A Sketch of the adventures

of

Richard Blunt

Olim hæc meminisse juvabit.

Quos ultrà citrâve nequit consistere rectum. Horace.
Lib. 1. Sat. 1. 107.

Equam memento rebus in arduis
Servare mentem, non secus in bonis — Hor.

On January 5th 1789 I had a brother by the name of Jas.
Ridley Blunt who decd. after being quite exhausted by a long & lingering spell of
the consumption, & the contemplation of losing a dear brother
was grievous to me, who had so often advised me concerning my go-
-ing to school, but for my consolation was told by my dear mother
that he was gone to the realms of bliss, where the weary are at rest.
& that year I went to school to Mr. Joseph Gurley & boarded at Wm.
Wrights & cypher'd to the Cube Root, in about 9 Mos. & that summ
Religion appeared that it would have elevated its drooping head
& come out of obscurity in defiance of antichrist or devil; in-
-quity seem'd to be cut off & the crown of vice clipp'd & lop'd
remained so for many years,* & then people began to fall off
[illegible] pride especially,* and [illegible]

Sunday Octr 27th 1798 Primo principio

Saturday February 1st day 1794

Richard Blunt son of John Blunt & Mary ejus uxor natus-
-fuit Monday about 1 Oblock Anno Domini 1774 on the first
day of August, inhabitants of Virginia, & natives of Southampton,
people of respectable reputations & venerable families.—
+In my childhood I was much afflicted by the Hands of
Providence, but succour'd by the same to tolerate it all—
In this space* I enjoy'd myself sporting & skipping over the
vernal plains & in many puerile amusements for the most
innocent, but some rather mischievous having companions to
encourage & participate in them; but waxing a little strong-
-er had to undertake the care of sows & pigs for a while & then
in the date 1783 I was sent to school to ~~[illegible]~~ Robt. Washington
who kept on Buckborn below Mrs Norflects red house, was tolera-
ble apt, but began late in the year & [illegible]

School to Mr. Edward Fisher to learn Arithmetic, and af-
-ter cyphering to Geometrical problems, left school on 25th
of August, being very sick with the ague and fever &
after recovering had a great propensity to undertake the
study of latin, but that being obstructed by my father,
I daily amused myself then with hunting, as there was more

+ boarded at Aunt Deews
my acquaintance with Mrs. J. S.
Mrs. at Do. Hanover

-tion my delightful enjoyment, but on the first of August I hap-
-pen'd at Mr. Hayleys & bought Ruffels Sermons which are
plain & warm, & at the reading of one it wou'd strengthen my
inclination to serve God & search the scriptures & then I resolv'd
to forsake sin & persevere in religion whose ways are ways of plea-
-santness & all her paths peace.

On monday 10th of Sept. 1792 I entered school to the Revd
Joseph Gurley to learn the latin language, being a lit-
-tle advanced eighteen years of age, I boarded at Col. B.
Blunts & came home every friday night. On friday
night the 26th of Oct. when I came home, found my
mother nearly or quite lapsed into a delirious way,
being taken the night before with an ague; but the
next morning seem'd to be something better so that
her sensations were returned. On Saturday I went to
Mr. Vaughan's to hear Mr. Johnson preach, & he explain'd
[illegible] 13. 14 verses and on returning home found my
[illegible] told me that Mr. Hayley had

liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and
again with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5 Chap. Verse this was a
warm sermon ~~[illegible]~~ & I attended to it, & it bore so much on
my mind though I was in company on monday with J. P. & A. B.
Who laugh & Ev and made themselves merry in abundance, that
as I was going to my business in a retired place on Tuesday morning, I was con-
-strain'd to fall on my knee's to ask pardon of the King of
Heaven for my sins, & contemplated much on my present state
& what I must be to enter his blissful realms, & then rumi-
-nating with flesh & blood it was very hard to forsake

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* My sister was married to Davis Day on Tuesday 19th
Miss Wilson came out with Mr. Day with whom I thought I wa

some books for me (a man who my father had apply'd to for latin books for me.) Monday morning having a hope she was better I return'd to school but particularly requested, if her sickness become more violent, to send for me, and on Wednesday morning the thirty first of Octr. to my cordial grief saw my boy at Colo. Blunts, who had come through a hard shower of rain for me, and said my mother was more indispos'd than she had been; Oh doleful voice! which penetrated (to my heart as a two edged sword, I immediately went on home not without the loss of many a tear through the rain, and on my arrival she knew me, & asked me if they had sent for me, and appear'd to be sensible that it was thought she was more debilitated by it. On Thursday I importuned my father to let me go after my sister Day or she never would see her mother alive again, as I thought I cou'd see the symptoms of death obviously appear, but he rejected the proposal & I went to Mr. Hayleys after my books but on my return I was told by some of the family that my father had consented for me to go after my sister, but the day being far spent I postpon'd it till next morning & about *3 O Clock started for Days neck and arrived there before night, and next morning about 3 or

4 O Clock in the morning set off back again but before I quite reached home, the sad and doleful sound of death rung in my ears; & arriving about sun set, O! doleful, distressing scene! A pale corpse she lay, Oh miserable, dreadful & distressing sight to me, that my nearest, truest & dearest friend was gone to the cold shades of death (temporal) I could find no peace to my mind, but thought on what David (the patriarch) said when he lost his son, But now she is gone I can go to her but she cannot return to me, and took my bible and read it.

On Wednesday the 14th of November Mr. Johnson preached her funeral sermon from words which she has chosen before her sickness (for it appears by speeches which she made by her sickness that she knew she was not long for this world) the words are as follows. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, saith the spirit, they rest from their labours and their works do follow them. Rev. 14. 13. But my grief & sorrow was much extenuated on that day by this contemplation that she was gone to the realms of eternal bliss, and

cared not for this place of crosses and trouble, and I
must endeavour to follow after her, that I might imitate in some
has directed her steps in the paths of religion, whose
ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths peace.
which was conspicuously demonstrated by her man-
ner of life, and conduct in general.

She was a faithful and loving wife, a good mother.
She was hospitable to strangers, charitable to
the poor, kind to her servants, affable with her
neighbours and acquaintances, at times serious
but without melancholy, and religious without
ostentation— She lived beloved by her acquaintance
and died lamented. —

Oh! thou monster death how grim when seen,
Attended with companions, pale and lean:
Tho' not horrible when our endeavours have been,
To repent of sin and escape excruciating pain.
So when we are dismissed from here, to ascend
And the glorious host of heaven forever attend.
There to sing, happier far are we,
Than ever frail human nature can be. —

This I have a hope she has often done & will be continually employed in —