in the things of God and his kingdom, insomuch that her mother, after she died, acknowledged that her daughter exceeded her, and knew much more than she did.

Though she made a good use of her books while she was in health, yet they became more especially serviceable to her after she fell into a consumption, under which she lingered about a year and a half before she died, being unable for the greater part of that time to go to meeting.

When she first began to languish, she thought she saw death approaching towards her, but was then far from being able to bid him welcome. She still saw terror in the face of that king of terrors ;

and she could not yet say with pleasure, "I shall go to the gates of the grave."

She was still in the dark, as to her state before God; and she could not be willing to die without a comfortable hope of his love to her soul: she was therefore now, more than ever before, observed to work out her own salvation with fear and trembling, and to use all diligence to make her calling and election sure. She now confessed the sins and failures of her life, and cried daily to God her Saviour, that his grace and mercy might be extended to her, and her sins be all pardoned, and her soul saved.

Her pious grandmother before-mentioned, being now with her, frequently comforted her in her affliction, and greatly encouraged her in the work wherein she was engaged; but, which was infinitely better, God wrought in her, both to will and to do, of his own good pleasure.

God thus speeding the work, it was not long before it was with her as the light of the morning when the sun riseth, even as a morning without clouds. All her fears of death were now vanished away; and not this world, but heaven, was the place of her ardent desire. She

declared that she could leave father and mother, and brothers and sisters, and all that had been dear to her here, that she might go to God, who was her exceeding joy.

About this time, a godly English neighbour going to visit her, was edified by hearing many good and comfortable expressions which she uttered: among other things, she said that the thoughts of death had been, in the first of her sickness, very bitter to her; but that having got over that difficulty, she was now willing to die and leave this world, and all the enjoyments in it.

Her discourses, after she thus attained to peace in believing, were continually such as became a child of God, living within the view of that glory to which she expected in a short time to arrive. But those who were then frequently with her, will not trust their memories so far as to undertake to give a particular account of what she said; only they affirm, that she expressed herself very piously and comfortably, and that she did mightily exhort and encourage her relations to depart from all iniquity, and be diligent

seekers of God, to whom she hoped she was going; and did, I trust, to her unspeakable joy.



THE HUMBLE INDIAN BOY.

—
TOBIT POTTER,

Who died at Oakhame, in the year 1722, aged thirteen years.

THE lad of whom I here write, was a son of Elizabeth Uhquat.

In the ninth year of his age he was put to live in a religious English family in Tisbury, where continuing about four years, he was carefully instructed in the great truths of religion; and it is from the pious mistress with whom he lived, that I have received the substance of what I have to relate concerning him. He was very ready and apt to learn his Catechism, and to receive such other instructions as were given to him, increasing daily in knowledge by the means used with him.

As he increased in knowledge, he appeared to be under convictions, said he was in trouble, and needed instruction; and would, if he were not ashamed, speak with some Minister about his case; for he thought that Ministers knew more than others, and should be honoured more, as coming to us in Christ's stead.

He also inquired whether Ministers prayed for all, saying he thought they did, but did not know whether their prayers would reach him who was of another nation. He was told that none were excluded, and was put in mind of that text of Scripture, God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

He was very willing to go to meeting, and told his mistress, that though he could remember but little of what he heard, yet he made as good use as he could of what he did remember, and studied the same daily.

He was very careful to attend reading and prayer in the family in which he lived, and hearkened diligently to what he heard read, endeavouring to remember as much as he could.

Questions being put to him on the answers in the Assembly's Catechism, he gave pertinent answers; so that it appeared that he was not only able to repeat his Catechism, but that in some good measure he understood it.

He learned several pious poems by heart; and among others, those verses for children, in which are these words :

I may not sin as others do,
Lest I lie down in sorrow too.

Which verse having once repeated, he said, *to lie down*, was to die, and *in sorrow*, was in hell; and he often made such pertinent observations on other things.

He was careful to pray in secret towards the latter part of his time; and manifested a desire to see the Lord's supper administered, and more than once did.

He once said, that when he looked on the moon and stars, and other wonders of creation, he considered that these things could not have been, if there had not been a God, who made them.

He said he loved good people better than others, because he thought they

belonged to God; and being desired to do an errand or two for the Minister, he said he had rather do things for him than not, because he was a Minister; and that he did not desire any reward for what he did.

Having a fit of sickness about a year before he died, he then said he prayed daily for himself as well as he could, but desired that his master would also pray for him. Being asked what he desired, he answered, That God would forgive all his sins, and give him an interest in his Son Jesus Christ.

After his recovery, he told his mistress, that he had been sometimes formerly guilty of lying; but that he was resolved to do so no more, though he should suffer for what faults he committed, being known.

Once speaking of a servant who had been unfaithful, he said he would not do as he did; for he had heard the precept, Servants, obey your masters.

He would sometimes say, that he thought he should be willing to die if he were prepared; and being asked why, he answered, Because he should then

enjoy God, which he thought was man's greatest happiness.

He said once, when he came from meeting, that hearing the Minister mention those words, If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up; he was glad to hear this, for that he thought he had no body to take care of him. And he would frequently mention passages in sermons which he heard, and make pertinent remarks upon them.

When he was catechised, and when good instructions were given him, he would be affected even to weeping.

He was a great lover of books, and said, that he would not take twenty shillings for one of them.

If prayers were not in the family and he present, he would be troubled.

He was thankful for such good instructions as were given to him; and when he went from his master, a few months before he died, he told his mistress he thanked her for all the good she had ever done him.

Being unhealthy when he left his master, he returned to his mother, and not long after died. His behaviour and discourses till his death were still such

as they formerly had been, very serious and pious: but he not being able to speak Indian very well, and none of the Indians with him in his sickness, except his mother, being able fully to understand what he said in English, a particular account of what he said in that time cannot be given; as his mother died a little after him.

I was in general informed, that he was sensible that he was likely to die, and very diligent in preparing for his change. He prayed much himself, and desired others to pray with and for him: and he attained to the comfortable hope of eternal happiness in another world, before he left this; and comforted his distressed mother by acquainting her with his mind.

Particularly on the morning of the day wherein he died, he did so; for being then observed to look more lively than he had for some time, and his mother observing him to clap his hands and smile, she asked him why he did so? To which he answered, Because I am to die this day. How know you that? said his mother. I do know, said he, that it will be so. Are you then willing to

die? said she. I am, said he. And why? said his mother. Because, said he, I shall then go to Jesus Christ, and be with him for ever.

This his mother related to the mistress with whom he had lived, on the day of his funeral.

His pious mother sent for me to come and pray with him a little before he died; but he had become speechless before I could get to him; and so I could then have no discourse with him, for which I was grieved. But I doubt not that he died in the Lord.

THE CHILD MADE HAPPY IN DEATH.

HANNAH SOOPASUN,

Daughter of Joel and Sarah Soopasun of Christian-town, who died May 12, 1723, when about eleven years and two months old.

THE parents of this child being professors of religion, took care that she might be well educated. They sent her

to school while young, that so she might learn to read; and she made good proficiency. She was also pretty well instructed in her Catechism, so that she understood in some good measure the great truths of religion.

The school failing to which she was sent, her parents put her to an English master and mistress, intending that she should live some years with them, and receive farther instructions. But the girl proving sickly at that house, after she had been sometime there, it was agreed that she should again go and live with her parents.

She delighted much in going to meeting, so that she would not willingly miss any opportunity; she was also very apt and willing to learn to read, and to receive such other instructions as were needed.

She seemed grieved, when by her long sickness she was detained from the house of God; and told one of her sisters, that she would not stay at home as she did, if she was well enough to go to meeting.

When she grew so ill that her friends suspected she would not recover, and

understood what their apprehensions were, she seemed much concerned about it, and death for some time appeared very terrible to her : And now she seemed to be sensible of her sins, and confessed some of which she had been guilty. She frequently desired her father to pray for her, which he at her request readily did, and made it one of his requests to God, that her life might be spared, and her health restored ; but she at length told him, that she desired he would no longer pray for her life, telling him that she thought that God intended her sickness should be unto death ; and she now earnestly desired him to pray for the pardon of her sins, and the eternal salvation of her soul. She also told him that she wholly disregarded all her worldly enjoyments, and was only concerned about the things of another life.

She understood the doctrine of Redemption by Jesus Christ ; and sometimes discoursed about it, improving it for her relief and comfort, when she was under a deep sense of her own sinfulness.

As the time of her death drew near, she was very sensible of it, and not at

all terrified ; but told her relations, that she desired they would not lay the same much to heart, since she had hopes of changing this life for a better.

A little before her death, she desired that one of the Indian Ministers might be sent for to pray with her : but by her mother, desired him not to pray for her recovery, but only that God would fit her for and bring her to his everlasting kingdom.

After this, she encouraged her relations to be diligent seekers of God ; and told her father, that she was troubled that he went so often to drinking houses, and that he sometimes seemed to her to have drank too much when he came from them : and earnestly entreated him to reform what was amiss.

When she perceived that she was dying, she desired to be committed to God by prayer ; which being done, she did herself call upon God, concluding with that form of prayer which our Lord taught his disciples to use.

AN EXAMPLE FOR SABBATH SCHOLARS.

SARAH COOMES,

Who died at Chilmark, March 10, 1723, aged six years, and nine months.

THIS child's great grandfather, on the father's side, was the memorable Hiacoomes; and for her grandfather, good Mr. Samuel Cocmes. On the mother's side, she was a granddaughter to Deacon Jonathan Amos.

Her mother being very sickly, and dying some time before her, she lived much with her mother's mother, who carefully instructed her in the things of God, and taught her to call upon him, as soon as she began to be capable of receiving instruction. To her great satisfaction, her grandmother quickly found that she had a relish for good things, by her frequently desiring her further to open and explain the mysteries of religion.

When she asked to be instructed, she usually did it in these words, Teach me God, or instruct me concerning him. Her grandmother finding her so willing to hear, was as willing to go on in the good work she had so happily begun.

As the child increased in knowledge, she appeared to be more and more affected with a sense of the reality and importance of the truths wherein she was instructed; and would frequently affirm her belief of the truth and certainty of them, saying, that though she could not herself express them, yet she firmly believed them.

Nor did this child rest in the bare knowledge of the things she learned, but endeavoured also to put the same in practice; and evidently appeared to be influenced thereby in her life.

Her grandmother having frequently observed that she was unwilling to go to bed early in the evening, though she appeared to be very drowsy, and not knowing the reason of it, the girl after some time told her, that she desired to stay up till her grandfather had been at prayers in the family; and from thence forward used to do so. Nor did she con-

tent herself with being at family worship, without making her address to God by herself alone, as her grandmother, and others in the family, soon observed.

She lay sick a considerable time before she died; and continued to ask instruction in the things of God and the eternal world, and to express her assent to them. She in particular expressed her steadfast belief of the doctrine of Christ's person, sufferings, and intercession for sinners; and when she prayed, she called upon God to have mercy upon her for his sake.

She seemed to have a lively apprehension of a future life and a future world, wherein rewards and punishments should be distributed unto all, according to their works in this.

When she drew near to her end, she desired her grandmother not to be too much grieved for her; for, said she, I am now going to the house of God, and when you go to God's house also, we shall again see one another with joy; and we shall there see others also, who are gone before us, leaving us sorrowful here behind them; and then we shall be where is everlasting joy. She desired

her grandmother to be of good courage, and go on stedfastly to serve God, notwithstanding any opposition which she might meet.



A REMARKABLE LITTLE CHILD.



JOSEPH PEAG,

Who died at Christian-town, July 20, 1723, being four years and twenty one days old.

JOSEPH was a son of Jacob and Sarah Peag, both of them professing godliness. They took care to instruct him in the things of God. His pious grandmother also laboured to make him understand the first principles of religion. He was scarcely three years old, before some observable impressions were made on his soul. He would of his own accord mention God, and call him good and gracious, and speak of the benefits which he received as bestowed by him.

He used in the fourth year of his age

to ask very notable questions in matters of religion. He one day asked his grandmother, how it was that good people went to heaven when they died. His grandmother, in answer, instructed him in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, its separation from the body at death, and its return to God who gave it. All which the child seemed to understand, and appeared to be well satisfied with the answer.

At another time, this child asked his grandmother whether Jesus Christ was really God, or not? To which his grandmother answered, that he was, telling him that he was God's only Son, and further familiarly instructing him in the doctrine of Christ's incarnation, and of his suffering in our stead to reconcile us to God. The child seemed to understand, and receive what she said, and appeared to be much affected, expressing his admiration at the goodness of God and Christ appearing in this wonderful way, contrived for the salvation of such wicked creatures, as the children of men.

He one day asked his father, for what end people sung when they went

to meeting? His father told him, that it would be the great work and business of good people to praise God when they went to heaven; and that singing being one way in which they would then praise him, they were now previously learning to praise and glorify God's name.—I desire then, said the child, to learn to sing too; may I not, said he, so do? To which his father answering that he might, he seemed to be pleased with that answer. After this, whenever he heard persons singing of Psalms, which was frequently practised at the house of an Indian Minister just by, the child would slip away thither, and with great sobriety attend that exercise to the conclusion; and did also frequently attempt to sing by himself; though being but a child, he therein acted as a child.

There would sometimes be unhappy disputes betwixt the parents of this poor child, at which he would be much distressed, and would sometimes run out of doors, as if he were not able to endure the house, where his parents were contending; yea, so much affected was he at their quarrels, that he could not forbear telling his parents, that they were

very evil, and God was offended at them, desiring them to leave off their quarrels, lest they should provoke God to bring evil upon them; and one day he told his grandmother, being abroad with her, that he was weary of living in the world, by reason of the sin and disorder he saw in it, instancing in particular the differences of his parents; telling her that he had rather die, and go to the house of God, than live any longer in so bad a place as this. And such a desire of dying, and going to the house of God, he at another time expressed to a pious aunt of his, who meeting him abroad, spake something to him of God and heaven.

When this child saw his parents under any difficulties, he would frequently express his grief at them, but would say to them, that, if they would love and serve God, they should shortly go to his house, where they should be happy for ever.

When he saw some Indians drunk, he asked, What was the matter with them? and being informed, he manifested a great abhorrence of their wickedness. One day hearing that there were some Indians drinking at a house near by, he

asked, where his grandfather was? and being answered, that he was at home, he expressed his joy at it, and said, that his grandfather should not drink, as other Indians do, for he was a Mannit-toomp, i. e. a man of God, and God would be greatly offended at it if he drank to excess. He also desired his own parents to abstain from drunkenness, to which he saw many addicted.

He told his father and mother, that they ought to be always very kind to old men and women; for, said he, they belong to God, and God has a great respect for them, and will be angry with you if you slight them. He now mentioned in particular one old and good man, that used to come to the house, as one that he would have kindly treated.

When this child received any benefit, he used to acknowledge that it was God who bestowed it upon him, and would bless and praise him for it; thus he used to bless God for his food when he received it, and to call him a good God on account of it.

The relations of this child frequently heard him calling upon the Lord for his mercy; and do affirm, that in his prayers

he used to mention all the persons in the adorable Trinity, asking the favours for which he prayed in the name of Christ, to be communicated by the Holy Spirit. And that he distinctly prayed, that he might be fitted to dwell in the house of God, and then to go to it. He once asked his grandmother, whether any sinful or unclean thing could be in God's house? meaning heaven: and being informed that there could not, he probably from thence saw it needful to pray.

In the early part of his sickness, he talked much of God and heaven, and expressed earnest desires of leaving the world, and going to the house of God, for so heaven was constantly called by him: yet he seemed to have something lying on his mind, that much afflicted him; this was the contentions of his parents. But the Indian Minister being sent for to pray with him, and knowing what burden the child was under, on the account mentioned, would not go to prayer in the afflicted family, till he had first laboured to convince the parents of the distressed child, of the sinfulness of those quarrels of theirs, whereby God was greatly dishonoured, and on the ac-

count whereof their poor sick child was sorely afflicted. And the effect was, that they both confessed their sins therein, and made promises, that they would endeavour to live more peaceably for the future.

The Minister having succeeded so well in attempting to make peace in the family, prayed with the sick child, who was now very low and weak: he also recommended to God the affair in which he had just then been labouring with some appearance of success. But while he thus prayed, the parents of the child sitting by him, one of them on the one side, and the other on the other side, the child stretched out his hands, with one of them laying hold on the hand of his father, and with the other on the hand of his mother, and then pulled their hands together, and put them one into the other; which having done, he let them go again, as if he had accomplished what he desired. Thus telling them most forcibly, to continue to be at peace, and to live in love.

After this, the child appeared very much refreshed and comforted, but still expressed earnest desires to die, and go

to the house of the Lord. He very frequently thanked and blessed God for sending that sickness upon him. And when his pain grew stronger, he would renew his thanksgiving, and would still speak of his sickness as the messenger of God, sent to call him out of this world to the house of God, to which he desired to be gone. Once he held up his hand, and beckoned with it, as though he desired that some person would come to him; and being asked why he did so? he said, he desired that God would come and take him home to his own house.



THE CHILD WHO WARNED HIS PARENTS.

JESSE QUANNOOHUH,

Who died June 5th, 1724, in the eighth year of her age.

THE boy of whom I here speak was a child of religious parents. He was put to school to learn to read while young, and made good progress as long as the school continued; but he soon after fell

into a languishing distemper, of which she died.

Being apprehensive, after he had been sick a while, that he was likely to die, he of his own accord sent for Hosea Manhut, an Indian Minister of the place, to come and pray with him, and, as he himself expressed it, to receive him, and give him up to Jesus Christ. Hosea being come, asked him, if he believed the being of God? Yes, I do, said the child to him. Where is he? said Hosea to him. In heaven, said the child, holding up his hand. *Hosea*, Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? *Jesse*, Yes, I do. *Hosea*, Where is Christ? *Jesse*, In heaven. *Hosea*, Do you believe that he is able to save you? *Jesse*, I do so believe. And do you, said *Hosea*, desire that he should so do? Yes, said the child, I do desire it.

After this confession of faith, *Hosea* loved him as a believing child, and prayed, that Christ would receive him, as the child desired he should.

Hosea being some time after this, on a Lord's-day, sent for to pray with him, I being then at that place, went with him; before he prayed, he put several

questions to the child, then very sick and weak, in order to my knowing what knowledge of God, and sense of religion he had in him. And by his answers, which much exceeded my expectations, I found that he was not ignorant of those great truths, the knowledge whereof are ordinarily necessary to salvation. He satisfied me, that he believed the being of the only true God, by whom all things are created that exist: also of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and of eternal rewards in heaven; and of eternal punishments in hell, after this life, he appeared to have a lively apprehension. He spoke of heaven as the place where the blessed and glorious God was himself graciously present; but thought of hell as the place of devils and wicked men, where they must be tormented for ever. He was not ignorant of that state of sin and guilt into which all mankind have fallen. And he acknowledged himself a sinful creature, needing pardon and cleansing.

Of the doctrine of Redemption by Christ, he appeared not to be ignorant, but acknowledged him to be the only Saviour of sinners. He owned his Di-

vinity, as being the Son of God; also his incarnation, obedience, and sufferings for sinners.

He professed his desire to be interested in this Redemption by Christ, and that he might be qualified to receive its blessings.

After the Indian Pastor mentioned had prayed with him, he seemed to be sensibly revived, and was much better able to speak than before.

I then asked him whether he did not expect to die within a little time? To which he answered, that he did. I again asked him, whether he was willing to die, and leave this world, and all its enjoyments? He replied, that he was. I asked him, whether he hoped that God would save him, and that he should go to heaven when he died? His answer was affirmative. I asked him, whether he was sensible of his sins, and grieved that he had sinned so much against God as he had? To which he said, that he was. I inquired of him, whether he himself ever called upon God for his salvation? Answering that he did, his parents bore witness to the truth of what he said, declaring, that they had some-

times heard him calling on the name of the Lord, even before he was sick. And a very credible person that was sometimes in the house, gave a like testimony.

A few days before this child died, I went again to visit him ; but he was so weak that he could say little to me ; he answered some questions that I put to him, giving me to understand, that being sensible of his sins, he trusted in Christ as his only Saviour, and prayed to God for pardon and eternal life through him, and had such a hope of receiving the same on his account, that he was very willing to die, and leave the world and all things in it ; yea, that he chose to die rather than live, and should not be unwilling to die though it were then immediately ; but yet was content to live longer if God pleased that he should.

His father and mother have both declared to me, that he used frequently to call upon them to teach him to pray to God ; and that they, according to his desire, furnishing him with the best expressions they could, in which to address himself to the Lord, he still, as soon as he had learned them, improved

them to the end for which he desired to be taught, using them in prayer to the Lord his God.

Thus calling on the name of the Lord, it is to be hoped that he is saved.



A CHILD WHO UNDERSTOOD RELIGION.



DEBORAH SISSETOM,

Who died at Sanhekantacket, Feb. 12, 1724, in the 15th year of her age.

A year before this young woman died, I went to her father's house, on purpose to visit the family, and inform myself what knowledge of God and sense of religion there was in it ; but when I came thither, I found none but children in the house ; and of these, this girl, of whom I then knew nothing that was remarkable, was the eldest.

I resolved to say something to them ; and directing my speech to Deborah, and putting some such questions to her

as I thought proper, she answered me very discreetly, and appeared to be exceedingly serious in what she said. I found she understood the first principles of the Christian religion, and she professed to believe them; and she seemed to have an affecting sense of the excellency and importance of what she did believe. She affirmed she had desires after God, and was a seeker of him. When I instructed and counselled her, she was much affected with what I said; and when I went away, gave me hearty thanks for the instructions I had given her.

I again visited her, and shall here set down the substance of what she said to me, chiefly in answer to such questions as were put to her. She said she remembered the discourse I formerly had with her, and had been thereby encouraged to seek after God, and she manifested a desire that I would further instruct her.

I found that she had a distinct understanding of the doctrine of Redemption by Jesus Christ. I put several questions to her concerning his person, offices, and the righteousness he fulfilled, in his obe-

dience and sufferings for sinners; all of which she answered well, and declared her belief of his resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven.

She stated to me that she repented of all her sins, and endeavoured to forsake them; and that she prayed earnestly to God for Christ's sake to pardon them all, and to give her a new heart; and that God would please to continue to her the use of her reason as long as he continued her life, that so she might be able to think of him.

She said she used to pray in secret to God before she was sick, but that she had especially since her sickness prayed more earnestly. She had taken delight in going to meeting, and hearing the word of God preached; and had sometimes been much affected with what she heard.

She hoped she had a sincere love to Jesus Christ, and was grieved at the wickedness of those who sinned against him, and had a desire, she said, that all people would obey and serve him.

She said, she hoped she had experienced the sanctifying influences of God's Spirit on her soul, working good affec-

tions and desires in her; and that she was willing to die whenever it should please God to remove her out of this world, firmly hoping she should obtain life eternal in heaven.

She desired me to pray with her before I left her, and to ask of God the pardon of all her sins.

After this, I saw and discoursed with her several times before she died, and always found her in such a frame as has been expressed. Her relations affirm, that she used to pray in secret places, having several times found her alone, pouring out her heart before the Lord with many tears.

She gave much good counsel to her relatives, and told them that she was willing, yea desirous to die, being weary of this world, and longing to be with her Saviour. And it is to be hoped that she went to him.

