

Abstract of the Journal of Edmund Peckover's Travels in North America and Barbados.

At a Yearly Meeting in London, beginning the 3rd Day of the Fourth Month, 1745.

Our Dear and well Esteemed Friends, Samuel Hopwood, of Cornwall, John Haslam, of Yorkshire, Edmund Peckover, of Norfolk, Christopher Wilson, of Cumberland, and Eleazer Sheldon, of Dublin, being thro' the merciful Providence of Almighty God Returned Safe from their Visit to Friends in America, gave this Meeting a very Comfortable and Satisfactory Verbal account of their said Visit, as the following in Writing.¹

After we Landed at New York, which was on the 16th day of the 7th month, 1742, we hasted directly for the Yearly Meeting at Burlington. Got there just as the Yearly Meeting of Ministers was beginning ; Friends were glad to See us, and

¹ London Yearly Meeting Minutes, vol. ix., pp. 322-339. Samuel Hopwood's travels also appear on the Minutes. The handwriting is that of Benjamin Bourne, clerk to the Society, 1737 to 1757 (with an interval).

Edmund Peckover, son of Joseph and Katherine Peckover, of Fakenham, Norfolk, was born in 1695. He was the grandson and namesake of the first Peckover who joined Friends, whose discharge from the Parliamentarian army, dated 1655, is in the possession of Alexander Peckover, of Wisbech, a direct descendant of the ex-soldier. (See Firth's *Cromwell Army*, 1902.)

Blessed with parents "of eminent Worth and Estimation," the youthful Edmund early exhibited signs of a religious life, and either when at Gilbert Thompson's school at Penketh, or shortly after, he first appeared in the ministry.

In the exercise of his gift he travelled extensively. When eighteen years of age he accompanied Edward Upsher, of Colchester, through many English counties ; and two years later, with George Gibson, he visited Ireland and Scotland.

In 1742, at the age of forty-seven years, he set out for America, accompanied by John Haslam, of Handsworth Woodhouse, and by Michael Lightfoot, who was returning to Philadelphia. In a *Testimony from Wells Monthly Meeting in Norfolk concerning him*, it is stated that "his delivery was manly and distinct, his Doctrine sound and flowing, and his Spirit lively and powerful. He appeared at times as a Cloud filled with celestial Rain, to the Reviving and Refreshment of the living Heritage of God . . . He usually deliver'd himself with great Fervency, and often in the flowing forth of Divine Love upon his Spirit, he was raised to sing the Song of Sion in a melodious Manner." (See D., MS. *Testimonies*, ii. 301.)

The last three years of his life were spent in partial retirement from public work, owing to a paralytic stroke. He died at Wells on the 19th

there we had the Opportunity of Seeing our dear & worthy friends, who afterwards died in Tortola, *vizt.*, John Cadwalader & John Estaugh²; and also saw dear Robert Jordan,³ which was but about fourteen Days before his Death. (I have heard since I came into England that his Widow, since I left Philadelphia, has appeared in publick Testimony; he left two Children, a Son and a Daughter.)

After the above mentioned Meeting, the Latter End of the Seventh Month, I went pretty direct for Choptank Yearly Meeting in Maryland. (John Haslam, not being well, stayd at John Estaugh's and Spent the Winter in & about Pennsylvania.) There are a great many worthy friends in these Parts deceased of late Years; many of their Offspring come very far short of them, and very few who keep up even the Outward Appearance. There is great comings in of all sorts of People to those Meetings, and a good Visitation hangs over their heads. I Pray God they may Lay hold of It before it passeth away from them.

of 7th month, 1767, aged about seventy-two, and was buried at Fakenham. He left no male issue. Several letters written by him during his American journey are in the possession of Alexander Peckover,

Edmund Peckover, of Chalton, in Northamptonshire.

Edmund Peckover
b. 15. ii. 1613
m. Mary —
d.

Joseph Peckover
b. 3. ii. 1658, at Fakenham.
m. 23. xii. 1685, at Norwich, Katherine Long.
d. 27. viii. 1726, at Fakenham.

Edmund Peckover
b. 15. i. 1695/6, at Fakenham.
m. 7. viii. 1717, at Hull, Hannah Maria Haggitt.
m. 5. xii. 1733/4, at Colchester, Sarah Bangs.
m. 2. ii. 1762, at Norwich, Grace Wright.
d. 19. vii. 1767, at Wells.

² John Estaugh and John Cadwalader arrived in Tortola from Philadelphia on the 8th of the 9th month, 1742. The latter died there on the 26th of the same month and the former on the 6th of the following month. For references to Friends in Tortola, see *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 62 (1889), p. 250, vol. 76 (1903), p. 249, by George Vaux, and *Friends' Intelligencer and Journal*, vol. 48 (1891), p. 250, by Charles F. Jenkins; and for a view of the graves of the above Friends, see *Friends' Intelligencer*, vol. 60 (1903), p. 419, reproduced in *Thomas Chalkley*, "Friends Ancient and Modern" Series, London, 1904.

³ Robert Jordan, of Philadelphia, died on the 5th of the 8th month, 1742. He travelled extensively in America and the British Isles.

From thence I went to Kent Island, and so Crossed Chesapeak Bay to Anopolis,⁴ in Maryland, and so on the Western Shore to West River, Herring Creek, Potuxant,⁵ and the Clifts. There are very few of the Antients remaining, Peter Sharp, & the Galloways, and the Johns's, and Harris⁶ being gon, that is, the old People of these Familys, and which I have understood were the Principals of those Meetings. Some few of their Offspring come now and then to Meetings, but have quite lost the Mark, both in Appearance & Conversation, and but very few that can be known to belong to the Society, are, I think, in common as Gaudy & fine in their Apparel, &c., as any who go under our name either at London or Bristol. Things are but at a Low Ebb in these Parts.

From thence we Crossed Maryland and so over Potomack River to Virginia. I had a young man for my companion, who came from Tortola, and he grew bravely in his Ministry. (He return'd to said Island in Third Month, 1743.) We went to William Duffs, there is a Small Meeting House near where he lives. It was very full of other People. I don't remember that there are three in Number in that Place who make Profession with us. Then Proceeded in Virginia to a Meeting in Caroline County, Crossing Rappahanock Ferry, which hath been Settled but about Eight or Ten Years, I think, much about the Time that John Fothergill & Joseph Gill were there ; They had both of them pretty great Service in those Parts. There is a Meeting House Built, and a pretty company of Friends live in about four or five miles round it, perhaps about forty or fifty in Number. It goes By the name of Caroline Meeting ; a good Visitation has been and still is Extended to the Inhabitants of those Parts, and many have joined in therewith. From thence we went to Cedar Creek, where is still a Meeting kept, tho' but Small, I am ready to think much declined to what it was Some Years ago.

Then went to the Swamp Meeting, where the Johnson's live, 'tis a very small Meeting. So to Black Creek and Curles, at both which places are Meetings, that at Black Creek pretty

⁴ Annapolis.

⁵ Patuxent.

⁶ George Vaux, of Philadelphia, who has seen the proof of this article, suggests that this name should be Harrison. He writes : " This was an old Friends' family in that Section, and my children are descended from a member of it who removed to Pennsylvania in 1719."

Large as also at Wineoak. So continued thro' ye country to Surry, where Samuel Sabriel lives, where is also a Meeting, but not very large; then to Pagan Creek in the Isle of Wight, and the Western Branch, where we were at a very Large & Good Quarterly Meeting. So to Nancemund, where the Jordans live, there are three now living, or were when I was there, and a Sister; Their names are Edmund, Samuel, & Pleasants Jordan, their Sister's Name is Elizabeth Pleasants. She is a Widow, has a publick Testimony, as also her brother Samuel. I believe the Meetings there are much about the bigness as some Years ago. They have Several Ministers among them, and I hope are Growing in the Best Sense.

From thence into North Carolina. (Was not at Cape Fear, nor in South Carolina.) I think there are five Meeting Houses in North Carolina, in the Compass of about thirty Miles, pretty much in a direct Line; there are many solid, weighty, good friends; Their Meetings large in a general Way. They have one Meeting House, called the Old Neck or Perquimans⁷ Meeting House, is a very large one, about fifty feet square and Several Galleries, where their Yearly Meeting is kept. I suppose may be Six or Seven hundred in Number who Profess to go no where else but to Meetings, in the Compass of the forementioned number of Miles. A plain, honest people they Seem to be. We had very good satisfaction amongst them. They had, I think, about Nine or Ten publick friends, and I have heard some more since have appeared.

We turned back to Nancemund, and had a very Large Meeting at a Place called Chucketuck; so to Blackwater, and Notaway, where Robert Dix Lives, and then to Robert & Wyke Honnicuts at Burley and Warwick. But very few friends that Way. We then turn'd back to Surry Meeting again, and had a very Large parting Meeting with the friends in those Parts. Then to Hog Island, and crossed, I think, York River about four miles over to Williamsburgh, had no Meeting there, But had one at the Widow of James Bates, whose husband was a Publick friend, whom I had Seen in Ireland about twenty years ago.

Then returned back to Wineoak, Curles, Black Creek, and the Swamp, and had Meetings with them, & we were glad to See one another again; I have reason to think they were of good Service. Then went into Goochland (which is

⁷ Perquimans.

a County Named & also settled but of Late), had a Meeting in their Court or County house. There is also a Small Settlement of Friends belong to a Meeting called Genitee. Then returned again to Cedar Creek and Caroline Meeting, So to the North East part of Virginia, which have not been settled above Ten or Twelve years at most. It lies about 120 miles from said Caroline Meeting. One night, as we went, we layd out in the Woods, there are no Friends on the Road, Two very honest friends bore us Company. We got in two Days and an half amongst friends in the Back Settlements. The Place is called Opecken or Shaunodore⁸ River, where many families have Removed from Pennsylvania, and they have two pretty good Meeting Houses. Abundance of people often come in besides friends, and it Looks as tho' things went on pretty well amongst them. They have five or Six publick friends. I think it has not been Settled above Ten or Twelve Years at most. I believe they must enlarge their Meeting Houses ; they are about Sixteen Miles apart, One is called Hopewell Meeting, the other Providence or Beestons Meeting. We had two meetings out of Doors with them, and had, I hope, good Service. Then set forwards towards Pennsylvania ; in the way is another Settlement of Friends not far from the Falls of Potomack, where is a pretty many new Comers, and They have got a Meeting House, It goes by the Name of Amos Jenny's⁹ Meeting, said Friend living there and of Great Service. Then Crossed a Small Branch of Potomack, where is another newish Settlement of Friends, called Monokosee.¹⁰ They have a largish Meeting, two or three Publick friends living among them, I hope are in a thriving Condition in the Truth.

My Companion and I parted now ; He in Company of a Friend went into Maryland, and my Self with another Friend went still visiting the Back Settlers on Susquehanah River, where I found, in about thirty miles Riding, more than an Hundred who go to Meetings, and this was the most general visit they had had since they settled there. It may be observed that but very few of these Back Settlers (who in a general way removed from Pennsylvania), from Opecken all along to Susquehanah, were not of much note amongst Friends, But since their Leaving that Province, They seem,

⁸ Shenandoah,

⁹ Janney.

¹⁰ Monocacy,

as I apprehend, more near to a Growth in the best Sense, and I hope the Lord will Bless them every Way.

Then Crossing the Ferry over Susquehanah, I got into Lancaster County in the Province of Pennsylvania. Several Friends from Ireland inhabit there, and there are three or four Meetings in this County, tho' Friends are but thin here to what they are in other parts of the Province. Many Dutch Live in their Neighbourhood, a sober People, many of them were at Meetings when I was there, and had good Service amongst them. Then I Rode pretty direct to Philadelphia, Got there the beginning of the Eleventh Month, was but about three months in going the above mentioned Round, in which time I travelled fourteen hundred miles, and had many meetings.

After staying about two or three Days at Philadelphia, went over Delaware and Visited the Jerseys, *vizt.*, Haddonfield, where worthy John Estaugh lived. Then to Cape May, the Two Egg harbours, which are called Great Egg harbour, and Little Egg harbour, These last places by the Capes of Delaware on the Jersey side ; and a fine Sprinkling of Friends there is in those Parts. Then more into the Jerseys, to the two Springfields, Mansfield, Crosswicks, Mount holly, Adam's Meeting and Evans's Meeting ; so back to Haddonfield and to Philadelphia again, being about a Month absent. Very large meetings in all those Places, abundance of Friends being Settled there ; and I think there are no other Publick places of Worship, but Friends Meeting Houses ; so that almost all the Country Round Flock to them, and I make no doubt but was of Particular Service to many. After staying two or three days in the City, then visited Chester County, *vizt.*, Merion,¹¹ Concord, Birmingham, Bradford, Kennet, Center, Okeson,¹² New Garden, London Grove ; at these two Last mentioned Places They have built two very large Meeting Houses, not quite finished when I came away. So to the two Nottinghams, And then went to Bush River, Gunpowder, Potapscoe, and Deer Creek, had good meetings amongst them, and a fine visitation is over them, and in that part of Maryland things look very promising. Went into Lancaster County again, and then came into Chester County to Goshen, and so to Philadelphia Half Year's Meeting in the Spring, where was

¹¹ Merion.

¹² Hockisson, in Delaware.

a very Large appearance of Friends of that Province & from the Jerseys, The Lord's Living power & presence owning us in a very good Degree.

Then staying about a Week, went into the three Lower Counties, *vizt.*, Newcastle, Kent, and Surry.¹³ There are not many Meetings, and Lay great Distance from each other; in a general way friends are very weak and feeble in these Parts, tho' there [are] a few solid and weighty, good Folks, whom I hope the Lord will preserve to the end of their Days in a Steady Dependance upon him. Then went to a Yearly Meeting at a Place called Newtown, or Chester Town, in Maryland, which was exceedingly large, most of the Top People for many miles round were there. One day we were forced to be out of Doors; I hope it was of Good Service, many liking to hear the doctrine of Truth, and some have of late there away joined therewith and seem very hopeful. Then came back into the Lower Countys, and Crossed a Ferry over Delaware near George's Creek (at this place is a Small Meeting of Friends, I had two there, and a good Visitation is extended to the inhabitants thereabouts), about four miles over, & Landed in the Jerseys at Salem. 'Twas then their Yearly Meeting, which I think is always the last First Day in the Second Month, a great Body of Friends Live thereaways, and was exceedingly Large and full, and good meetings. I believe their Meeting House will hold fifteen Hundred People or More.

Then went to Pilesgrove and Woodberry Creek, & returned again to Philadelphia, to their Quarterly Meeting in the Third Month; where staying a few days, I went again into Chester County, to the Meetings of Haverford, Springfield, Providence, Newtown, Middletown, Chichester, Concord, Newark, Wilmington, Newcastle, and returned again to Philadelphia. And then Visited North Wales, the Great Swamp, Plumsted, Buckingham, Wrights-town, Abington, Horsham, Bibery,¹⁴ Shammony,¹⁵ Bristoll, the Falls Meeting, and so to Burlington, and Return'd again to Philadelphia, to the Burial of John Oxley, who had been arrived there but about twelve Days from Barbados, and then departed this Life. I went from & to Burlington in One Day in Exceeding hot weather, being pinched for Time to get to

¹³ Now State of Delaware.

¹⁴ Byberry.

¹⁵ Neshaminy.

Flushing Yearly Meeting on Long Island, which thro' hard traveling did accomplish. It begins, I think, always the last First Day in Third Month. Friends have an Exceeding Large Meeting House there, I think about fifty five feet Square, will hold abundance of People. It was very Large then, the top sort of People for many miles round the Country being there, and for a considerable time Seemed very restless and uneasy, coming in and going out by great Numbers at a time, which brought great Trouble and Exercise on the Solid part of friends; however thro' the Lord's great Goodness his Divine power broke in upon the meetings, and over shadowed them in a wonderful manner, and all ended to his honour, and, I believe, great Edification and Comfort of those present. I Lodged at old Samuel Bowne's, had a Companion with me now all the way through New England.

After the meeting was over at Flushing, went over the Ferry, upon the Main,¹⁶ and proceeded directly for Newport on Rhode Island, Their Yearly Meeting for all New England beginning the 10th of 4th Month at said Place. We traveled about Two hundred Miles thro' Connecticut Government. There are not any Friends, Lodged at Inns all the way. People are much more Civil and Kind to friends than formerly. We had no meetings amongst them, Tho' I think there are two Meetings settled in the Back parts of it, the Places names are Oblong and New Melford.¹⁷ I understand of late years there has been a pretty large Convincement that Way, and some friends have removed from New England to them, and I heard a pretty good account of them. Neither John Haslam nor myself was at them, being far Remote, and would have hindred reaching Philadelphia in the Seventh Month in time for their Yearly Meeting.

We got to Newport in time for their Meetg, said J. H. was there also. It was judged there could not be less than Five Thousand Persons at it; A most Solemn, Weighty, Awful Time it was, I never was at so large a Meeting before, nor never Expect to be at the like again. Friends said, had not remembered the like. It was of very great Service; People for One Hundred & fifty Miles to the Eastward came to it. The House is Eighty four feet Long, and near fifty wide, and two Teers of Galleries, one above another,

¹⁶ *i.e.* mainland.

¹⁷ New Milford.

which I Suppose will hold Sixteen or Eighteen hundred Persons. Samuel & Moses Aldridge were both there, and Old Nathl Starbuck from Nantucket. From thence my Companion & I went to Greenwich, Warwick, Providence, Smithfield, Wansocket,¹⁸ and Mendham.¹⁹ (Here Moses Aldridge lives, I lodged at his house one night.) Then went back into a very desolate sort of a Country, where a few friends are settled, to a Place called Leicester. (Many of those People called New Lights, Methodists, or Schemers, for they go by all these Appellations, and those which Whitfield, &c., have had great Prevalence upon, are Settled very much up & down in these Parts, and were very often at our Meetings.) Then we turned to the Eastward, and so to Boston, where is a very poor handful of Friends. I don't think in all there are above thirty in Number, and they have been almost torn in pieces by Ill will and heart burnings, &c., which I understand have mightily abounded amongst 'em, & they seem almost a shattered People; yet I am told things are better amongst them than for some time past. It was a distressing time to me whilst I was there, and I thought I felt the old, dark, rigid, Persecuting Spirit yet alive. We were glad to turn our Backs on said Place.

We went thence to Lyn; Zacheus Collins and his Wife both Living, and, I think, the most substantial Friends in all that corner. Then to Newberry,²⁰ Amberry,²¹ Hampton, Dover, and Ketachee, which place is commonly the most East that friends have Visited; But we went about Seventy miles further by the Seaside, to a Place called Gascoe Bay;²² where are a few friends settled; and they have got a Meeting both First Days and Week-days. I believe there are not fewer than Thirty who come pretty constantly to Meetings, and, I think, have three or four who appear in publick Testimony amongst them; They are but Low in the World, Seem pretty honest and well-minded; I hope the Lord will Bless them and add to their Number. I am much Concerned for friends in all these Parts, because of the French War; they dreaded it Exceedingly, the Indians used to

¹⁸ Woonsocket.

¹⁹ Mendon.

²⁰ Newburyport.

²¹ Amesbury.

²² Casco Bay.

come down and harass them very much, and I fear will do it again, many of whom in that Part of the World being in League with the French.

We returned back to Ketechee and Dover, where we had two exceeding Large meetings, a fine Body of Friends living thereabouts. They were of particular Service, and I doubt not but several were those days Convinced of the Blessed Truth. Another great meeting near Piscatoway at a Place called Bloody point, which is a ferry we Cross to go to Dover from Hampton, and a friendly Person desired it at his house. But the Concours was so large that no House thereabout could contain them, had it in an Orchard; 'twas a memorable Time and I believe of Good Service. Our ancient friend, Lydia Norton, still alive, tho' has had some very sharp Pareletyck ffitts, which have taken away almost the use of one side, and almost deprived her of her understanding, but I think at times she is alive in the best sense.

We Returned Back to Hampton Quarterly Meeting, But had a meeting by the Way at one Joseph Hoegs,²³ who lives at a Place called Stratten; he is a publick friend. Many of those Schemers were at it, and after it Ended, came into said friend's house and filled his room, and there we had a Sort of a Dispute, They insisting that the Love of God to Mankind, &c., was not universal, and that Christ did not dye for every Man, &c.; And that when once a State of Conversion is attained to, There can be no falling away from it. Such sort of Stuff as this They Harangued upon; I was kept in a Still, quiet frame of Mind, and had it turned to the Lord, Who was pleased to enable me to withstand them and their Doctrine. They soon differ'd among themselves, and went away in a sort of a Quarrel with each other. They seem'd to me a very empty, Confused People, and have much Opinion of themselves. I hope Truth got Place in the hearts of the People, and I believe our being there was of Service.

So to Hampton Quarterly Meeting, where was a very great appearance of Friends and others from these Eastern parts of New England. They have some turbulent spirits amongst them, But there are a wise, Steady People, who dwell near the Truth, and I hope will get above that Spirit which would bring in Confusion, &c.

²³ Hoag.

Then went to Amberry and Newberry, was not at Haveril, where there is a Meeting kept sometimes. I saw the friend, the Widow Peasley, Daughter of the Ancient Couple, *vizt.*, Stephen Sawyer & his wife, of Newberry, who were both very weak and infirm when I was there. I lodged one night at their house, had a meeting in said town, there are several families of friends thereabout; They were building a Small Meeting House near to friend Sawyer's house, but then wanted a good deal of being finished. We had one in a Person's house who is not called a Quaker, and very large it was, abundance of the above mentioned Schemers, &c., were there, and after I was sat down, & had spoken what was upon my Mind, one of their ministers got upon a Bench, and said, He wanted to ask me two or three Questions. He was told the meeting was not over, and the Person who owned the House informed him, he would not suffer him to make a Disturbance under his Roof. So after meeting, He and, I believe, upwards of forty more with him, came to a Friend's house where we were, and there he began, and his Company, much in the same manner as at the above mentioned Place. They were soon pinched for want of real matter and sound Argument, and did not stay above half-an-hour before they went away from Us. We then went to Ipswich; only two who go under our Name live there, & one is about Removing. We got a large meeting in their Court house. We were informed their minister, the night before, appointed a Lecture on purpose to Persuade the People not to go to meeting, but he missed his Aim. We had a very large, solid, and good Meeting, and, I believe, of no Small Service.

Thence to Salem and Lyn, which are two pretty considerable Meetings, I suppose, much as have been for some years past. We also got a meeting at Marble head, where lives but one frd. We had it in the Court house, which was exceedingly Crowded; the top People of the Town were there, and seemed much Affected, and I believe was to general satisfaction. Then Returned to Lyn and Boston again, where we got a much better meeting than before; many of their great People were at it, and behaved pretty well; when we were there before, they were very Rude and disturbing. Benja Bagnall & his Wife both living. We lodged at Elijah Collins, Brother to Zacheus, of Lyn aforesaid. Then went to Pembroke and Scituate, where is a small Meeting of friends. So to Plymouth; no friends

live here, But we got a very large meeting among the Town's People, much to our Satisfaction. So to Sandwich, Yarmouth or Basspond, and Falmouth or Succonesset; here our Friend, Eliphal Harper, did Live, but she Removed about two Years since to her son's in Pennsylvania, where I saw her. Her husband died in about twelve months after she arrived from England. Friends are very thinly planted in these parts. Meetings very small of themselves, and there are too much of differences amongst them, &c. which always, wherever they happen, hinder the Growth of Truth.

Then went to Sippikan or Rochester, so to Cushnet²⁴ and Ponyganset,²⁵ where lives a very ancient Couple, *vizt.*, John Tucker and wife, he about 88, She about 82 years. He was so hearty & of such an healthful Constitution, that he went up & down to Several Meetings with us. Then we took Shipping for the Island of Nantucket, being about twenty Leagues from the above Place. We were four days and nights upon the Water, in no Storm, but calm weather and contrary winds; it is often gone in twelve or fourteen hours. Staid three days on said Island, where is a very large body of Friends; I think their Meeting House will not hold less than fifteen hundred Persons, and it was very full when we were there. We had very good Satisfaction in our Visit amongst them. Old N Starbuck & Wife, and Jethro & his wife, I think, were both of them living; I was at their houses. A brave, weighty, Solid People is among them, and they seem to Live pretty much in Love and Unity together. The far greatest Part of the Inhabitants of the Island profess to come to Meetings; I think there are about three hundred families in all upon it, and about two hundred and fifty of them are frequenters of our Meetings; They have Seven or Eight Publick friends. Had the Largest fishing season last Year that was ever known of Catching Sperma Ceti Whales; I was told the Island had then cleared for that Season about £20,000 Sterling.

We returned back to Ponyganset²⁵ again (having a much shorter passage than when we went), whereabouts are abundance of friends Settled. formerly the Meeting there went by the Name of Dartmouth, But there are three

²⁴ Acushnet.

²⁵ Apponogansett.

Meetings now in that same Township, *vizt.*, Cushnet, Ponyganset, and Cokeset, all very large Meetings, and many good Friends Live thereabouts. We then went to Sekonnett, Tiverton, and Swansey; So to Portsmouth, & Newport, Connanicut Island and to South Kingston, having very large & good meetings, all Places much thronged; Friends glad of our Visit; I hope it was of Particular Service to many, the Lord by his living, Divine Presence owning our Assemblies, and Suitably prepared for the Work & Service he was pleased to require. I never knew greater times of Poverty and Emptiness, &c., Yet I believe all had a very good tendency, and I doubt not but many received Comfort & Satisfaction.

Then we returned through Connecticut Government to Long Island. In our way had three Meetings amongst friends at Ryewoods . . .²⁶ and West Chester; there are not very many friends in those Places, but Keep up the three last mentioned, and I suppose are much the same in bigness as formerly. Then crossed the Ferry to Flushing, Cowneck, Methenecock, Oyster Bay, & Westbury, to their Quarterly Meeting there, at which were very large numbers of friends and others. So to Jericho, Bethpage, Hempsted, Jamaica,²⁷ where no friends live. (Here Samuel Bownas was Prisoner.) I had a very large & good Meeting in their Court-house.

So to Flushing again, & Newtown, and to New York, where are very few friends, I think fewer then at Boston. It was an exceeding Sickly time then, abundance Died of the Yellow fever, That I did not think it proper to Stay but One meeting, which was very Small. So then went to the Jerseys, as Woodbridge, Planefield, Shrewsbury, Stonybrook, Crosswicks, Mansfield, Burlington, and Haddonfield again; and saw friends in a general way two or three times over. In some places is a pretty, living Spring of the Ministry, and many promising well; in Others things look very dull and discouraging. They have been much Visited; Five English friends of us were on the Continent Together, *vizt.*, Samuel Hopwood, John Haslam, Christopher Wilson, Eleazer Sheldon, and myself; the three first had their health but poorly; C. W. had a violent Fever soon after

²⁶ Space left in the manuscript for the insertion, probably, of the name of some other place.

²⁷ Jemeca, in S. Bownas's *Life*.

he landed ; We all met together at the Yearly Meeting in Seventh Month at Philadelphia. After that was ended, I went into Some of the Back Settlements beyond the Jerseys and Pennsylvania, to a place called Meudon Creek,²⁸ and the Forrest, where are many Friends Settled who came from Ireland, and a good sort of People they are ; there are Six or Seven Meeting Houses that have been Built that way of late Years.

After about a Months Visit in those Parts, Return'd to Philadelphia again, and then went into the Lower Counties, and took Several Meetings I had missed on the Eastern Shore in Maryland. There are scarce any friends in those Parts beyond Choptank, &c. Then Came into Chester County again, and had Several more meetings, and so to Philadelphia in the Tenth Month, where I remained till I took Shipping for Barbados, and was detained a very considerable time by the River being froze up. In said City are many worthy, good friends, things look very promising amongst them, and especially amongst the Youth ; Meetings exceedingly thronged, and I have heard since, they keep them up bravely. In about One Year and a half's time they have had Six or Seven who have appeared in Testimony, & hope will be of great Service. It is a favourite Place with me, all friends exceeding kind & Loving beyond my Merit. I Lodged all along at Israel Pemberton's, Senior, as did likewise the Rest of the English Friends.

On the 27th of 11th Month, 1743, Took Shipping for Barbados, Laid in the River a Considerable Time for a fair Wind, got there in about Twenty five Days, but a Boisterous Passage. I was very cordially received by the Friends of that Island. They have but very few now Left, and not one minister ; I believe the whole, taking in Children, will not amount to One hundred in Number. Two or three of their Meeting Houses are near laid aside. The chief of them live in Bridgetown and Spikes Town.²⁹ Doctor Joseph Gamble and Wife were both Living, she exceeding weakly. The Widow of John Oxley, and four Children She has who are grown up, they dont pretend to go anywhere but to Meetings.

²⁸ Maiden Creek Meeting in Oley or Exeter Monthly Meeting, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

²⁹ Spightstown.

The West Indies, I suppose, no better for Religion than formerly, I fear there is a great Declinsion. My Intention was for Antigua and Tortola. I was detained by Contrary Winds some weeks in Barbados, Did at last set sail for Antigua, but could not get forward, was about thirty six hours beating against Wind & Strong Currents, and could get no further than about nine miles, So got ashore at Spikes's, and then I found the weight of it taken from me, and I was thoroughly easie to give up said Voyage. So took my things Out of the Vessel, and Embraced the first Vessel for Europe ; and I have been very Easie ever since there about, for had I pursued it afterwards, when the Concern was removed from me, It appeared to me like tempting Providence. The Privateers Lurk very much in and about those Islands. I hear a good account of the Friends at Tortola.

There was great comings into Meetings when I was at Barbados, Others besides friends were exceeding kind & Civil. But, alas ! I fear in a few years there will not be many Left of Our Name ; Yet the Lord can do great and Marvelous things.

There is but one now who goes under our Name in Antigua, and the Meeting House, as I am Informed, quite dropt for want of Repairing.

I am thankful have performed this great Debt, which has lain upon me for many years. Thro' Mercy, I was in a general way favoured with a good State of health. I was upon the Continent about Sixteen Months & two weeks, and Rode, I think, upwards of five thousand Miles.

“ Quakers or Common Beggars.”

Worthington G. Smith's *Dunstable*, recently published, contains the following in a table of local occurrences, “ 1664. William Strange leaves by will £10 for the poor of the parish, but none to be given to ‘ quakers or common beggars.’ ”