

## An Early Loan Fund.

HORSHAM M.M., 9th of Tenth Month, 1668:—

A Paper from Bryan Wilkinson (Importing a desire to Friends to assist Him in his present Straights with y<sup>e</sup> Loan of a Summe of Mony) being Read, Jt is agreed by this Meeting that there be ffive pound forthwith sent unto Him to supply his Neecessities & to be Conveigh'd to Him as A[mbrose] R[igge], W[illiam] W[elch], J[ames M[athew] and W[illiam] G[arton], or any 2 of them shall see Meet. And that John Shaw & W<sup>m</sup> Garton be requested to advance y<sup>e</sup> same each half, for y<sup>e</sup> which Jt is hereby recomended to y<sup>e</sup> quarterly Mens Meeting to Reimburse them.

Nevertheless it is Hereby Declared that in Case the Quarterly Mens Meeting shall not thinck ffitt to Reimburse the said John Shaw & W<sup>m</sup> Garton the said Summe of ffive pounds to be by them advanced for y<sup>e</sup> use & suply of Bryan Wilkinson as aforesaid, that then these ffriends following have undertaken & do hereby engege to Bear them Harmless, & to reimburse them uppon demand, according to the respective proportions hereafter exprest, viz<sup>t</sup>.

					li.	s.	d.
Thomas Tornor	..	..	..	..	£1	00	00
W <sup>m</sup> Welch	..	..	..	..	£1	00	00
John Shaw	..	..	..	..	£1	00	00
James Mathew	..	..	..	..	£0	10	00
W <sup>m</sup> Garton	..	..	..	..	£0	10	00
Richard Dunton	..	..	..	..	£0	05	00
Edward Luckins	..	..	..	..	£0	05	00
John Steer	..	..	..	..	£0	10	00
					£5 00 00		

The reader will be interested in the above business-like and well expressed Minute. It is written in a beautifully clear and scholarly hand, and illustrates the fact that men of education and position were to be found among the early adherents to Quakerism.

The description given in *F.P.T.* of the residence of Brian Wilkinson, viz. "in a park at Sigwick Lodge, in

Nutthurst parrish, about Two milles from Horsham," seems to represent a man of substance, but persecution may have greatly reduced his means of livelihood.

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### *Mission Work in Rossendale, Lancs.*

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The Society of Friends became an element of power in these valleys about the year 1650, and afterwards continued to exercise a great influence in relation to the young. Perhaps they are the only Society of Christians who established Sunday Schools in Rossendale before the close of the 18th century. Although the Society of Friends was the first to establish Sunday Schools in Rossendale their work seems to have been superseded in the course of thirty to forty years. The Friends established Night and Sunday Schools at the Meeting House, Crawshawbooth, about the year 1793, a few years after the time Sunday Schools were established by Robert Raikes at Gloucester. The Friends taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and this Sunday School was continued in the village in a separate room from the Meeting House, until about 1830 or 1835. Wooden plates for eating from were provided for the use of children who came from a distance on the Sunday and as early as 1794 to 1795 the Friends established a library for the young in connection with their week night and Sunday School.

Extracted by Robert Muschamp, of Radcliffe, from *Sunday School Work in Rossendale; its History and Progress*: being a paper read at the Baptist Association, Waterburn, June 13th, 1878, by John Spencer, F.G.S., of Goodshaw.

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Believe it from one that hath too many years experience of both [wars and private contentions] in armies and garrisons; it is as hard a thing to maintain, even in your people, a sound understanding, a tender conscience, a lively, gracious, heavenly frame of spirit, and an upright life, in a way of war and contention, as to keep your candle lighted in the greatest storms or under the waters.

RICHARD BAXTER, *Saints Rest*, iii. 14.