

**RURAL PASTIMES.**



How oft the village train, from labour free,  
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree,  
While many a pastime circled in the shade,  
The young contending as the old survey'd;  
And still, as each repeated pleasure tir'd,  
Succeeding sports the mirthful band inspir'd.



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Nancy Louisa Pearson Alexander.

Wilmington N. C.

## Review - Resolution - Sunday School.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1836. I have this day commenced to keep a journal of my personal history with a view chiefly to my growth in grace. Nearly a year has elapsed since I was ordained & installed ~~the~~ Pastor of the little Church in Lancaster; And what have I done for the glory of God, the edification of his people or the conversion of sinners. Unfaithfulness, unfaithfulness must be written upon my very best efforts. Great God give me more largely of the Spirit of thy grace! My mind, this day, has been much concerned for the spiritual welfare of my little flock. Some of them manifest the Spirit of the Gospel, but others are cold and lifeless and seem to take no sort of interest in eternal things. Oh Lord, revive thy work! In reviewing my labours, I am quite satisfied and I trust, am humbled that my Bible class has been conducted too much with a view to the head and too little with a view to the heart - it has too much criticism and too little personal application. By the grace of God I am resolved to remedy this defect. One fact diminishes the interest of the social prayer meeting - our male members are so few and diffident that we have never ~~more~~ more than three, and often, but one prayer. May the Lord give our few members the Spirit of prayer!

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Sabbath morning. Attended my Sunday School which is very small. I find it very difficult to secure the attention of the boys and children to spiritual things. Who can deny that the carnal heart is enmity against God. One of the boys bids fair for a desperado. May the Lord arrest him by his Spirit! Great God, give them all hearing ears and understanding hearts!

Preaching - Court - Lawyers - My own faith - Monthly concert - Presbytery

2.

Preached twice today - the forenoon from Col. 3: 3.  
- in the afternoon from Rom 9: 22. There appeared  
to be some solemnity this afternoon - May God grant  
that any serious impressions which may have been  
produced may not be as the morning cloud and  
the early dew. I have been much engaged in prayer  
but have not experienced that liberty which I would  
wish.

Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>. Court commences in Lancaster today. A great  
crowd in the village. Why cannot people take ~~some~~  
the same interest in the things of eternity? Lawyers  
manifest ~~so~~ much self-complacency and their  
business requires them so much to court popular  
opinion that it is very difficult for a lawyer to  
be a religious man.

The day is closed; I look back upon my  
thoughts & conduct and see much which assures me  
that I am vile; but I thank God that I can rest  
upon the all-sufficiency of his Son. If my own heart does  
not fearfully deceive me, I do desire purity in the inner  
man. I do groan under the burden of indwelling sin. How  
precious are the promises of grace. "Thou wilt shew me  
the path of life - in thy presence is fulness of joy - at  
thy right hand are pleasures forever more."

Attended the monthly concert - very few out - but I  
trust that the Lord was with us.

Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>. Returned this evening from Presbytery, having  
been absent a week. In some respects we had a very  
pleasant meeting; but there is one circumstance connected  
with our ministry in the up-country which should be  
very distressing to every pious heart. They are so much en-  
gaged, owing to a scanty & inadequate support, in secular  
affairs that they are always hurried in the transaction of

ecclesiastical business. They are anxious to return to their farms & academies and through a multitude of worldly cares they greatly neglect the Lord's business. This should not be - a minister, like the apostle Paul, is "separated unto the gospel of Christ;" and sh<sup>d</sup>. be engaged in no business which, in any way, interferes with his ministerial duties. The Churches are asleep on the subject of ministerial support - the carnal heart is opposed to the gospel and will not support it for its own sake & too many Christians have silly prejudices on the subject of which they ought to be ashamed. It is certainly a great evil when ministers are compelled to attend our ecclesiastical meetings with ~~spurs~~ spurs on.

We ordained, at this Session of Presbytery, a young man - brother Banks, as a missionary to Arkansas. There was great solemnity in the Congregation. Presbytery met at Six Mile Creek Church - one of my charges - and a congregation very interesting in many important features. I rejoice that they are beginning to manifest a missionary spirit. I have endeavoured to lay before them the wants of the heathen world; and left it entirely to their own sense of duty to contribute just what each might think proper without resorting to a general collection.

Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>. Attended Bible class at night. Upon XXV Matt. very few out. Endeavoured to explain the parables of this chapter & the proceedings of the great Day.

Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>. Felt some freedom in confessing my sinfulness and unworthiness before God. I have been prosecuting some enquiries on the subject of the Gospel ministry with a view to an ordination sermon; but have been much hindered in my studies by calls & company.

Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>. Rose earlier today than usual. Engaged most of the forenoon in study with view to an ordination sermon. Ate too much dinner. Resolved hereafter to be more temperate in my eating. A large dinner unhinges me for the whole evening.

4 Wapshaw Church - Rainy Sunday - Desires after holiness.

Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>. Went to Wapshaw Church early as preaching, preparatory to the sacrament had been appointed. Was engaged in private prayer for a revival of God's work among the people of Wapshaw. The Wapshaw congregation is, in some respects, an interesting one; but they have fallen into many of the evils incident to old, country churches; especially that of too much formality in their religious duties & services. They are not sufficiently alive to the claims of Christ upon their substance. But I hope that they are growing into a better state. I preached today two sermons which were listened to with a great deal of attention - first on Gal VI: 7 - the second on 2 Pet 3: 18.

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> - Attended Wapshaw Church again. Preaching by Brethren Conolly & J. L. Davies.

Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>. Sabbath - the day appointed for the celebration of the Lord's Supper at the Wapshaw Church. There was a complete disappointment. It commenced raining Saturday night and continued to rain until Sunday evening; so that it was no one, except myself & one of the Elders attended Church. This was a wise arrangement of Providence, though human sagacity may not be able to discover the reasons of it. I endeavoured to spend the Sabbath as becometh professors of godliness & to meet with the Saviour at home though I was not permitted to do so at his table: but I am conscious of much shirk coming in duty - of much coldness - of much idle conversation which ought to have humbled me and I trust did humble me before God.

Apr. Returned to Lancaster: felt some of the buffetings of Satan. Good Lord! deliver me from this body of death! I do look with interest to the precious promises of the Gospel as forming the only ground & source of the complete sanctification of the soul. Oh that I could live nearer & nearer to the blessed Saviour! He is the fairest among ten thousand & altogether lovely.

Absence for 3 weeks - York - Chester - Douglas's ordination - Cheraw.

Illness of wife. Resolution

May 14<sup>th</sup>. I returned home today after having been absent for more than three weeks. During my visit to York I experienced a distressing visitation of Divine Providence in the sudden illness of my wife. I feared that she was on the brink of the grave; and was deeply humbled under a heavy sense of my ingratitude to God for so sweet a gift. Her society had not been sufficiently improved for spiritual purposes - I felt that I most richly deserved severe decided manifestation of God's displeasure; and in reliance on his grace, I trust, I formed the resolution of living more faithfully for the glory of God and of regarding my wife as a helpmate in spiritual & eternal matters. God has spared her & restored her to me again. Oh May the Lord give me grace to fulfil my purposes of renewed obedience.

During my absence I attended an adjourned meeting of Presbytery held at Purity Church in Chester for the purpose of ordaining brother Douglas. I was appointed to preach the ordination sermon, and did so from Rom. 1:5. I felt much of the solemnity which the occasion was fitted to inspire; but not half as much as the great interests involved ought to have produced in every heart. It is a source of constant pain & grief to me that the realities of eternity have no more sensible effect upon my mind. I cannot feel them with that force and power and depth which their tremendous importance requires. I can see very clearly how I ought to be affected, but then I am not so affected. Oh Lord give me more largely of thy precious and efficient grace!

I was also in Cheraw four days. I have abundant reason to thank God for the kindness which I experienced there from my friends & acquaintances.

I have returned home to my own charge. God grant that it may be for their spiritual & eternal good.

6 Wrotham preaching, Dr L. M. Lancaster Sac<sup>t</sup> - Glory of God

May 15<sup>th</sup> - Sabbath. Preached to-day at the Wrotham Church - there was a large congregation assembled; but no particular manifestation of solemnity - on the contrary, among some there was considerable inattention. There was one young man who seemed, however, to feel the truth, Doctor L. M. . . . . I must remember him particularly in my prayers. I had to-day some sweet communion with God; but I cannot feel sufficiently devoted to his precious cause. Oh, that every thought were brought in captivity to the obedience of Christ!

May 17. Prepared a sermon for my people, which was to be preached that night. Wrote out the sermon which I preached at Brother Douglass's ordination. Felt today much in the Spirit of prayer, but saw sad evidence that I am a fallen creature - Preached at night. Our communion services are about commencing. The Church is cold and lifeless. Oh thou great Shepherd of the sheep, visit thy flock! Oh Lord, revive thy work! In the midst of the year make known, in wrath remember mercy." It is my ardent wish that I may have and cultivate that disposition of heart which will lead me to rest upon God alone for help and ascribe to him all the glory of success. "Trust ye in the Lord, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." I was forcibly struck today with the idea that God does all things for his own glory." Then all things must be well done - for the glory of God is the moral excellency of his character. I rejoice that this is the end which God has in view in all his works. It is a sweet, a delightful thought.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. The solemnities of our sacramental season in Lancaster have passed away - they have borne their record to eternity. Brother Johnston assisted me; and we and the majority of the Church enjoyed a delightful feast of fat things. One individual connected himself with

the church; and another, an enquiring sinner applied to the Senior for advice and instruction. There was on Sabbath a strong token for good, that the Lord was visiting his church and people, in the apparent solemnity and deep attention of the crowded congregation.

Although I met with such delightful visitations from the Lord during the meeting - although I could rest with delight & confidence and security upon ~~the~~ the all-sufficiency of the blessed Saviour and felt that, in his person and office, he was "precious - the fairest among ten thousand and altogether lovely;" yet, on Monday, my soul was terribly buffeted with Satan. I seemed to have lost my interest in spiritual things - I was hungering and thirsting for those same frames which I had previously had; but all was gone; and I was wretched.

My bodily health was very bad - I had laboured a great deal and was quite exhausted. I determined to abstain from tobacco by way of experiment; and to be more particular & cautious in my diet. In consequence of laziness & weariness two days after the Sacrament were just thrown away; - May 26<sup>th</sup> For the last day or two I have experienced a great deal of inconvenience from the use of tobacco. I have been almost tempted to resume the habit of chewing. The truth is, I could abstain in reliance on Divine grace, if I could only obtain the consent of my heart to do so; but the great difficulty is, in making the resolution. I cannot agree to part with it. Shall I regard any matter of the flesh as so important to my comfort and happiness that I cannot abandon it? But I have learnt much in my efforts to abstain from tobacco of the deceitfulness of the heart; and the pleas which we are disposed to make in favour of a particular habit.

8 Unity Sac<sup>t</sup> & reflections on my own heart.

June 2. Returned home after an absence of nearly a week - attended a sacramental meeting of Brother Bishop's at Unity. That is a precious and a judgy man. I felt much of the evils of my heart - but could not be humbled. I see in my own heart so much selfishness and pride and vanity - so much hardness and insensibility - so little affection for the Saviour or devotedness to the glory of God, that I am often seriously led to doubt whether I am a child of God. It is my sincere and constant desire to make the Lord my portion - to live to him and for him and on him. Oh for a single eye and a simple heart! I enjoy the comforts of religion by fits and starts. They come in occasional flashes - they are not my constant and habitual atmosphere. I have one consolation. The Lord reigneth. I am anxious to serve him and to be just in that field of labour which shall most promote his glory.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Finished today my sermon on the "refuges of lies from Isa. XXVIII &c." Felt much mortified but I am afraid not humbled in the feelings of vanity and self-complacency which with which I contemplated the composition. I invoked the Spirit's influences when I commenced the sermon; but at the close I found I was leaning on my own arm and shamefully feeding my own vanity. Lord, be merciful to me a sinner!

Commenced reading this evening the life of Henry Martyn. I was struck with some coincidences between his early history and character & my own. Oh that I may ever make the same advances in the Divine life - in devotedness to God and in mortification of sin.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Since the 4<sup>th</sup>, my wife has been very sick; but the Lord; in his infinite goodness, has restored her to me again. I feel myself wretchedly unworthy of such goodness. May God enable me by his grace to walk before him in humble and grateful obedience.

I find much self-seeking in my heart - it is a sore and heavy burden - Oh when shall I be delivered from myself! Yesterday I was thrown much into company. Large assemblies have a marked and decided tendency to dissipate the mind and to distract the spirit of devotion; At the close of the evening, however, when the party was about to break up, we concluded our intercourse with prayer. I felt a sweet and delightful calm - I felt that God was glorious and the Redeemer precious. I find that I waste much time by sleeping too long in the morning - This bad habit must be relinquished. It is my desire to be wholly devoted to the Lord - to glorify him in body and spirit - to take him as my portion and inheritance.

Brother Douglass was with me yesterday and remains with me to-day. Our conversation has been mostly doctrinal - but occasionally we have spoken of the Lord's dealings with our hearts. We spoke much about the state of the Church. There is too much ambition among our young ministers - too much love of human approbation - too little of the meek, humble, self-denying spirit of the gospel. I find it the case with myself. Good Lord deliver me from it! Make me willing to be any where and any thing, if I can promote thy glory! Oh save me from all selfishness! Let me be wholly, entirely, unreservedly devoted to thee!

June 17<sup>th</sup> Sick yesterday and took blue pill and salts -  
 Considerably better today. I tried to commend myself  
 to God in Christ. Felt the preciousness of salvation by  
 grace - for unless it were gratuitous I was satisfied  
 that there was no hope for me. My shortcomings in  
 duty - my wandering thoughts and unhallowed imaginations  
 are enough to damn a world. How can I be pleased  
 with self when I see so much in me that ought to be  
 hateful. Oh Lord, prepare me by thy grace for the Saints'  
 inheritance in light!

Attended prayer meeting tonight - felt quite  
 calm and composed - but still my best services  
 need to be repented of.

July 19<sup>th</sup>. This morning has been set apart for secret  
 fasting & prayer - I have lately been terribly beset  
 with the dark and horrible suggestions of the great  
 Adversary of souls. Blasphemous and awful words would  
 be shot through my mind with the rapidity of lightning  
 when I would engage in secret prayer at night or  
 undertake to meditate on the scriptures or to read them.  
 This day, then far, has been a day of terrible gloom  
 to me - My soul has been in thick darkness - I have  
 had no enjoyment of God - My heart has been cold  
 and cheerless and seems utterly incapable of realizing  
 eternal things. I have been reviewing my past  
 life and am almost driven to despair at the re-  
 collection of my sins. My heart seems to be nothing  
 but a sink of corruption - a gehenna of iniquity.  
 All my services have been selfish. My frames which  
 used to be pleasant - were, I fear, utterly destitute of  
 spirituality - I am exceedingly desirous to love holiness  
 and hate sin - but I fear that it is a mere  
 selfish drive. The following things particularly distress  
 me - and I will confess them before God.

1. Selflove. Oh Lord God, thy glory ought to be, richly deserves to be the great, leading object of pursuit and effort. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God". But I find in my heart a love of self - I am pleased and flattered with the good opinion of men - I find a love of applause running through my prayers, and sermons and all my public services - I preach myself and not Christ. My private devotions are tainted with the same spirit of self-love. It is my own happiness which I have in view and not God's glory. I pray - but not through a suitable sense of thy character in Christ, almighty, lovely, precious & gracious - but through selfish desires and when these desires are answered I forget God in the enjoyment of his gift. Oh Lord, let me feel the evil, the guilt and the vileness of self. Oh may I abhor myself in dust and ashes! Oh deliver me, for the sake of Christ from my own heart - it is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

2. Sensuality. Inordinate affection - evil concupiscence beats me fearfully - I have made resolution after resolution on this subject - but my strength is perfect weakness. My soul is chained down to sensual gratification - My sinful heart cheats me into a belief that my indulgences are lawful - tempts me to taste and then leaves me to the stings and wounds of conscience. Oh Lord, give me grace to mortify and subdue all bodily appetites. May all inordinate affections be rooted out and may my whole soul be the habitation of the Holy Spirit.

3. Levity. This is a sin which I do abhor and yet am continually indulging it. I get into company - I laugh and talk with the rest and quite forget that I am a servant of God. The solemnities of religion pass away from my mind and I seem to be quite satisfied with the "sport of fools". Oh that I were wise - that I understood the full meaning of Christian sobriety!

4. Indolence. This manifests itself in an indisposition to study - in a procrastination of duty and in a prodigal waste of time.
5. Temptations of Satan. The Devil has made me his game. He has assaulted me of late with furious violence and malicious bitterness.
6. Wandering thoughts. I cannot think up on any serious and solemn subject with fixedness of attention - My eyes will wander with the fool's eyes to the end of the earth.
7. Want of devotedness to God. I do not feel sufficiently the excellence of God's glory - I seek other things too much as though they were good in themselves. Oh when shall I learn that God is the only good. My understanding tells me this now, but my heart often forgets the lesson.
8. Want of a realizing sense of the value of immortal souls.
9. My drives are too cold for the spread of the Redeemer's Kingdom.
10. Irascibility and peevishness of temper.

Lord, what am I? A sinner of the deepest dye - What a world of iniquity does my heart present! Pride, vain-glory - self-seeking - sensual, devilish, earthy, devilish - giddy - carnal. These are the bitter things which I must write against myself. And yet I have the guilt and hard-wood to take my duties and prayers and hollow obsecrations before God as some good that I have done. I do solemnly believe that my very devotions are enough to condemn me everlastingly. If grace be not sovereign, unconditional, irresistible, there is no hope for me. "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." "Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all mine iniquities"

"Oh Lord, I confess that my heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked - that in me, there dwelleth no good thing - that I was conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity and that all my natural principles are opposed to thee. Thou art just when thou judgest and righteous when thou condemnest. My mouth is stopped before thee. I would cordially acquiesce in that righteous sentence which as a sinner I deserve. Shouldst thou send me to Hell, Oh God, it would be right. Yet Lord, I beseech thee to show pity. I am wretched and blind and naked - But the blood of Christ can cleanse me - and the Spirit of Christ can purify. Enable me, this moment, to renounce every other dependence and to give my soul into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ willing for him to do with it, just as he pleases. May I receive him cordially as my prophet, my Priest, and my King! May I be his - entirely and unreservedly. May every thought and purpose and desire be in subjection to him. Save me from a legal spirit. Save me from coldness and formality - Save me from wandering thoughts - Deliver me from the buffeting and assaults of Satan. May my heart be the temple of the Holy Ghost. Oh Lord shew me thy glory as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ. Lord, bless me as a minister - May I feel the responsibility of my office - the value of souls - and may I labour faithfully and zealously with an eye single to thy glory. If I have any faith, Gracious God, increase it - if I am utterly destitute of it, help me, enable me from this, very moment, to believe. Oh Lord, my prayer is before thee - Hear me and answer me for the sake of Christ - I come poor and dependent, having no plea, but thy rich grace and precious promises in the Lord Jesus Christ.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Returned this evening from Six Mile Creek, having been called off to celebrate two marriages. Yesterday and today the exercises of my mind have been various. But my faith - if I have any at all - is alarmingly weak. I cannot realize with clearness and power the greatness of the gospel offer. I have been oppressed with a heavy sense of vileness and sinfulness - I see an immense amount of corruption in my heart - Self and sensuality together with the direct buffetings of Satan continue to disturb my mind and to destroy my peace. I do long for perfect purity - but, I sometimes suspect that my desires for holiness are more for its results than itself. Oh Lord have mercy upon me! - Lead me in the paths of truth and purity! Remove from me every darling lust and enable me to live wholly for thy glory!

Yesterday my horse ran off with me and broke my sulkey. But the Lord mercifully preserved me unhurt. There were two vehicles ahead of me and through the wonderful goodness of God, no damage was done. It is all idle to deny a particular Providence - The proof was but too plain yesterday. It was not chance, it was God that preserved us all unhurt and I would here raise an Ebenezer to his unmerited loving-kindness. Oh Lord, enable me to live as one who has received great benefits at thy hand!

Tomorrow morning, by Divine permission, I shall go to Cedar Shoals to assist Father Davies at a communion.

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Returned today from Cedar Shoals, where I had been assisting Father Davies at a communion. There was nothing remarkable in the meeting until yesterday (Sunday) evening. I lectured from the parable of the marriage supper - Matt. XXII. I felt great assistance. There was an unusual solemnity in

the congregation and I trust that the truth was accompanied by the Spirit to the hearts of some. I never before felt such freedom and such power in dispensing the word of life. To God be ascribed all the glory. As a melancholy proof of my shameful depravity and base ingratitude I must record the constant suggestions of self-gratulation which I felt on my return home. My heart, in the plenitude of its wickedness, was ascribing to me some portion of that glory which belongs only to God. I do abhor self-seeking and yet I am continually indulging it. It seems to me that I am full of contradictions.

I enjoyed, however, more real satisfaction in spiritual meditations and employments yesterday than I have done for a long time. Oh that I were free from sin!

Rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Mother today informing me of my brother's illness. He is young and promising, but I am awfully afraid, he is without Christ. Oh Lord bring him to a knowledge of himself and of the dear Redeemer.

July 30. For the last two or three days I have been much engaged in reading close works on experimental religion. Boston or the Covenant of Grace is a luminous exposition of that wonderful transaction; I feel my mind established in the great truths of the gospel; but my heart does not take that deep and abiding interest in them which I earnestly desire and which their importance ~~demands~~ demands. I have gloomy and distracting doubts of my own personal acceptance. Today (the forenoon) I set apart for private fasting, humiliation and prayer with reference to a protracted meeting to be holden at Six Mills and my brother's conversion. But my heart has been cold and stupid. I have had no clear view of any spiritual object. My understanding awakes; but my feelings are dead. My religion seems to be all in the head. Would to God, it were otherwise!

16  
September 5. My Day has now been suspended for more than a month. The meeting at Six Mile Creek, to which allusion is made on the foregoing page, passed away without any tokens of special interest. There were a few in the Congregation who have been serious for some time that manifestly felt the truth with considerable power.

Besides these I know of no others who appear to have been awakened. During this whole meeting my heart was in a wretched state. I was fearfully assaulted with the horrid and blasphemous suggestions of Satan, and the power of unbelief seems to have been erected to an unworied extent. Since that time I have passed through various vicissitudes of hope and fear, but have not attained a clear and abiding assurance of my interest in Christ. My heart is desperately wicked and I am so enslaved with a legal spirit that I cannot realize the freeness of Divine grace. Oh Lord, take away my unbelief and give me a spirit of undoubting faith!

I have been very much hurt this evening, having heard that I had offended some of the Methodists of this village by some rough and unchristian expressions about shouting. I was wrong in saying what I did - I sinned and sinned grievously and shall, by the permission of God, make an acknowledgment tomorrow. My tongue is an unruly member - and I often say under the influence of excitement what I am sorry for immediately afterwards. May the Lord give me prudence! My feelings, I am afraid, are too strongly set against the peculiarities of Arminians. There is more of the flesh than the spirit in them. The truth is, I see nothing about myself that is right - I am altogether a sinner - but blessed be God for free grace! That is my only hope.

Sep. 6. Formed the design this morning of writing a short treatise on the peculiar doctrines of the gospel. May the Lord grant that I may be guided by His Holy Spirit - that I may contend for nothing but the truth & that in the spirit of the gospel and may the whole work conduce to his glory! Lord, grant that there may be no self-seeking, pride, vanity, nor ambition but may there be a single eye to thy glory and the prosperity of the Church! Aid me, Oh thou Father of lights by thy grace and enlighten me in a saving knowledge of the truth!

Felt quite unwell this afternoon - Have had little or no comfort all day - My heart is out of order. I cannot realize the promises of the gospel. I am all wrong and wretched. Oh Lord, give me faith - enable me to renounce every thing else and to receive Christ as my all in all. Reveal to me thy glory in the person of Jesus Christ - May I see the Saviour's likeness and surrender myself unreservedly to him.

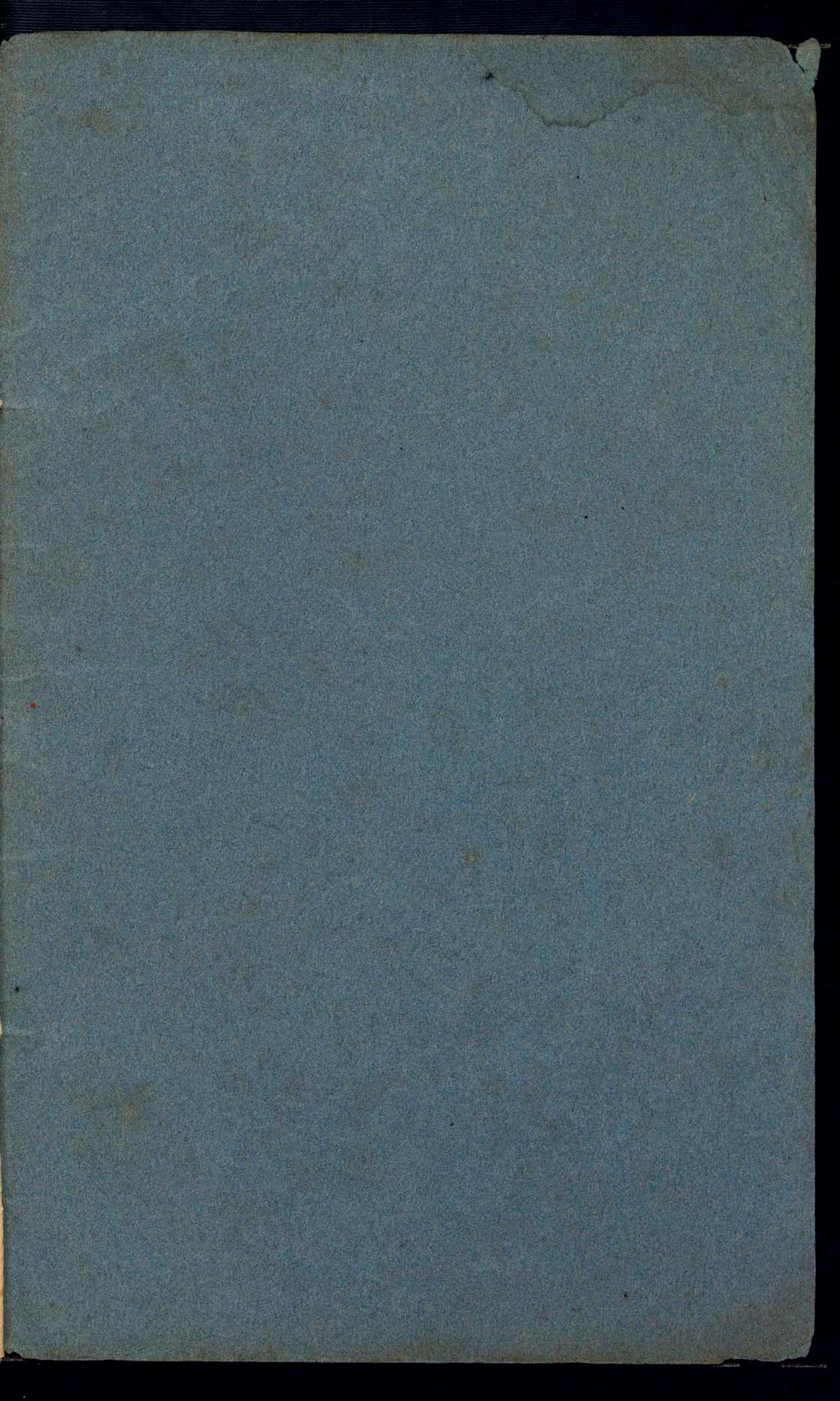
Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>. Have just returned from attending a Camp-meeting at Bethesda. We had a most delightful season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Christians in general were stirred up and there was a considerable awakening among sinners. The Lord brought us all to feel that it was his Spirit that did the work. There was a deep solemnity which I felt to be the result of his blessed influences. May the Lord bless that people yet more and more. Many or, at least, several parents earnestly requested me to pray for their ungodly children. Some Christians were led to examine quite narrowly the foundation of their hopes. Twenty young persons came into the Inquiry meeting for the purpose of learning what they should do to be saved.

My own meeting commences today. Oh Lord revive thy work. Stir up Christians and awaken and convert the careless & unconcerned!

Had three sermons today and one prayer-meeting. The church here is most deplorably cold. Some professing Christians

among us are just as careless & unconcerned as though they had never heard of a Saviour or had no need of his grace; while, on the other hand, there are others who, I humbly hope, are strongly imbued with the Spirit of the gospel. The Church here is truly in a critical situation. A general revival of God's work amongst us would be an inestimable blessing. Lord remember not our iniquities, but deal with us according to thy tender mercies! Revive thy work in our midst! We have greatly sinned - we deserve thy displeasure, but we pray thee to look upon us in the face of Jesus Christ and bless us freely and deal with us in love!

I have not felt today that singleness of purpose and entire consecration of myself to God which I am anxious to feel. I do not preach with that simple reliance on the Holy Spirit which the scriptures require and which I feel to be a duty and the possession of which I would regard as a precious blessing.



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