

[1828?]

A Sketch of
The Life and Opinions of
A Sentimental Traveller.

Written by Himself
Chap. 1

Now according to the order and course of divine Nature there is a space thus
Between Conception and Maturity, which is not within
The knowledge of us puny human beings to fill: Consequently we are
indebted to our forefathers or rather Grandmothers for the history of the
above space or blank in life. Yet I will wave this query and like ancient
and modern Biographical writers dash off in a straight line

By affirming that I was born of Reputable Parents in the Month of July
near the 29th day thereof in the year of our Lords 1793, in the Town of Bridgewater
County of Plymouth State of Massachusetts one of the oldest (and of course) one
of the most respectable of the United States of North America &c. &c.

But courteous reader notwithstanding I have ~~thus far~~ kept so ~~near~~ the Threads
of my original Memoirs you must not be alarmed if now and then I should
appear a little whimsical as no set phrase or precise rule would ever square
with my singular Ideas. and should this little Book (which is only written for my
own amusement) have the misfortune to fall among a certain Sentry called
Critic's while the Author yet lives I fear they may be as troublesome and
tormenting to him as these flying Grasshoppers are now to me while I am
writing my first Chapter seated as I imagined under a pleasant cooling shade
But these unmerciful animals come without ceremony buzzing about
my ears and almost stun me, and now and then jump boldly upright
upon me, at which I rose up just now out of all patience with the intention

of killing the whole of them without discrimination or mercy. But one cool moment of consideration told me the fallacy of my intention. And this consoling reflection came immediately - To my relief that in a very short time (say four weeks) they would according to the course of nature die themselves. Thus I am seated again with much compunction and with a conscience void of the offence of Willful Murder. And with all the satisfaction a man feels after performing a benevolent act or preventing an evil one. And while I sit here casting up the account of my younger days I see a Gentleman with a rifle under his arm peeping among the Trees. I say it was a Gentleman because he was in the garb of one. and in this particular much like other men. Says I my friend why do you take a life you can not give? and destroy these little feathered songsters which never harm you when alive nor worth a sou's when dead. "Chor Sport" said he "tis the finest Sport in the world" - now out of this little occurrence might be picked a very sapient moral but my life is but just in the bud as yet which in time and in its proper place shall appear suffice it to say however by way of opinion or conscience or place it to whatever account you please that since my remembrance I have sensibly avoided taking the life of any living thing. you set this last down as you please to my Credit or my Debt so you don't trouble me to settle the account for I have many occurrences crowding on my memory that must be written immediately and I'll inform you Madam once for all I sha'nt stop to argue any little Technical ^{cases} that may occur in this world. From my birth until I was seven years old I past through (as is said) many perilous adventures and hairbreadth escapes especially in the case of the whooping Cough when 4 years old and of Teneword I received a severe Contusion in the edge of my hair near the lower part of my Cranium the scar of which I shall carry to my grave and the effects of which my gentle reader may see before he gets through the 1st Chap.

This last misfortune of mine was occasioned from the Kick of a very unsteady horse and I shall bring but one evidence that my brain was not materially injured by the accident and let the reader contrast it with what other proofs he can obtain to the contrary and settle the affair his own way for I would not give the value of a Cherystone to know his Decision this moment - The evidence is this I was sent to school from the time I was put in breeches until I was seven and learnt the whole English Alphabet of 24 letters both Roman & Italic and I could tell more than one half of the Capitals: And here I shall rest the cause on the part of my sound intellect and proceed to the commencement of my first travels. you will recollect I am at this time 7 years old with an infant mind free from the shackles of Ambition Interest or fame and rioting in all the luxury of health peace and plenty with a heart elated with pleasure at every bound of my little wooden Steed which in company with my playmates I would gallop from town to town and from one mock Hotel to another ~~point~~ ^{point} all the movements of men without their pains and anxieties. My father to whom I was subject at this time of life was a man who was very frank and generous in his nature and often I might say with propriety always indulgent to his Children - yet being a militia officer he learnt by rote the word of Command which he would often use in a little different way at home at which we little striplings would see the hour we disobeyed for the most trifling misdemeanor would put my father in such a peevish fretful frame of mind you would have sworn (had you been there) that he had laid by all his Religion which by the by he professed in an eminent degree on every Lords Day. But notwithstanding in my fathers veins flowed much of the milk of human kindness that a momentary passion would never coagulate, in short he has always been to me one of the most affectionate and exemplary Parents -

My mother whom I never can leave out of the question when speaking
of our family and whom I delight to Honor Was a woman I can say with
safety generally beloved and farther I'll not eulogize her: altho' Language is
inadequate to speak my affection for her, yet the partiality of a son toward
a mother will never give the reader an impartial history so I'll not
attempt it: Suffice it to say I inherit one general trait in her Character
that perhaps has caused me more pain than pleasure while passing thro'
my peregrination It is that of extreme Sensibility: however when it
makes its appearance in sympathizing the sorrows of a friend, it affords
a kind of melancholy pleasure: but among Stoics and Philosophers it
may be called a womanish virtue Still insensibility and inhumanity
follow each other in quick succession and unfeeling savage ferocity
is soon added which renders men more like beasts than like human
beings and would make them appear (at least) as if they had lost
all those principles of brotherly love and cordial attachment which
formerly glued and fastened them together surely the imbecillity
of our natures and the shortness of life call for sympathy & Charities from
each other It is thought by some that the fatal progress or decomposition
of terrestrial affairs is not very distant: Oh Thou preserver of men! Vouchsafe on
that important crisis to be our keeper that the souls Thou hast inspired may not fail
before Thee, but survive the extinction of worlds and the wreck of matter and be
safe in the hollow of Thy hand. On this last moment the incomparable
Addison lavishes the brightest effulgence of his genius and all the fervour of his heart
"The Sun shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years
But Thou shalt flourish in immortal youth
Unhurt amidst the war of elements
The wreck of matter and the crash of worlds"
Beings of hilarity and serenity or introversion in my nature My first travels shall appear in

Chap. 11

My father about this time 1802 took it into his head being a farmer and
in point of property near mediocrity that is to say neither rich or poor To sell
his possessions and move from an old to a new country where he could
enlarge them and with fatherly care settle his sons around him as
they come of age - The place he chose was Leeds in what then was
called the Province of Maine - My father provided himself with a Coach
for himself and family and having a spare horse very unlike however
Don's Rosarant or Sanchez's mule for it was an old white mare well
fed and in prime order for the journey I was allowed to be the out
rider as it was my choice not being desirous to be stifled up within
a carriage altho' to gentlemen a pleasure It seemed to me a prison
This arose from the force of habit with which I have resided
with more or less ever since - Now I felt at this time all the importance
and ostentation of certain gentlemen about these days who are never
satisfied with their fare in the first Hotels and best cookery in
Christendom and such (my word for it) live now too well at home -
I say I was important and I'll tell you why I had the honor of
posting forward and bespeaking I might have said commencing repub-
licans for six persons at which the Landlord would often stare but
after explaining myself a little by informing him I was the forerunner
of a family my orders were cheerfully obeyed & I declare to you I
am heartily sorry I promised you the uninteresting story of my first
travel or rather first tour and to show you the sincerity of my contrition
I'll in one bound go from this to an _____ place of destination
250 Miles from my original residence in not only a new but a cold country
It being situate near the 45° of North Latitude - It was in this place I
occasionally or successively was engaged farming going to school to Mill to
Meeting and to Market for New Years -

My Good reader what think ye now? do not I write Biography with facility having written Ten years of mine in less than two lines but stay you must not be too elated you are not off so easy with out you throw away the book for I have some few hints respecting these Ten years to offer yet I was in these times I first began to cultivate that social plant called friendship it grew with my growth and strengthened with my strength and length of time and force of habit had given to my adopted country more endearing qualities than a native place their system of education afforded a general diffusion of knowledge and from this main spring was formed the character of these people of whom I may speak at some length hereinafter but at present will only say every man thinks himself as good as his neighbour such a poor bond or free & I derived an incalculable benefit from these common schools which I have since fully appreciated and have abundant reason to give thanks to Providence that placed me in this part of the world at this age of life and it was about this time I also found means to attend Monmouth Academy a short term there likewise being many establishments of this kind in the adjacent Country at this time here by dint of industry (for I never could prosecute my studies with any facility without) I made such progress as to procure from the Rector a recommendation purporting that I was sufficiently qualified to undertake the instruction of a common English school and I was driven (for necessity has been close to my heels all my life) to this humbling and perplexing occupation of ~~teaching~~ ever memorable reason the want of that "all sufficient Cash" But at this time I was more reconciled to adversity than most men are not having yet arrived to the years of manhood I was notwithstanding very anxious to establish a character that should prove beneficial and advantageous to me at that eventful crisis when my sphere of action in society should be

Established, and where I was then situated I was conscious I must would receive its just reward, I made my first debut in this new capacity with cheerfulness and in fact with no small degree of Pleasure It afforded me an opportunity of improvement especially in the minor branches of education It gave me the advantage of the practitioner over the theorist which is almost unparalleled in every thing. I spent four months at this season alternately on the right and left bank of the beautiful meandering Sandy River I was accompanied thither by Mr D. Brown in a slight a vehicle I may have occasion to speak of in very commendable terms hereafter and likewise of this young gentleman in not so commendable but it will suffice at present to observe that he was an intimate companion & school mate of mine and possessed a very peculiar & fastidious disposition and a mind somewhat cultivated It was the first day of December the snow had just fallen which gave a sameness to the former variegated face of this country which is so agreeably interspersed with hills and dales we traveled with the ease of a cradle and swiftness of the velocipede The mansion and the cottage would alternately attract the eye and oft from their humble windows we would surmise some fair damsel partially retiring from our gaze of admiration with a cheek flushed with the sweetest glow of bashful modesty that seemed to bespeak her desire of seeing more than being seen while others apparently from the desire of imprinting on our minds their alluring form or features would reciprocate our smiles in a stationary attitude & whatever their motion were it mattered not while they formed a subject on which my companion would now and then dissent with so much pith and humour it served to cheer our spirits and give a relish to all surrounding objects This Tour served to convince me that the hilarity or depression of my Temper depended much on the society I enjoyed & we put up for the night at an acquaintance

When I was introduced to love not that passion however of which
Pridem said he had seen, felt, and heard but never yet understood nor
The one Dr. Johnson said was the folly of wise men and the wisdom
of fools. But it was nothing more or less than a sensible innocent well
meaning young Lady who with the use of her little library served to
make a long winter evening pass away very agreeably.
The next morning we reached a very pretty village in the town
of Farmington this being the place of my intended abode. The winter
I took an affectionate leave of my last acquaintance and for the
first time sought my home among strangers - after a few squamish
sensations I became quite reconciled to my new situation, I was
much out of health at this time and I shall ever hold in gratefull
remembrance the paternal tenderness and care of my excellent land
Lady Mrs. Norton & among the acquaintances I formed in this place
were Messrs Flint, Comfort & Merry and Ladies Sarah, Martha, & Dorothy
all these with myself were anxiously labouring for the improvement
of the understanding being convinced that would correct and en-
large the heart. I parted with my short but not uninteresting acqu-
aintance on the first day of April and pursued my route for my old
Native home.

On Wednesday Feb 6. A. D. 1842. the male & female primary societies
in Leeds connected with the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions
held their necessary meetings at 11 o'clock A. M. The Prath societies
assembled in the meeting house and after some introduction
remarks prayer was offered up to the God of missions and
the following report was read & accepted.
The executive committee of the male primary societies in
Leeds organized to aid the missions under the management
of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions present to the society the following
report. Dear Beloveds the object of this society ranks among the
noblest to which the efforts of human beings can possibly be directed.
It is to cooperate (according to our measure) with infinite mercy in the accom-
plishment of the design hailed by angelic hosts on the plains of Bethlehem
in that soul cheering song "Glory to God in the highest or earth
peace good will towards men" Yes Beloveds to aid in disseminating
the knowledge and glory of God as it shines in the face of Jesus
Christ among our fellow men who are sitting in darkness and
in the shadow of death and in the introduction of that happy era
when the Kingdoms of this world shall become subject to the Govern-
ment of the Prince of Peace is the proper object of this society -
It would be highly gratifying if the present state of the society would
admit us to report a large accession of members the past year and
an increasing zeal proportionate to the importance of the object we
are professedly aiming at. But alas. Such are not the facts we
have indeed enrolled new names a soldier of the cross but in discha-
rging our duties we have not mentioned the plaudits "will done God
and faithful servants" Pursuit us therefore to accustom to your
serious considerations the importance of the object for the promotion
of which this society was organized and the criminal imper-
tunity lukewarmness in a cause of such infinite moment, Let us

all deplore our past apathy and resolve before good to day
that by the help of his Grace we will enter upon the duties of the
present year with zeal and alacrity. Let the officers of the society
study to know and faithfully discharge their respective duties
pointed out in our constitution. Let all the members be punctual
in paying their subscriptions to the collectors so that the state
of the funds may be ascertained previous to the annual meeting
of the society and above all let us be fervent in prayer to
almighty God for the influence of his Spirit without which our
efforts will not be crowned with success. Would our limits
admit we might urge to duty by many motives suffice it to say
that our Soleans are not in vain the cause we are engaged in
the Lord it must prosper. It must prevail to be engaged in this
cause is highly honorable every honest effort to promote it
will be rewarded in the great day. The holy war is
successfully progressing our missionaries are jeopardizing their
lives on the high plains of the field and only ask of us "food
and clothing" and shall not we who hope to share in
their triumphs furnish them with what aid we are able.
who can reflect on the privations sufferings and success of an
little army in Berrnah where lies interred the mortal remain
s of Coler and the heroic warriors who have fallen in this
holy war) without feeling ardently desirous to renounce &
aid the surviving warriors. The increasing zeal of others should
excite in us a holy emulation shall we hesitate to purchase
our miles when one hundred & eighty thousand dull
are subscribed in one evening in New York to aid the
designs of the Am B of Foreign Missions as the last but
not the most honorable motive we would mention the deadly
curse pronounced against Mexico - "curse ye Mexico ye curse

him bitterly because he came not up to the help of the
Lord against the mighty may God increase our zeal and
succeed our efforts

The amount of the collections the past year is ten dollars
eighty four cents which sum is now in the hands of the
Treasurer and subject to your order

Thos Francis as per order

The following officers have been appointed for the ensuing year

Elm Thom Francis President

" Alvina Leonard V. President

Mr R B Hancock Sec

Mr W. P. Mittle Treasurer

residing Boston Lane } Cole
Shadock Lane }
John Mittle }

These Elders Francis & Leonard with Brothers Giddins Lane & G. C. P.
Mittle Messengers to the annual meeting of the K. M. S. auxiliary society
to be holden at Benningfield the last Wednesday instant and directed
Treasurer to pay over the money in his hands to the Treasurer
of the next quarter

Done Feb 8th 1828

Rowland B Hancock

Secretary

To the Secy of the K. M. S. Society

It is of the most vital importance that your every act in this
life should be so regulated as to make you the happiest here
and here after and in the performance of this it is your indispens-
ible duty to descend to particulars and to do one thing at a
time if you would do all well I am convinced you have
inherited from Nature a quick and penetrating genius and from
the same source are endowed with an understanding sufficient
to comprehend and practice every virtue It is ~~for~~ these truths
I have founded that extreme partiality which I so much delight
to indulge towards you and which I neither blush to own nor
am ashamed to declare But my Dear I must check myself here &
return to my subject I would observe here however that I am
confident that the precepts contained within the lids of this book I
now send you are within the compass of your comprehension
and consequently well adapted to your practical experience
In the last mentioned subjects of Mrs. Chappone I have ac-
cidentally marked a passage in my hasty perusal of them but you
will find much to admire & remember that are not so pointed
out As it regards Dr. Gregory's Legacy I hope you will mark
the whole with your "mind's eye" as almost every sentence perfectly
accords with the feelings & thoughts of your nearest friends —
Lady Pennington's Advice you will not neglect to read many parts
of which will not only be interesting but usefull But do not
my Dear Girl on any consideration let an observation from the
to first escape your memory In the hope that my wakeful
anxiety and earnest desire for your improvement welfare & happiness
may ere long be crowned with compleat success is the
sincere wish of your friend & cousin — R —

Leeds June 6th 1794

My Dear Ann You may imagine to yourself with what feelings I begin ~~my~~ (in all human probability) the last letter you will ever read from my pen whether my heart is filled with Joy or Grief, God who sees all things knows whether it be feigned or real, I have for a long time ~~watched~~ over you with the most tender sollicitude for your health and comfort in ~~this world~~ can you deny it? has not every word thought ~~action~~ ^{writing to} ~~concerned~~ you, that I expect ^{not yet nothing} ~~nothing~~ in return but your love & friendship in what ~~some~~ heart professing common human feeling can rest unmoved do you think mine can? while you who I have long considered the nearest & Dearest friend I had on earth was expected every moment to approach the threshold of the silent grave about to launch in to eternity with the greatest uncertainty of your future happiness or misery I say do you think I can remain an idle Spectator? Oh I am continually overwhelmed with Grief and some times perhaps I may have had the misfortune to show it, If I ever profused your love or friendship ^{why} would you be so ungenerous at this awful & critical moment to tell me my Grief was feigned what ~~person~~ ^{who would not} so ~~harm~~ ^{harm} down with the greatest affliction this world can send upon me try to write a word or two ^{when} that you may read and think of ~~and~~ ^{while you have} ~~time~~ ^{time} to speak one word of comfort to me before you die you say you esteem me for what I have done for you I have then only bought your esteem if this is all the consolation you can speak to my poor broken heart I will at least continue to desire that every thing ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~under~~ ^{under} the sun is as much yours as mine & every thing that can go to you comfort while you

yet live & will procure immediately if you will only tell me ~~what~~
you want, God in his providence has seen fit to lay his
afflicting hand ^{on} you who I thought was my friend indeed
if he takes you to himself & leaves me behind he will have taken
what I have long considered almost my only comfort in this
world what other boons can I look to for friendship if I do
not find it in yours why not then in your last days try to
comfort ~~my~~ me under my accumulated sorrows and not
hope to add to my grief Oh! let me believe that in you I ~~had~~ ^{have} the
enjoyed the ~~the~~ most sacred friendship ~~ever~~, after I
shall have lost the friend ~~the~~ May God take you under
his kind care & protection may he show you your duty
to the world & to him & give you a heart to perform it
May he enlarge your heart with every christian virtue and
give you a realising sense of the awful change from time
to eternity Oh! if it is consistent with his will may he
restore you to health & to me but if not may he take you
to his bosom and fit you to dwell with the angels is the
humble and sincere prayer of your loving friend
R

After she heard the foregoing she said to me one day that she often imagined
things and talked about them for some time which never existed
that she was worn down with sickness & affliction and she
hoped I would forgive all her unkind words to me —
My Dearest Girls, Dying words, "Finally Farewell I am going — going to be happy Oh!
how happy I'm going to be — Oh my Dear Saviours how precious! Papa — Papa I am
happy how happy! you don't know how precious is the saviour — I am blind
Just left to tell you all" "Seek the Lord while he may be found call
upon him while — he — is — near"