

Bevan and Naish Library, Birmingham.

Paul Bevan, at his death in 1868, left a collection of 623 Friends' books, made by himself and his cousin, Joseph Gurney Bevan.

These books Paul Bevan's representatives gave to their cousin, Arthur John Naish, on condition that the following memorandum should be inserted on each volume :—

MEMORANDUM.

This Book is one of 623 Volumes of "The Writings of Early Friends," which belonged to the late PAUL BEVAN, OF TOTTENHAM.

He was much interested in making the collection when comparatively young, and it occupied much of the leisure of months, if not of years.

As time passed on, however, his estimate of their value greatly changed, and when nearing his Heavenly Home, he remarked emphatically to a friend who was speaking to him of the interest of such a collection, that *one little book*, which he gave him, and which treated especially of the Atoning Sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, was *worth them all*.

Arthur J. Naish added about 1,150 volumes, and at his death in 1889, the collection was purchased by subscription, and, after being catalogued, was placed in a room at No. 8, Dr. Johnson Passage, adjacent to the Bull Street Meeting House, Birmingham.

Since then, 866 volumes have been added, mostly by purchase, but partly by gifts from various Friends; making a total at the present time of 2,639 volumes. One of these is probably unique; it is a *Primmer*, edited by F. D. Pastorius, having William Penn's book plate inside the cover, and on the first pages a written address :—

To William Penn, the Father of this Province, and lately also the Father of John Penn; an innocent and hopeful babe :

Since Children are the Lord's Reward,
Who get them may rejoice;
Nay, Neighbours, upon this regard,
May make a gladsome noise.

Therefore, us thinks we dwell so near,
Dear Governour, to thy gate,
That Thou mayst lend an Ear to hear
What Babes congratulate.

BEVAN AND NAISH LIBRARY.

God bless the Child (we young ones cry),
 And add from time to time
 To William Penn's Posterity
 The like! Here ends our Rime.

But fervent prayers will not end
 Of honest men for Thee,
 And for thy happy Government,
 With whom we all agree.

Philadelphia, the 29th day
 of the xi. month.
 Anno. 1699/1700.

ZECHARY WHITPAINE.
 ISRAEL PEMBERTON.
 ROBERT FRANCIS.
 JOHN WHITE.
 SAMUEL CARPENTER.
 HENRY PASTORIUS.

For themselves and on behalf
 of their schoolfellows.

There are also 159 broadsides ; two amongst the earliest, both signed, "G. F.," are in black letter. The most interesting are the copies of addresses to Parliament and the Crown. One, dated 1659, gives a brief account "of the multitude of grievous and bloody sufferings," naming special cases in seventeen counties. Another, dated 1661, recites that "in the days of the Commonwealth and of Oliver and Richard Cromwell," 3,179 Friends had suffered "imprisonment and other abuses," of whom, thirty-two had died in jail ; "since the King came," 5,000 more, of whom twenty-two had died in confinement ; this is signed by thirty Friends. A third broadside gives further details, showing the number in each county ; the largest being 500 in London ; 400 in Yorkshire ; 197 in Worcestershire ; and 180 in Somerset. This is signed by twelve Friends, not in all cases the same as those whose names appear on the first.

The Library has also five scrap-books containing portraits, views, and printed letters, with some curious caricatures, the point of which is now forgotten. One of these is entitled, *The Quaker pleading his own Cause, or Justice Asleep In an old Mans-Field*. The last line is no doubt a play on the name of Sir James Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice, 1804 to 1814. At the foot of the plate is a note referring to the case, *Cove v. Wright*, reported in the *Public Ledger*, November 13th, 1812 ; but there is nothing

to show whether Friends were interested in the proceedings, or if the Quaker is merely introduced as typical of a man of independent character. Several of the letters also refer to forgotten controversies.

The Secretary will be glad to forward copies of the catalogue to anyone who is desirous of further information respecting the contents of the library.

CHAS. DICKINSON STURGE.

“Decline” Literature.

The following essays were omitted from the list given on pages 71, 72:—

An Essay. By “Fishponds.” 1859.

Life alone in Christ Jesus; or Quakerism Analysed. [By Miss Robinson, of Ireland.] 1861.

The Bruising of the Serpent’s Head and of the Church’s Heel; or An Essay on the Causes of Decline of the Society of Friends. By George Pitt. This was written in 1858, and first printed in 1872 (five years after the author’s death), by George Pitt, son of the author.

A Voice from the Wilderness, by Sarah Alexander, of Leominster.

A Letter to a Friend; being an Examination of a Pamphlet, entitled “The Principle of ancient Quakerism,” c. 1858.

The author who wrote, under the *nom-de-plume* of “Quantum Mutatus,”¹ *An Essay on the Causes of Decline,* was William Bigg. See J. Smith’s *Catalogue*, i. 268.

The Price of Candles.¹

Rec^d the 21th Octo^r: 1702, of m^r: James Louging the sume of one pound, sixteen shillings in full for 3: Dozen Candles, J say Recd p

li	s	d
I	16	00

ROBERT PACKER.

¹ Compare the line “O, quantum mutatus ab illo,” in *Quakerieties for 1838*, by Jeremiah Bigg, brother of William Bigg. This quotation (Virgil, *Æn.* ii. 274) also appears on the title page of George Bishop’s *Mene Tekel*, 1658.

¹ From original in D (Penn MSS. 44).