

Notes and Queries

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

D.—Friends' Reference Library, Devonshire House, 136, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

Camb. Jnl.—*The Journal of George Fox*, published by the Cambridge University Press, 1911.

D.N.B.—*The Dictionary of National Biography*.

F.Q.E.—*Friends' Quarterly Examiner*.

ACKWORTH SCHOOL IN 1780 AND 1799.—On his journey to London for the Y.M. of 1780, Elihu Robinson, of Cumberland, passed through Ackworth. He writes in his Diary :

“ Rid to Ackworth. . . were received & entertained with much Cordiality & affectionate kindness by our Antient worthy Fr^d John Hill, his Daughter, Nelly Abrahams &c. Se the Children in y^e school & also at Dinner, which was indeed a pleasing sight, being about 54 girls & 70 boys,¹ mostly between 8 & 14 years of age, the becoming demeanor & pleasant Serene Chearful Countenances of y^e Children in gen^l affected me with y^e most agreeable sensations & pleasing Reflections ; the Children in general look very well, seem quite content & are treated with much kindness & gentleness by y^e Treasurer, Masters &c. The House many respects, pretty well adapted to y^e Present Undertaking especially in y^e summer season, many of y^e rooms being very large, well-lighted & airy, one lodging room contains about 23 Beds & another about 21, in each of

¹ In 1781 there were : “ I think above 320 in y^e school.”

which a Master and Mistress lodges at y^e upper end thereof, an agreeable house is fitted up for a Taylor expected from London and a Shoemaker from Cheshire is already employ'd. The Beauty & Order of y^e house & y^e Harmony amongst y^e Manigers were particularly pleasing, And their seems convenience for 3 or 400 schollars, but to attempt a particular Description is at present in vain.”

Later, during Y.M. the minutes of the Committee were read “ by which it appeared y^e Committee had received upwards of £10,000 and are to pay 4 p^r Cent for y^e purchase for 6 years : above 2,000 are laid out in Furniture & other Expenses.”

Nineteen years later, Elihu Robinson was again at Ackworth. In his Diary of visit to Y.M. 1799, he writes :

“ Took Chaise imediatly [at Wakefield] for Ackworth, were Civilly treated on y^e Road by y^e Guard &c, mett with no dissagreeable Incidents (or however not many) and I think the Horses in general looked Well ! performed their Bus^s —with *Seeming* Chearfulness and I willingly would Hope, did not Suffer more than I

expected! Oh! Thankfulness! I often doubt I am short!!! Gott Tea for supper abot 9 at y^e very agreeable Inn at Ackworth and soon retired to y^e Place of Rest.

“6th mo. 6th, 5th day. After a Sweet Nights Rest rose pretty Early—paid a Visit to both Girls & Boys at y^e time of Breakfast; a delectable Sight *indeed!* Pretty soon discovered Jane Fearon without being Pointed out, but could not find many more of y^e Cumb^d Children. Shaked hands with Nicholas Ross, — Ponsonby, Tho^s Watson & — Carrick, Who all looked well . . . [references to other children]. Breakfasted at y^e very Agreeable Inn, with Companions & a very intelligent Woman Friend, a widow, who at present lodges there, having her Daughter at y^e School.

“At 10 at y^e Week-Day Meets Being the Monthly Meets, but few there excepting y^e Family, but indeed it was a large Family, perhaps about 340. . . . I witnessed a calm serenity in a greater degree than in some other Meets 120 Young Girls, sitting before Mee dress'd much alike White round Caps, Neckcloths & aprons, such *Composure of Countenance* without Affected Sorrow made me image to my self a Personification of Innocence, walking up one alley & down another Waving Her spotless Banner over their Heads. Walked in y^e Garden with Isaac Pane an Agreeable Young Master and then, see y^e Children dine: I Interceded *Privately* for One who was doing Penance & my request was complied with.

Dined at y^e good Inn, and in the afternoon Walked with y^e Masters Tho^s Bradshaw, formerly Lieutenant in the Navy, & a very agreeable Young Man (Isaac Payne) from Wellington, Somersetshire who teaches gram^{er}, & so farr as I can judge, well quallified, viewed the Bath & then accompanied by 3 or 4 of y^e Masters, examined y^e Librery & other parts of y^e Building: Jos: Donbevand & Jn^o Holt, both excellent Writing Masters, when the former was shewing some Specimens, Jn^o Ross took them for Copper-plate—Saw y^e children sup & then had Isaac Panes Company till about 10—very agreeable Company indeed!

“Now on this Visit to Ackworth and looking over y^e several departments without prejudice, I think I have a more favourable oppinion thereof than heretofore—Being y^e Monthy Day, the Childⁿ had Holliday, so called, they played most Afternoon; They look so well, & when the Masters walk amongst them they have Such Chearfull Countenances, speaking to y^e Masters & even calling them by their Names—

“Behold the beauteous Harmony that springs
From Union, Order, & Consent of Things.”

“6th Mo. 7th, 6th Day: Fine Morning, ‘Nature Smiles.’ Ackworth is indeed a fine situation, the Buildings Gardens &c. in excellent Order: Even y^e Childrens Gardens Beautiful, which I understood were planned or encouraged by Tho^s Bradshaw, who walked through them with me: Perhaps I am affected wth Trifles, be it so! Little Things are great to little Men! One of y^e

Childⁿ observing that I noticed his garden or y^e different Gardens, presented me with a Nose-gay. Examining another Bed, I asked y^e Proprietor if it was *all* his own? He answered yes, I queried was it by Purchase? He answered his Partner was removed & left it him! As this Day was a Sort of Jubilee to y^e Scholars; by proper application, I gott another released from his Pennance. . . . Jn^o King from Darlington, who came an Errand, is Head Schollar, not tall, between 13 & 14 years of age."

Elihu Robinson (1734-1809) lived at Eaglesfield, and "was probably one of the first of Cumberland's meteorologists" (see *F.Q.E.* 1890-1893; *Newcastle Friends*, 1899, p. 165; lives of John Dalton). In 1757 he married Ruth Mark. Much correspondence and several diaries of visits to Y.M. are in D.

DROWNED IN THE DELAWARE (xiii. 135, 141; xiv. 24).—Further particulars of this sad occurrence can now be given. We have found them, when going through the *Memoranda and Correspondence of Mildred Ratcliff* (1773-1847), 1890, for cataloguing purposes. In Fourth Month, 1820, M. R. wrote: "Spent the night with D. and R. H. R. [how trying initials are!], a son-in-law and daughter of our worthy friend Esther Collins, one of the two women drowned in the Delaware River last winter, and found about thirteen days after, and brought to this house her former residence. . . . The other dear Friend, Ann
² Initials explained later.

Edwards, who was lost at the same time under the ice, is not yet found."

Next day: "We went to dine with dear Ann Stokes, a widow whose life was mercifully spared, after being precipitated into the river, at the same time that Esther Collins and Ann Edwards with the carriage and horses, were lost under the ice. . . . We came to Henry Warrington's, the Friend who drove the carriage when the mournful occurrence took place as above narrated." (pages 135, 136).

Above, when written, was sent to William Kennedy, at his Bucks residence, and we have received communications from him from Philadelphia, enclosing further information very kindly obtained for us by him. William Kennedy writes, under date 3 v. 1918:

"I met a niece of Seth Warrington's to-day—Mary W. Stokes, who has in her possession a copy of a letter written by one of the Women Friends who accompanied the two who were drowned. I see I was wrong, it was *Henry* not *Seth* Warrington who drove them. The letter explains what happened and I enclose a Copy.

"Nancy Stokes was early left a widow of Dr. John H. Stokes and had 7 daughters and 2 sons. Henry Warrington had 2 sons, Seth and Joseph (a Doctor also).

"Thine sincerely,
 "WILLIAM KENNEDY."

Copy of a letter from Nancy Stokes to a daughter at John Hilles' School, at Wilmington, Del.:

“ 2nd mo. 14, 1820.

“ My beloved daughter will no doubt excuse the seeming neglect when I assure her that since the awful event of the 7th inst., my mind has been in a state altogether inadequate to the task. Sorrow has pervaded my whole heart and my nervous system has been, and still continues, so agitated that it is with difficulty I can write yet. I have much cause for humble thankfulness that a comfortable degree of quiet resignation at this time covers the mind, wherein I am able to say ‘Not my will but thine Oh Father be done,’ and under the shadow of the Heavenly Canopy I will endeavour to give a statement of facts which, I have no doubt, will be interesting to my dear Children, and also to my dear friends of the family.

“ One day last week our dear friend Henry [Warrington] (who is ever seeking an opportunity to oblige) gave Esther Collins, Nancy Edwards and myself an invitation to go with him to see our afflicted friends at Byberry. We cheerfully accepted it, and seventh day afternoon was the time concluded on. We met at Benjamin Warrington’s at three o’clock, Esther was handed into the carriage and thy Mother secondly. When taking my seat, it occurred that I could bear the exposure better than my dear friend Nancy, and I immediately offered her my seat, and proposed sitting forward, which she accepted. We reached the River at, or near, four o’clock, when, on the margin, Henry halted and observed: ‘Friends, if there is one uneasy feeling amongst you, speak, and I will not proceed’; but no

objection being made, we went forward, carefully keeping the road where many had passed, and as much as ten horses with carriages of various kinds, the same day, the river looked firm as a rock—passed on in safety until we were more than half over when (awful to relate) without the least previous warning, the horses feet began to sink. Henry exclaimed, ‘Dreadful indeed,’ and sprang out, and instantly I followed. We reached the firm ice, but that that I fell on gave way and I sank into the water. Language is inadequate to portray our feelings at this moment; but this I can attest with confidence, that it was nothing short of the interposition of an Almighty arm that rescued thy Mother from death; I called upon God and he heard me, and gave me a strength far superior to my own. I used every effort to keep my head above water until Henry could reach me the whip, which I grasped; he then knelt down, and gave me his other hand, and, in this perilous situation sustained me until assistance came, which is believed was 13 minutes at least. I was drawn from the Water, but Oh! my dear children, imagine our feelings, our beloved friends were gone. We remained in a kneeling posture, as if rivetted to the spot, and you can have no doubt but our hearts ascended with gratitude to that Power which had been so mercifully extended for our deliverance. After this I have little or no recollection of what passed until I was conveyed to the house, I suspect I fainted. I was laid in a warm bed and received every

kind attention, and, after a few hours, was able to be conveyed to dear Cousin Henry's where we spent a sleepless night.

"In the morning I returned to my beloved family, who received me with tears of gratitude, and, I am thankful in believing, their little hearts were sensibly touched with the 'Dayspring from on High' and they were ready to acknowledge the goodness of the Lord. I am happy to say that Henry has become more calm and I sincerely hope he may be favored to view this dispensation as he ought, and quietly submit to the will of Him who seeth not as man and whose ways are inscrutable. As respects our dear departed friends I have been renewedly convinced that there is no cause for mourning. Of the one it may truly be said, she was a Mother in Israel, and a more dignified character I never knew. The other, a faithful laborer in the vineyard of her God, early called to his service, and early taken to receive the blessed reward. They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided. I have been instructed in beholding the Christian fortitude with which dear Rachael³ is supported—Betsy and Sarah Edwards equally so, and I rejoice in believing the Mantles of the dear departed will not be lost. It is true the Church has sustained a great loss, and I am ready to exclaim 'What will our Israel do!' but we know, my dear girls, we know that the dear Master lives, and while He lives, we have a boundless store ;

³ Rachel Hunt married David Roberts—"D. and R. H. R." see *ante*.

then let us seek an acceptance with Him and be at peace.

"I am quite as well as I could expect to be, not materially injured, and have taken no serious cold, my cough much better than usual at this season. We have had much company during the last week, our dear and constant friend, Cousin Ephraim [Haines] has spent 3 days with us also, and their love attends you both. I feel altogether unworthy of such kind attention, yet I have found the sympathy of my beloved friends a cordial to my heart, and place them among the countless blessings that I am daily receiving.

"Be a good girl, be happy, and contribute as much as possible to the happiness of all around thee, by so doing thee will add to the comfort of thy bereft Mother,

"NANCY STOKES."

THE HOAG FAMILY (xiv. 72).—The following anecdote concerning Lindley Murray Hoag was told me by Allen Jay. When still a young man he was recorded a minister and he sat in the gallery by his father. Naturally he was not forward to speak so as to hinder his father's ministry, and one day, the older man, signifying that he saw no prospect of service in that meeting, touched with his foot the young man who shortly afterwards preached with power. The Elders, however, had seen the by-play, and after meeting they gathered round the father in remonstrance. The only consolation they got was the reply, "Well, if any o' you can kick as good a sermon as that outer any o' your boys you'd better try."

A. NEAVE BRAYSHAW.

ELIZABETH FRANK OF YORK.—Information wanted respecting this lady, the author of the *Memoirs of Lindley Murray*, 1826. Joseph Smith's *Catalogue* states that she was not a member. There is a reference to her in the Diary of Elihu Robinson, 1799 (in D.):

"Had a remarkable relation from Fr^d Megson respecting a young woman of high Rank of ye Name of — Frank, who was convinced in a particular manner when residing at Lindley Murray's."

THEN AS NOW—LETTER TO DR. FOTHERGILL (xiv. 141).—The original of this letter is in D. It is addressed: "Mr. Fothergill at Dr. Fothergill's, White Hart Court, London," and it is clear that "Mr." = Samuel, the doctor's brother. In the Diary of Y.M. 1765, written by Elihu Robinson (1734-1809), we read:

"S. Fothergill observed that in that populous and trading city it behoved them to walk wisely, and acquainted the Meeting he had received an Anonymous letter from one not supposed to be a Friend," etc.

THOMAS GOODAIRE.—Was Thomas Goodaire, early Friend (d. 1693), the same as the Herefordshire recusant of that name of Burghope, who with others was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions, held at Westminster, 14 April, 1641, see the *The Herefordshire Magazine*, vol. ii. (1908), p. 473.

SAMUEL EMLÉN AND THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—Samuel Emlén discoursing familiarly with

the Bishop of Worcester at Bath about twenty years ago [*circa* 1765] with his hat on, a big man with a stir came up and with a high air says, "The Quakers appear to be all kings, and will not put off their hats to any." To which Samuel replied, "I wish they and others were so far Kings and Governors over their own passions, it would prevent many of the commotions and troubles that are in the world." The Bishop meekly observed, "I heartily wish the same," and the high man walked off with no air of triumph or words either.

EDWARD CARROLL (xiv. 102, etc.)—Several letters have reached the Editor from Ireland, Liverpool, Birmingham, etc., conveying further information respecting Edward and Anna Carroll.

TONES IN PREACHING (xiv. 94). In the Records of James Jenkins, by Frederick G. Cash (*F.Q.E.*, 1902), he records that one evening when travelling with Esther Tuke and Jane Watson, in Ireland, he and his friends met Robert Dudley and Robert Grubb, and the conversation turned to the subject of "the musical preaching of some of our ministers:"

"Esther Tuke related the circumstance of a young woman being exceedingly broken in spirit under the *tuneful* ministry of a female Friend. 'Mary, how came it that thou wept so sorely when the friend was speaking?' was a question put by Esther Tuke's mother [Ann Maud] to the young woman, who thus answered: 'It was nothing which the dear woman said as to my state of

mind, but oh! how sweetly she uttered her words, yet all could I have borne if she had not come to that sweet word *Mesopotamia*, when she came to that, I could bear no longer.' 'This shows,' said Esther, 'that it is the *sound only* by which some hearers are affected, and therefore we should avoid harmonious tones when we address our friends. Perhaps I may be too much given to it myself.' 'Yes, Esther,' replied Robert Dudley, 'thou hast generally a sweet tone when addressing us.' 'Then,' said she, 'I must strive against it; it is not proper.'

Robert Dudley went on to tell them of a man who had loudly sobbed in a meeting at Cashel while a minister was preaching, and afterwards being asked what words they were which so much affected him, answered, "It was no words which I heard that had such an effect upon me, but it was the *holy twang* which the good man used that was too much for me to bear." "I have long been of opinion," says James Jenkins, "that all Christendom besides, if called upon, could not produce so many musical preachers as our little Society. Morris Birkbeck (the present one, 1820), I see, speaks of 'the chaunting cadence of the Quakers.'"

Again the Record:

"'I thought,' said a lady to J. Messer's wife, after being with her at Westminster Meeting, and there hearing Elizabeth (Joseph) Fry preach, 'you had no music in your meetings.' 'No, we have not any,' was the reply, and the lady immediately rejoined, 'How can you say so, Madam, when as soon as that French

gentleman (meaning Stephen Grellet) had done preaching, a lady stood up, and *chaunted* most delightfully. . . . The late Joseph Gurney Bevan once explained it as the *tone of emotion*."



A YEARLY MEETING AT LANCASTER IN 1709).—As one enters the porch of the Meeting House at Lancaster his attention is arrested by a stone bearing date of 1677 which is generally accredited as being the date of the erection of the first Meeting House on this site. Evidence of this is also forthcoming in Maria Webb's *Fells of Swarthmoor Hall*, wherein are extracts from the Housekeeper's book; under date of October 29th, 1678, the items include: "By money given towards building Lancaster Meeting House

By Mother	1	10	0
Bro. Lower	1	10	0
Sister Susanna, Sister Rachel and myself,			
10s. each	1	10	0
	<hr/>		
	4	10	0"
	<hr/>		

"Cash received Aug. 5th, 1678 To money received of Edward Brittain that I laid down for him, and which he gave towards building Lancaster Meeting House 2/6" William Stout in his *Autobiography* tells how in the year 1680, the Mayor ordered the Meeting house door to be locked, and set a guard upon it, on the first day weekly, to prevent a Meeting; yet the Friends met in the lane before it, at the usual time, without disturbance for some time.

This Meeting House was only occupied for a term of about 30 years for under date of 1708, William Stout records: "In the Spring 1708 our Meeting-house not being capable to entertain the general meeting for the four northern counties, it was resolved to pull it quite down, and build it nigh double to what it was; which was committed to Robert Lawson's and my care; but the provision, payment and account was mostly under my care and management; and in the time of building our Meeting was kept in my dwelling house. We got it built and furnished in about six months, with floor, seats, galleries, and ceiling, to the general satisfaction of our friends—in the county and others; the whole charge whereof was £180, which was thought moderate" (an illustration of the Meeting House appears in the *British Friend* for 7 mo. 1847).

It is now a good many years since I first read William Stout's account of the rebuilding of the Meeting House and at times have reflected upon the kind of gathering which would assemble for whose accommodation this extension had taken place, for W. S. is silent upon the point.

A short time ago a copy of the *Life and Correspondence of Wm. and Alice Ellis*, of Airton, came into my possession and in turning over the pages carefully I came across a reference thereto. The compiler of this book (James Backhouse) in closing the correspondence of Wm. and Alice Ellis claims a place for a letter written by John Kelsall, who was a schoolmaster at Dolobran in Wales, in which information is conveyed

respecting a Yearly Meeting which was held at Lancaster in Second Month, 1709, and at which William Ellis took a prominent part, although suffering from the effect of a malady which had worn down his bodily powers, and which was ultimately the cause of his death. The letter reads thus:

"I went to the Yearly Meeting at Lancaster. The public meetings were attended by a very great number of Friends, and many heavenly testimonies were borne, and much counsel and sound advice were given in the openings of Truth, for Friends to keep in faithfulness. Then came on the Quarterly Meeting, where things were managed in great calmness, love and unity; and a good account was given from divers places of the increase and prosperity of Truth. At the close of this, a very solemn weighty parting meeting was held. Great indeed was the power and presence of the Lord in that assembly; his divine overshadowing arm and wing of love were abundantly known and manifested at that time; and a sweet, pure current of life largely flowed through the meeting, to the great joy and rejoicing of the faithful, whose souls were sweetly refreshed together, and who were constrained to speak well of the name of the Lord.

"Amongst other brethren, our dear Friend, William Ellis, had a blessed opportunity, and was carried on in the power and life of Truth, even beyond the usual manner. Oh! methinks it affects my heart to remember the glorious presence of the Lord that appeared with him, he being full of love, full of zeal, full of courage, and as

one triumphant over the devil and the powers of darkness, and in the divine region of light and life. This was indeed a glorious season; and the rays and majesty of truth were largely extended and stretched over that large assembly so that many were made to say afterwards, that they had not known the like. And in this exaltation of life and power the meeting concluded."

ROBERT MUSCHAMP.

FICTION.—In *Thalassa*, by Mrs. Baillie Reynolds (G. M. Robins), there is a reference to Friends' registration of marriage: "They are the only religious body which makes the consent of parents or guardians essential"—"there is no religious body among whom a clandestine marriage would be more difficult to arrange than among the Quakers." The reference to the graveyard at Pimthorpe on the moors is curious. "In the green garden ground, before the little still meeting house, under an ancient cedar, lay the flat stone slabs which covered the bones of dead Quakers, each stone marked with a small incised cross about five inches long." Where is Pimthorpe? "approached on the north-side by a precipitous pass, on the south by a road that winds uphill for twelve miles, it lies apart from all the world."

In *Scribner's Monthly*, vol. xviii. (1879) p 334, there is a Quaker story quite well done, called "Friend Barton's 'Concern'" in which is recorded the family doings, while

the father of the family has gone on a religious visit to Philadelphia and Baltimore—among the doings being an escape from a flood and a falling into love.

In the same volume there is a valuable article on John Greenleaf Whittier.

REFERENCES IN LONDON Y.M. EPISTLE, 1918.—(i.) George Fox's epistle from Launceston Jail, 1656, was addressed to Friends in the Ministry, and is to be found in his *Journal*, bi-cent. ed. i. 315; (ii.) Weymouth's translation is the *New Testament in Modern Speech* by R. F. Weymouth, first published in 1902; (iii.) the Epistle from the General Meeting at Skipton, 1660, is printed in *Epistles from the Yearly Meeting*, 1858, i. xxxv., from an ancient manuscript in D.; (iv.) A. S. Way's translation is *Letters of St. Paul*, translated by Arthur S. Way; (v.) Lascelles Abercrombie's *Sale of Saint Thomas* was published in 1911. It re-appeared in *Georgian Poetry*, 1911-1912, published in 1912. The Apostle Thomas is bound in the Spirit for India; all hesitancy is removed when he realises he is the bond-servant of his Master; (vi.) William Penn's address *To the Children of Light in this Generation* was written at Worminghurst on the 4th of Ninth Month, 1678. A postscript reads: "I desire that this Epistle may be read in the Fear of the Lord in your several Meetings." It was printed at the time and reprinted in Penn's *Works*.