A. R. Barclay MSS

Extracts. Continued from vol. xliv, p. 45.

Notes are not supplied to Friends respecting whom notes appear in "The Journal of George Fox," Cambridge edition, 1911, or "The Short and Itinerary Journal," 1925. The use of capital letters has been reduced and the punctuation and paragraphing adapted where necessary in the interest of clarity. The A.R.B. MSS. are in the Library a Friends House, and also available on microfilm.

XCIII

FRANCIS HOWGILL to GEORGE FOX. Appleby, 3.vii.1664¹

Dear Geo

In the most deare & tender love of God made manifest in my harte, doe I most dearly remember, & present my intire love unto the, because it is thy owne. I had a greatte and a sore confflicte heare, att the Assise² butt the Lord was on my side indeed; so the face of noe man I feared, though indeed I had very many enimies, As I did right well know befforhand, butt oh dear Geo: I was so cleare in the sight off God & in my owne harte that made me³ very bould. Though Indeed I have borne a greatt weight many monethes upon my backe about this plotting, & the like & some that weare to much inclined I know to it whome I could nott wholy rejecte, as beleveing in the treuth, nether yett justisse so that I have been as upon a racke betwixt my freinds & enimies vett I did beleive the Lord, worke throug it all & cleare his treuth & ease me. Their was none called hear butt myselffe, & my enimies shott hard att me: & all the justises in the cuntrie insenced the judge agaynst me, then I did perseve they had noe purposse to have done so sevearly as they wear putt upon: I had a most galent time, 2 times In the courte: beffor the face of the wholle cuntrie, & sumtime they wear putt to a stand, butt being resolved whatever I could say to doe even as they did, as I did forsee pramunired me, though both the clarke & the judges affter would have washed their hands, butt I am well, & indeed none of these things as to my

¹ See the preceding paper (XCII), printed in *Journal F.H.S.*, vol. xliv, 40-45, for Francis Howgill's account of the proceedings at the previous assize.

² 22, 23, vi. 1664.

³ MS. has be.

selffe troub'l]es me. I had only a copie that I could spare I sent by this young man, to lett the[e] heare of my triall, only to aquent the[e]: I was infformed that Philip Musgrove had Rich:Flettcher¹ in hand & siffted him very much: & flatterd & tould him he had done well in confforming butt iff he would discover any thing ether in acction or counsayle frome the[e] or me: he promised him: to aquent the King with it & bring him into favour att courte: Butt I heard the man sayd noe evill: nether could treuly; butt only sayd we wear much estemed among the Quackers but he had nothing agaynst us for we wear altogither for peace; the Lord preserve us out off the hands of unreasonable men.

I long to heare off the[e]: & how they proceeded agaynst the[e] & dear M: F: unto whome dearly salutte me in the Lord: the justises heare are all like an oven & drives on hastelley, the Lord shorten these dayes for his ellecte sake. I am exeding well blessed be the Lord, only through much straytnesse my ould inffirmity troubles me: most dearly farwell, & remember me to all the prisoners & Freinds.

Thy owne sonn begotten by the word off liffe

Apelby 3 of this 7 month

F. H.

1664

[endorsed by G.F.] F.H. to G.F. [address] For the hands of

G.F. these

XCIV

ESTHER BIDDLE to JOHN SMITH. London, 28.ix.1665. John Smith,

In yt which changes not doe I tenderly salute thee desireing thy prosperity in yt which is imutable & shall remaine when fading man shall have an end, and although it hath been a day of death & an houre of darknes wherein many hath laid downe theire heads in endles misery yet hath ye glorious light shined forth as clear as ye sun at noneday & as a morning without clouds have we seen our beloved, which hath caried us above ye fear of death on ye stroake of ye destroyer; glory be to his Name for ever, & he hath yet left himselfe a remnant in this dying & fading Citty, which are as lights in ye midst of gross darknes, & I beleeve they will see ye darknes expelld before ye Lord calles them home, and indeed

¹ Of Carlisle.

we could willingly [have] inioyed each other here below if ye Lord had seen it good, we thought we were not so many but still desired ye Lord to add unto our number, & keep us together in his life & power as he did untill their worke was finished, which he gave them to doe, and now are they at rest with Abraham Isaac & Jacob.

And as for Freinds in ye ministry their hath none dyed but John Sheild & John Fothergill & as for Margrett Too[m]s [?] she is pretty well & John Gibson is in health. Francis Howgill is yet a prisoner in Apelby & pretty well. G: F: is kept very close & is not sufferd to write. Wm Crouch is in health, George Gosnell his wife & childeren are deceased. Wm Bayly is well in this Citty, John Crooke & Isaac Benington they be well, & we have heard from Jamaico, and Edward Brough & ye other friend is arrived there & they have much liberty by ye governour & we have heard from Merri[land] from Tho: Gibson & ye other seaven yt ye Lord struck ye master of ye ship dumb & about a fortnight after he dyed & was Throwne over board about 4 dayes before they came to land. The governour² we heard would not receive them unles they were willing to come ashoare. Ye Lord hath promised to pleid ye cause of his afficted, & he is doing of it now & we have seen his goodnes to break forth upon us far beyond oure afflictions & all yt ever we might suffer here below is not to be weighed with yt weight of glory, which is hid from ye wisdome of ye wise & ye folly of ye foole.

Deare freind my husband desireth thee to acquaint Margarett Reynolds yt he would have her son to come home, Anthony being dead, we have need of one; & if he cometh not he intendeth to have another in his steed & not to receive him againe. It is about 3 months agoe since our Maid and Antony dyed, I think here is not now much danger, soe farewell my husbands love is to thee & Margrett my deare love salluteth all Freinds yt way in hast I rest Thy sure Freind

Esther Biddle

The 55 lost aboard and about halfe dead & ye rest are about beyond graves end.3

[endorsed] Esther Biddle's Letter to me 1667 [in error]

¹ Sir Thomas Modyford, 1620?-1679. Dictionary of National Biography. ² Charles Calvert, 1637-1715, governor of Maryland, 3rd Baron Baltimore.

³ A reference to the 55 shipped in the Black Eagle for transportation.

XCV

WILLIAM STORRS to SAMUEL HOOTON. Chesterfield, 30.xi.1666.

Deare Samuell

O how weare I with the Rest of freinds truely Refreshed in ye lord to heare from thee. . . .

Deare Samuell Friends heare are Jenerally well and at Libertie, & meeteings peaceabley, onely at Chesterfeild they will not suffer us to meete in ye towne but forses us to the Towns end. Things goes well in most places in this Land, the truth is over the heades of all soarts of people, meeteings weare never soe large as now at London and very peaceable but ye wourld is in a troubled condition full of feares & distructions, that many knows not what to doe.

I have a kinsman or two which went into New England about 3 yeares since, the one is Samuell Stors the other is Will Throupe, if thou could heare of them they would be Joyfull of thee, they came from Lound in Nottinghamshire, my Cosin Samuell is a Chandler by trade, ye other is a husbandman which is married lately. I doe not know what place they live at, but they say they are about four-score miles within New England. I should be very glad to heare from them.

Dear Samuell, Remember my Dear Love to George Heathcoat and tell him his Relations is in health. John Frith and Susan with several other friends hath there Dear love to thee, & soe Dear Samuell my love in the Lord is truely with thee and Remaines

thy friend in ye truth

Will Storrs

Chesterfeild, ye 30th of ye 11th moneth

66

[address] For the hand of his

Deare Friend Samuel

Hooton in New England

with Care

send this to Elizabeth Hooton

to be convaied for her

Lo: Friend will: Stors

[endorsed] Will Stors to Samuel

Hooton 66

O.E.

XCVI

WILLIAM GIBSON to ELLIS HOOKES. Maidston, ye 5 of ye 5 Mo: 69 E.H.

In the Love of god which endures for ever I doe salute thee, & Friends. This may Certifie you that I am well every way, praised bee the Lord god for the same. Dear Elis I Receved a Letter Lately from John Midlton, In which hee Did signifie unto mee that hee had been with Judge Ceeling on my account & that hee did Intend to goe againe & that hee was not without hope to doe some service in the thing. I did write to him to speake unto thee to draw over, both my Committment, & a short account of the proceedings that hath been against mee & that if John or any other Friends doe goe to Judge Ceeling yt they may present the paper to him. I sent a Large draught of the whole proceedings that hath been against mee to John Rouse for M. Fell according to her desire (when shee was with mee) soe I desire thee to Enquire for those papers of John Rouse & to doe accordingly as thou & Friends sees meet. I desire J.M. to shewe thee Letter which I write unto him, in which thou may see what I doe desire to have anexed to my Comittments In Its order & place, that soe the Judge may have a sight thereby, how they have proceeded against mee alltogether Contrary unto theire owne Law, & then if it bee in him to doe any good in it hee may doe it, if not I am given up in the will of the Lord god & doe Rest in peace with him, not fearing what man Can doe unto mee. I did write to Jo: Midlton to speake to thee about a poore Friend that is prisnor here for tythes I sent a Coppy of his Comittment unto W. Myres, & his Man write to me that hee had given it to thee, I doe desire thee to give us an account whither any thing may bee don in it or one [i.e., noe?]. Isend thee by this bearor 4s for Som Bookes which thou sent mee. I desire the to Remember my dear Love to friends generally as it is in thy minde, & Lett mee heare from thee of the Freinds busines, & my owne. I doe heare that Judge Ceeling is Like to bee the man that I am Like to Com before at the Assizes. Thy Friend & Brother in the Covenant Love life & peace which is Everlasting W. Gibson

[address] To the hands of Elis

Hookes at Ann Trauarce her house in horsadown In South warke These

deliver with Care

or Elsewhear

[endorsed] a letter fro W.G. to E.H.

when priso at Maidston

abt 1669.

XCVII

JOHN STUBBS to ELIZABETH HOOTON. Enfield, 15.x.1670.

Dear Elisabeth Hutton

I received thy letter this week, and did read it to George, it had been well if that Book¹ had been printed to have given them before they had risen; if they be not risen, there is foure hundred Bookes of G.F. at Amors [Amor Stoddart's] called Gosple Liberty,² if they be not risen he would have them dispersed among them, and the other alsoe if it be printed. He is satisfied about thy dilligence and Service. When thou goes with the Bookes thou maist take with thee whom thou sees meet yt is willing to goe with thee.

Remember my Dear love to Henry and Hannah and yt family.

farewell

From thy true friend & Brother J. Stubbs

Enfield

ye 15th 10 m. 1670.

[address]

O.E.

For

Elsabeth

Hutton

Theise

with care.

¹ Possibly Elizabeth Hooton and Thomas Taylor's To the King and both Houses of Parliament, 1670.

² Gospel Liberty and the Royal-Law of Love, from Christ Jesus... set above Artaxerxes, and, Nebuchadnezer's Law and Commands..., &c., 1668.

XCVIII

GEORGE FOX to ISAAC RUSH. Swarthmoor, 8.i.1676/7.1 Dear Friend Isaac Rush

I Received thy Letter from New providence, dated ye 10th of ye 6: Month 1676: And I am glad to heare of thy preservation, & yt ye Lord has a standart in yt place for his name. There was severall Friends yt went from about London to Ashly Cooper River, above a yeare agoe. Now concerning thy publick place, doe not lay it downe, but keep to truth & righteousness, in all thy undertakings, yt thee mayst bee a blessing to ye Lord in thy generation, & yt thou may Answer ye wittness of God in all peoples.

And as for thy Coppying or Ingrossing other swearing, which thou neither putts ye Oath to ym, nor putts it upon ym to sweare; but keeps thy Testimony and there being Liberty granted without swearing, in time thou may Convince some of ym, keeping over ym in thy place: and keeping of ye Testimony of Jesus & his doctrine against swearinge. . . . And hee is able to support thee in all Conditions, and though thou art alone, yett feele him & his presence with thee, who hath all power in heaven & earth given to him, Glory over all bee to his Name for Ever: In whose name is salvation, & not by any other Name under ye whole heaven.

And so ye Lord God Almighty preserve thee & keep thee, yt thou may grow in ye grace & truth which comes from Jesus, & in ye faith, which hee is ye Author & finisher of.

And if thee would have any Bookes, thee may write to Ralfe Frettwell in Barbadoes: or write to Benjamin Clarke a stationer in George Yard in Lumbardstreet, London & have one of a sort of all Friends bookes yt comes out yearly, and keep a Correspondence with him.

So in haste because of ye post, with my Love in ye truth G.F.

Swarthmoore 8: day of ye 1st month 1676/7

[endorsed] G. F. to Isaac Rush Secretary in New Providence ye ist moth 1676/7

No. 43.F Read not thought meet to be printed.

¹ 43F in Annual catalogue, ed. Cadbury, 1939, p. 137. Not autograph.

XCIX

RALPH FRETTWELL to GEORGE FOX. [Barbados], 31.xi.1681.

Dearest Friend:

Thine I Recei[ve]d at our Quarterly Meeteing ye 10th mo: Last, Intymateing after other things: as after: vizt:

And Remember my Love to Soll: E[ccles]: & John Rous his wife & tell Sollomon & John R: that I desire all who are Ministers in yt Island, and yt have Testimonyes for ye Lord May have a Meeteing together, and yt they may bee familliar with one annother, and in Love & unity; and whatever is amisse, & past, let it bee come over, for ye Spirit of ye prophets are Subject to ye prophets. For they that Speake must bee in unity however, Else itt will distract ye hearers, and Scatter, & make partyes, which bee sure to avoyd. And keepe in unity. And if you had a Meeteing every other Second day (as it is here in London every Second day) it might doe well, and that all might take their Motions & places that they go unto, that all Meeteings might bee Supplyed and all go on in Love & unity not hurt one annother in Gods holy Mountaine and that you may bee Sure to keepe out that ill Custome of hurteing & Strife, & Contention in your meeteings or in ye Church of God &c. But if there bee any difference beetweene any Minister or others, lett itt bee Ended privately out of Meeteings; that ye peace of God may bee kept among Breitheren & in ye Love of God vou may all bee built upp: and have fellowship in ye holy Ghost. But I desire that ye Meeteing of Ministers May bee Settled before Sollomon comes over. . . .

Which advise, S.E. beeing Gon before it came, I Shewed itt unto M. Rous & John & R. Forde and Gave ym a Copie of it to Consider, that ye thing might bee Managed accordeing to thy advise in peace & Love . . . [gives a long account of difficulties stemming from the Wilkinson-Story controversy, in establishing ministers' meetings in Barbados].¹

As for my Son: Blessed be God for itt hee is now arrived,

I See William Charles Braithwaite's Second Period, 348-349, and the references given there. Henry J. Cadbury's Annual catalogue of George Fox's papers, 1939, assigns the serial number 10,56G to the letter from George Fox which is quoted at the beginning of Ralph Fretwell's account. The original letter is not known to exist and was not in the hands of the original cataloguer in 1694-98.

when I had allmost don Expecting of him, for friends in ye Cuntry was Loath to Lett him come, and Hen[ry] Jackson Stood with him in yt perticular. But uppon my Spetiall order hee Gott an honnist friend & his wife to Looke after things, whome Hen Jackson & other Friends aproved of. Itt is better with my Son yn freinds here or I expected for hee Gained Love where hee was in ye Countrye by his deportement and bore his Testimony against ye Priest of ye Parish: and understood there was a Citation out against him: and to our Relations Stood by ye Principles of truth: and in perticular that of Tyth alledgeing that of ye hebrews: Some of ym Said they did not know there had beene Soe much to bee said against itt: and Soe abated their Anger, that are conserned in receiveing of Tyth: But Smileingly Said, hee was a Great Heretick, allso when hee came Last to London hee mett with Some of his Schoolfellowes that had Given Testimonyes that were in print, in ye Litle booke who putt of their hatts, & Invited him unto ye Taverne; But hee dealt with them for ye Same: and hee is very Sensible that those that Goes from Truth are ye Worst of Men: and hath a prety Good understanding of things, better then I Expected: but I indeavour to Shew him his Shortnesse.

I perceive by him that young Folkes finde wayes to understand how Many things passe among ye Ellders in London: But these things hee speakes of to my wife &c. Hee saith hee went to Christopher Taylors, and Some other places to See thee accordeing to my order, but thou was Gon abroad into ye Countrie, and heard that thou wast at uxbridge, But itt was when ye Ship was Goeing to Saile or hee had Gon downe to Richard Richardsons to thee. Hee said Most of ye Neighbors about my howse (att Hellaby in Yorkeshire) which ye Said Richard Richardson knowes, tould Ralph if hee would Gett a Meeteing there they would come unto itt, and hee Twice Spoke to Hen Jackson: who did not Speake anything against itt, or Incouridg itt, vizt. to have there a Meeting or Two for the neighbours. I know it is a Convenient place for a Meeteing: None beeing within 3 or 4 Miles on it on any hand:

Now hee is Come, my minde Inclines More towards England: to See thee, and Settle ye affaires there, and I hope way will bee made for ye Same . . . Eliz Carter is arrived

¹ Hellaby, hamlet 5 miles East of Rotherham.

well, haveing beene abroad, in New England, Virginea, and parts adjoyneing. Shee Saith there is Greate Service for Good friends in Virginea: But they had neede to bee Good friends: Truth hath had Good dominion where they went, her Love is unto thee.

Soe with my Love unto thee, Margrett and yor whole Family; with other friends thou Sees Meete I take Leave who am:

Thy Friend in Truth accordeing to my Measure

Ra Fretwell

Month ye 11th day 31th 1681.

[address] For

G F owne hands

dd

or Convey as desired in

ye Cover.

[endorsed by G.F.] raff Fretwell

[There is no separate manuscript with this number.]

CI

MARY HAMPTON to GEORGE FOX. [Bristol, 1681] Dear George Fox

By whom my Soul hath been refreshed many a time, My Soul saluteth thee in the fear and dread of the lord at this time, the lord hath been pleased to exercise me at this time, as I lay in my bed betime in the morning very early as I waked out of my Sleep the power of the lord came upon me and made me bow under it to feel what it was for and after some hours did work mightily in me and brought me very low. This word Sprung in me mightily. Hear O King and live for Ever &c. And after that the power of the lord worked mightily in me, and A great dread was upon me, and I rose, and the dread and power worked in me all the day after, and followed me all the day . . . [recounts her unwillingness to write to the King and her dread of "the lord's anger" if she does not].

After this I waited to feel what I might do, and it was with me to acquaint Laurence Steel with it and Richard Sneade, That they might Convey them to thee, and A Coppy of it helped forward by thee as in the truth thou shalt feel the

service thereof. I could not be at ease till I sent them to thee for I felt the lords anger against me, because of the delaying of it, and that if I did not send it my life must go for it, but I am better setisfied since my Friends undertook to send it to thee. So in the truth I am thy Loving Friend

Mary Hampton¹

The words that lay upon me to send are as follows—

Hear O King and live for ever, for the lord requires it of thee that thou wilt take this great oppression that is put upon the tender Consciences of his tender people, that thou mayest live for ever, Therefore be faithful O King to the requiring of the great God of heaven and Earth that thou mayest live for ever for they cannott bow to every Order or requiring of men, that is contrary to the mind of God for Conscience sake, for the lord God that formed the Mountains and Created the Windes and gave to Man his breath requires this of thee, O King, that thy Soul may rest in peace with God when time shall be no more.

CII

LAURENCE STEEL to GEORGE FOX. [Bristol, 1681] Dear G.F.

With dear love to thee, as also the Love of faithfull friends. . . .

So with dear love, bei[torn] to write by reason of pain & weaknes in my head.

I am thy Loving Friend,

L. St[torn].

This letter is in print, Journal F.H.S., xxv (1928), 16-17. It gives Bristol Friends' news and encloses Mary Hampton's letter, the preceding item, only for the sake of her peace of mind.

¹ Mary Hampton, an active woman Friend of Bristol, imprisoned during 1664-65 and 1682-83; widow, aged 68, in 1682. Besse: Sufferings, 1753, I. 68; Relation of the Inhumane and Barbarous Sufferings . . . in . . . Bristoll, 1665; Farther Account . . . of the Cruel Persecution . . . in Bristol, 1682, 3. Her signature in Dix MS. E.10 (at Friends House).

CIII

WILLIAM EDMONDSON to GEORGE FOX.

Dublin ve 12 of 9 mo. 87.

dear G F

I received thy letter of tender admonetion which is allways welcom to me, but I am sory for those trubls in Barbados which thou mentions in thine, & I had a ful account of it from thence. & as touching yt mony they charge on R.f[retwell?], he cleared him selfe of it at a 6 weeks meting when I was ther, but ther is a party yt hath a life in contencions & devisions, but was all quiet when I came from thence.

And dear G: as touching things heer, som tims wee mete with exersises with some perticlers yt feers not ranks our gospel order under our heavenly spiretual capten, but it is over & blesed be ye Lord, Truth is over al, & frinds is in pease & quiatnesse one with another, & truth is in good credit both with rulers & people & great opennesse in many plases & many frequants our metings. & I thenk things amongst frinds in this nation in ye general is as wel as in any plase yt I know & hath bene presarved out of jumb[l]es & deferensis more then in some other plases to our cumfort for which we have cause to bles ye lord.

This day ended our half yeers meeting & ye lord apered gloryusly amongst us to our great cumfort & refreshment & a godly cayer fel resting upon ye elders for ye probigation of truth & presarvation of frinds out of all such things as gives occation against it, & ye lords goodnesse plentiusly with us: & truths businesse caryed on in great unity concord & love; to our great setisfaction.

Wee have several of us several tims upon several occations bene with ye lord debity¹ & chansler² & others chefe in government & they are redy to heer us: who is very [kind]³ but espishely lord chefe justes newgnte⁴ who is redy to doe anything he can for us. Several frinds in dublin, Cork, cashell & limbrick is maid Aldermen & in corperations some maid

² Chancellor of Ireland, Sir Alexander Fitton (a Catholic convert), d. 1698. D.N.B.

¹ Lord Deputy of Ireland, Richard Talbot, Earl (later titular Duke) of Tyrconnel, 1630-1691. Dictionary of National Biography.

³ Torn.

⁴ Lord Chief Justice Nugent, d. 1715, was created (titular) Lord Riverston, in the Irish peerage by James II in 1689. D.N.B.

burgesis. Soe such is like to meet with tryels in ther plases & I wish ye truth sufer not in yt case. My deer & true love is to ye in ye everlasting unchangable truth wher I have bene presarved through many exercises & in which I remaine

William Edmondson¹

[address]

To George Fox Att
William Meads
Linnen Draper Att
the ship in Fenchurch
street

London

[endorsed]

Wm Edmunsons Letter of passidges to G.F. from Ireland ye 12th 9th mo 87

To be Read in ye 2d Dayes Meeting

read 12. 10m. 87

CIV

FRANCIS HOWGILL to GEORGE FOX. Appleby, [1664] Most Dear

G.F. whome I dearly love & ever have done since I knew the & I beleive shall doe for ever: I am very well blessed be god & in perffecte peace & Joy in the lord & Indeed: changable things are under my Feete: blesed be the lord for ever. Thy letter I received with gladnesse & thine I sent to oule Martin, he was hear & stayd one night, they be very mad & Creuall att this Strickland head. power harts they suffer much. divers is brought to the house of Corection agayne.

My wiffe was heare as she Came From New-Castell & stayed with me, she is much Down & Loving & tender towards me now, for which I give the lord thankes. Litle more butt my Intire love to all Freinds to M:F: more especially dearly Farwell.

F.H.

Appelby the: 16 of this month

George Fox's reply, dealing inter alia with the Friends who had taken offices in corporations, is listed, 6,57H (28.ix.1687) in Henry J. Cadbury's Annual catalogue of George Fox's papers, 1939, p. 193. It is printed on pp. 142-143 of the 1800, 2nd edition, of Rutty's History.

[address]

Thes For G.F.

[endorsed by G.F.]

F h to gF 1664

[in another hand]

Private

Letters &c.

CV

MARGARET FOX to LORD ANCRAM

31.xi.1684/5.

[rough draft]

Lord Ancram

I am very much engaged to thee for thy Christian kindness to me who am a Sufferer for ye Lord of heavens Sake . . .

I believe yt ye Lord will rewarde thee many fold into thy own bosome such a Christian act of Charity, &c.

From her yt desires thy happiness in this world & that which is to come

Margret Fox

Printed in Isabel Ross: Margaret Fell, 1949, p. 401.

Charles Kerr, 2nd Earl of Ancram (Scottish peerage), d. 1690, came of a staunch royalist family. He was five times M.P. for Wigan.

Recent Publications

The Conception of the Inner Light in Robert Barclay's Theology. (No. 5 of Studia Theologica Lundensia). By Leif Eeg-Olofsson. Lund, C. W. K. Gleerup, 1954. pp. 258. 20 Kr.

Although Dr. Alexander Gordon's estimate of Robert Barclay, almost eighty years ago, as "Scotland's one great original theologian" may well be thought to-day to be too enthusiastic, it is still true that less than justice has so far been done to Robert Barclay's significance in the history of Protestant religious thought; for it was upon Barclay that, to quote Alexander Gordon again, there fell the main burden of responsibility for "deciphering the meaning and recommending the life of the Quaker movement, that it might benefit those to whom Fox was a mystery and Quakerism a madness."

In this important study, Dr. Eeg-Olofsson, who spent a term at Woodbrooke in 1931 and again in 1946, examines the influence of Barclay's central doctrine of inward and immediate revelation upon his treatment of man's knowledge of God, Justification, Perfection