

A Cotemporary Account of the East Illness and Death of George Fox never before published.

To the courtesy of Miss Sophia Felicité de Rodes, of Barlborough Hall (eight miles from Chesterfield), we are indebted for the transcript of part of an unique letter in her possession.

Miss de Rodes is the present representative of Sir Francis Rodes, the third baronet, and Dame Martha (*née* Thornton) his wife, and their son Sir John Rodes, the last baronet, of Barlborough, who died unmarried in 1743.

Those acquainted with that most valuable folio, the *Journal of the Life of Thomas Story*, will remember his several visits to Sir John and to his mother, and the interesting accounts he gives ¹ of the worthy baronet's consistent walk as a member of our Society, to which his mother also belonged.

Miss de Rodes has inherited a considerable portion of Sir John's Quaker correspondence, including letters of William Penn, John Gratton, Francis Stamper, and others, and we may particularly allude to those of Henry Gouldney, of White Hart Court, "Gracious Street," who was Sir John's most intimate and special friend. Singularly no letters of Thomas Story remain.

We are glad to learn that the whole of the Quaker correspondence is being arranged, and may eventually be printed.

Henry Gouldney was the Friend, as all readers of George Fox's *Journal* will remember, at whose house the founder of our Society, after all the memorable and stormy events of his noble life, laid down his head in peace.

In *George Fox his Journal*, the editor, Thomas Ellwood, tells us ² of the glorious end of this faithful servant of Christ. He relates that he wrote an epistle to Friends in Ireland, dated London, 10th of the 11th month, 1690 (*i.e.*, 10 January, 1690/1), and the very next day, after he had both preached and prayed at Gracious Street meeting, "with great power and clearness," he went to Henry Gouldney's in White Hart

¹ See pp. 90, 100, 465, 584, 649, 677, 684, 737. On each occasion Story gives him his title, either as "Sir John Rhodes," or "Sir John Rhodes, Baronet."

² See First Edition (1694), pp. 613, 614.

Court, telling Friends accompanying him thither that he felt the cold strike to his heart, as he came out of the meeting ; yet he added, "I am glad I was here," closing with those memorable words, a fitting ending to a well-spent life, "Now I am clear, I am fully clear."

From this time George Fox's strength rapidly decayed, till the ensuing Third day evening, when he died. The following letter to Sir John Rodes from Henry Gouldney is dated 15th of the 11 mo., 1690, only two days after the death, and the day before the funeral of George Fox.

Although there is not much that Ellwood's account does not tell us, this letter cannot fail to be read with the deepest interest, as indited by one so directly associated with George Fox's last hours.

One fact at least we learn, *viz.*, that George Fox had come to Henry Gouldney's on the Seventh day night previous to his death, and was not then well. The letter generally corroborates Ellwood's account and William Penn's letter to Margaret Fox, dated the day of George Fox's death, which is given in *The Fells of Swarthmoor Hall*.³

We now append an exact transcript :—

. . . I have now a matter of greife to acquainte thee with, I call it so, because 'twill bring an exercise upon ye whole Church of God ; 'tis no less then ye Loss of our Dear and Honorable ffriend and eminent ffather G. ffox. he came to my house last 7th day night not very well ; his concerne was to be at meeting with us ye next day, and was thare and was largely carried forth, and spoake hartly to some as he came out betwixt ye meeting and our house ; he felt ye cold to seize him inwardly yet seem'd Indifferent well towards night, yⁿ he was taken very ill and so continued till last 3d night near 10th hour and yⁿ quietly depart'd without any groan or strugling ; many ffrds came to vissit him, but for ye most part 'twas hard for him to speake and not easily understood, but severall times said ye Lord's Power was Over all, and he had a concerne in his illness for ye universall good of ffriends in all parts and Countreys.

'Tis indeed comfortable to behold ye Concerne ffriends are generally in, for his absence from us, and how ye antient ffriends mourns like little Children wⁿ in y^t waight of ye sence of his service and Apostleship among them, w^{ch} desiers y^t ye Lord would make up his loss, by largely powering fforth of his spirit upon such as are yet behinde.

³ See pp. 362, 363.

Indeed he was a Worthy Champion in his day and lived to see a large increase of y^e spreading of y^t Gospell y^t in these latter days was ffirst plentifully mannifested to and yⁿ faithfully declared by him.

But now he is gon and at rest from his labours and has y^e reward of Joy and Comfort for his suffering and exercises here.

The above valuable account certainly impresses one more perhaps than previously realised, how great was the loss to the Quaker Church, and how intense was the grief of Friends generally at their founder's death.

JOSEPH J. GREEN.

Daniel Quare.

A correspondent, J. Pim Strangman, sends the following extract from the trade circular of Dorey Lester and Co. :—
“The invention of the Repeater is ascribed to the Rev. Edward Barlowe in 1676, and it is claimed that the first Repeating Watch was made by Daniel Quare, about the year 1680, and it is said to have been presented by Charles II. to Louis XIV.”

In 1680, Quare had been for some years established as a clock maker, as he was admitted a brother of the Clock-makers' Company in 1671, though only twenty-three years of age; and in 1676, at the time of his marriage with Mary Steevens, he was described as “clock maker” of “Martins-le-Grand, in the liberty of Westminster.”

Pope refers to the repeating watches in *The Rape of the Lock*, circa 1712, in the line :

“And the pressed watch returned a silver sound.”

Daniel Quare left to his wife by will, *inter alia*, “the two gold watches she usually wears, one of them being a repeater, and the other a plain watch.”

For fuller particulars respecting Daniel Quare as clock maker and as Friend, see an article in the *Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, First Month, 1900. Any details respecting him not there recorded will be gladly welcomed.

ISAAC SHARP.