

The Collection of Friends' Books, in the Library of Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

The Library of Haverford College was established at the time of the founding of the institution in 1833. It was planned to be chiefly a library of reference for the students, and has continued to be administered and added to on that basis. It cannot, therefore, be considered essentially a Friends' Library, but, as the college is a Friends' institution, Friends' books, and books relating to Friends, have always been considered a necessary part of the equipment, and number one on the register is Sewel's *History of the Quakers*.

At present the collection of Friends' books consists of about two thousand volumes, and not less and probably more than one thousand unbound pamphlets. With very few exceptions, the collection is strictly one of books written by Friends or others on subjects directly connected with the Society. There is in it a fair representation of folio first editions of the writings of the early Friends, and a large number of the quarto tracts of the seventeenth century. There is a copy of the folio first edition of Fox's *Journal*, containing leaf 309, afterwards cancelled; also two copies of the first edition of Barclay's *Apology* in English, one of the same in Latin, and also a copy of almost every subsequent edition. The edition of Sewel's *History* in English, Philadelphia, 1728, is interesting as perhaps the first book upon which Benjamin Franklin worked after he set up his printing press in Philadelphia. There are also the edition of *Sewel* in Dutch, Amsterdam, 1717, and the first three editions in English; Croese's *History* in Latin, and in English; a copy of the little book issued by the followers of George Keith, giving a statement of their doctrines or "A Confession of Faith." This was printed by William Bradford in 1693, and is of extreme rarity. There is also a copy of Sophia Hume's *Exhortation to South Carolina*, printed by William Bradford in 1748; of *The Journal of Thomas Chalkley*, printed by

Benjamin Franklin in 1749; of George Fox's *Spelling Book*, printed in Newport, Rhode Island, 1769; of Penn's *Fruits of Solitude*, printed 1749, at Newport, Rhode Island, by James Franklin, a brother of Benjamin Franklin; of the *Reliquiæ Barclaiianæ* (lithograph), 1870, of which only a very few copies were printed for the use of the Barclay family.

The collection contains sets more or less complete of all the important Friends' periodicals. The sets of *The Friend* (Philadelphia), *The Friend* (London), *Friends' Review*, *Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, *The Yorkshireman*, and several others, are complete; the sets of the *British Friend*, *Irish Friend*, *Manchester Friend*, Elisha Bates' *Monthly Repository*, *Christian Worker*, and others, sometimes lack but a single volume. The collection of literature, particularly the pamphlet literature, relating to the "Separation of 1828," the Wilbur difficulties, and the "Beaconite Controversy," is large. The sets of printed Minutes of the Yearly Meetings of London, Dublin, and of all the American Yearly Meetings are very full, and the same may be said of the *Disciplines*. The set of *Annual Monitor* is also very nearly complete. The later literature relating to the history of the Society is well represented.

There are few manuscripts. One of the most interesting is the autograph proposal of William Bradford, addressed to "the Half-Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Burlington, the 3rd of y^e first month, 1687/8," offering to print "a large Bible in folio."

There is also the manuscript of Clarkson's *History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade*.

It will be seen from this brief account that for the student of the history of the Society, the Haverford collection is one of the best in America.

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NOTE.—There are two printers of the same name, William Bradford, mentioned above. The elder William married Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Sowle, of London, and emigrated to America about 1682. His son, Andrew, was also a printer. The younger William appears to have been a nephew of Andrew Bradford and to have succeeded his uncle as printer for Friends. William Bradford, Sen., died in 1752, aged 94.—EDS.