

“Occurrences for the Progress of Truth.”¹

1749.

Daniel Stanton, from Pennsylvania, visited friends meetings in the three Provinces, as did also John Griffith, from Pennsylvania, and William Backhouse, a second time, from Lancashire; Elizabeth Marriot, from Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, accompanied by Edith Flower, from Malton in Yorkshire, William Impey, from Essex, and William Thomas, from y^e Island of Tortola in America.

¹ The following letter written by Samuel Bewley to [?] William Thistlethwaite will fitly introduce these “Occurrences” to our readers. This letter, and extracts made by S. Bewley, have been preserved in a portfolio of MSS., collected by William Thistlethwaite, now belonging to John S. Rowntree. See JOURNAL, i. 130n.

“ Dublin, 3 4 mo., 1866.

“ My dear friend.

“ When I went to examine the book in which was copied the Annual report made at our National Meeting, of the ‘ Occurrences for the Progress of Truth,’ I got so much interested in it, and found the information so varied, that I thought thou could hardly form a just idea of its character, if I simply complied with thy request to furnish thee with a copy of the report for *one* year. I have therefore made extracts commencing with one of the first reports which have been preserved, and selected others at various intervals when anything peculiar affecting our society occurred. . . .

“ I find in reference to the oldest proceedings of our National Meeting, in the latter part of the 17th century, that somewhat similar reports were entered on their proceedings, and that, about the year 1702 or 3, it was referred to a Committee, of which Thomas Wight, of Cork, was one, to prepare an account of the ‘ Rise and Progress of Truth ’ in Ireland. This was chiefly compiled by T.W., who brought it down from 1653 to 1700, and after was continued to the year 1751 by John Ruddy. . . . It was referred to Dublin Mens Meeting to revise it and have it printed.

“ The Annual reports, entitled ‘ Occurrences for the Progress ’ were continued from that time, but were not printed, and the making such reports were directed to be discontinued by direction of our Y. Mg. in 1849. . . .

“ With love, I am

“ Thy affectionate friend,

“ SAMUEL BEWLEY.”

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And the following friends of this Nation, *viz.*, James Gough, from Mountmellick, visited friends Meetings in y^e Provinces of Ulster and Munster, Jane Faile and Sarah Williams visited friends in y^e province of Ulster, and Isabel Middleton them of Munster province.

The summe total of Friends sufferings this year for Tythes, Priests Maintenance, and repairs of Parish Worship Houses was £1,564 11s. 11d.

1750.

Friends enjoyed their meetings peaceably, and were visited by the following friends of y^e Ministry, whose labours in y^e Gospel were acceptable to us, *viz.*, John Bevington, from Warwickshire, who, besides visiting the meetings of friends, had also Meetings in Lismore and Kinsale among strangers to good satisfaction, and who, at his departure, also wrote an Epistle of Exhortation to Friends, which was dispersed and published amongst them.² Samuel Fothergill, of Lancashire, was here a second time, and visited Friends at their Half Yeares Meeting in y^e 9th Month, and afterwards had divers other meetings in Dublin and other parts of y^e Province of Leinster.

Joseph Tomey, from Dublin, visited Friends in their meetings in y^e provinces of Ulster and Munster.

Friends at Cork this year appointed and held meetings among Strangers at y^e following places in y^e province of Munster, *viz.*, at Kinsale, Bandon, Ross, Carberry, Skibbereen, Baltimore, Bantry, Dunmanaway, Charleville, Mallow, Dungarvin, Caperquin, Lismore, Tallow, and Tipperary, which meetings were large, and held in a peaceable, satisfactory manner, y^e people in most places expressing their satisfaction and desiring further opportunities of y^e like kind.

The summe total of Friends sufferings this year for Tythes, Priests maintenance and the Repairs of Parish Worship Houses, £1,760 7s. 8d.

1753.

May Drummond proceeded in her visit to y^e Meetings of Friends in y^e province of Leinster, and visited some of those in Munster. Edmund Peckover (a 3rd time) visited

² Query if printed. It is not mentioned in Joseph Smith's *Catalogue*, and is not known in **D**.

Friends Meetings throughout the three Provinces as did also, or for the most part, Samuel Stott from Suffolk, and William Rickett from Lincolnshire. Ann Gunner (a 2nd time) and Mary Artis, from Suffolk, visited some meetings in y^e province of Munster, and most of y^e families of Friends in Dublin. Sarah Splatt (a 2nd time) and Mary Sparks visited y^e Meetings of Friends in y^e Provinces of Ulster and Munster, and Mary Sparks also visited y^e meetings of Leinster Province, Sarah Splatt being disabled by infirmity of body from visiting Friends in y^e last named province, except at their Quarterly Meeting at Carlow.³

This year also was finished a certain memorable service, which, altho formerly proposed, had not hitherto been executed, *viz.*, it was again proposed at a Half Years Meeting, 1752, that a National visit should be performed to y^e several Particular and Monthly Meetings throughout y^e Nation by some friends of each Province, in order to enquire how y^e several good Advices and Recommendations of former National Meetings had been put in practice, and also to stir up Friends in their several Meetings, as occasion might require, to a more diligent and due observance thereof. Accordingly, the following friends were appointed to this service, *viz.*, Samuel Watson, Robert Lecky, Joseph Williams, Joseph Tomey, and James Pim, from Leinster, John Cristy, James Cristy, Jacob Hancock, and Thomas Greer, from Ulster, James Tomey and Abraham Fuller, from Munster; and an account was given to y^e National Meeting that they had accomplished y^e said service, and that their labours generally proved to good satisfaction, and that it was hoped they will prove of some benefit.

The summe total of Friends sufferings this year for Tythes, Clarks wages and repairs of Parish Worship Houses, £1,587 12s. 11d.

To be concluded.

³ For many of the names in the earlier portion of this article see *A Book containing a Catalogue of ye names of Friends in the Ministry who from time to time visited ye Meetings of frds in Ireland, but more particularly Corke, Bandon, and the parts westward from Bandon, etc.*, 1656-1765, belonging to Cork Monthly Meeting. The copy of this MS. in D. fills 168 4to. pages. The index, which has been specially prepared, contains nearly 850 entries.

[Would not some Friends interested in Irish Quaker history incline to provide funds for the printing of this valuable manuscript?]