

in this mortal life. God is going to enable me to give you a short account of how He led me just two years and no more, at present, and if the account of them does not fully wipe out the reproach the next book will. It will cast it out, root and branch, and not leave a vestige of sin upon its service.

I would gladly, at the first, have never sent a book to the world, but there has gone forth such scandalous things in connection with this work of suffering that God would not leave it to perish. Calumny worse than that which fell on Joseph and which caused him to be put in prison, had fallen upon me. In the first part of the term I felt the work very troublesome on account of the misunderstanding which I had concerning the nature of the writing which was daily being committed to paper by my own hand. As far as the meaning went, it was a mystery to me. It was so far above my weakness that I could not fully comprehend its great depth nor height. At times I was sunk almost to despondency, at other times lifted to glory by it.

Many were the opinions of the people in connection with the books. Some thought they contained gathered up stories; others thought I was more crazy than before; others thought I would go to prison for the things which were in them, and, worse than all, they were called witch-craft—the cap-sheaf to all their iniquity. They had many adversaries for, without exception, all were opposed to their publication. They were full of wonder to many, and to myself, I believe, more than any other, for I thought that God was going to give me the life of my beloved father in the form of a small book, but when I saw what sort of writing He was giving me I was sorely disappointed. I expected that he would at once verify His promise which was, that “He would smite out of the way every opponent and bring me back to Zion victorious.” But He had many lessons to teach me before He would fulfil that promise. One thing which He had to teach me was the utter impossibility of being either a friend to the church or the world. You may say, “Would God let you engage in a work which would break up friendships, disunite families and, worse than all, sever