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THE BOWL IN HAND, MANSFIELD. (See page 11.)

[A. S. Buxton.

Extracts from the Minute Book of the Sufferings of Friends in Mansfield and the surrounding District.

The great eventful Present hides the Past ; but through the din
Of its loud life hints and echoes from the life behind steal in.

* * * * *

So, with something of the feeling which the Covenanter knew,
When with pious chisel wandering Scotland's moorland graveyards
through,

From the graves of old traditions I part the blackberry-vines,
Wipe the moss from off the headstones, and retouch the faded lines.

WHITTIER, *The Garrison of Cape Ann.*

GEORGE FOX.

Before proceeding with the extracts from the Minute Book, it may be interesting to my readers to remind them of the very early connection of George Fox with the town and district of Mansfield, as shown in his *Journal*. Here, as early as 1647, he says he "had great openings," and he prefaces one account of other "openings" with, "As I was walking by the steeple-house side, in the town of Mansfield."

In 1648, he was still in Nottinghamshire ; we have a record of his meetings and experiences, how on one occasion he went to a meeting of priests and professors at a Justice's house ; and the account of his concern to speak on behalf of the servants is so interesting and instructive that I venture to quote it in full :—

At a certain time, when I was at Mansfield, there was a Sitting of the Justices, about hiring of Servants ; & it was upon me from the Lord, to go & speak to the Justices, That they should not oppress the servants in their Wages. So I walked towards the Inn,¹ where they sat ; but finding a Company of Fiddlers there, I did not go in, but thought to come in the Morning, when I might have a more serious Opportunity to discourse them ; not thinking that a seasonable time. But when I came again in the Morning, they were gone, & I was struck even blind that I could not see. I inquired of the Inn-keeper where the Justices were to sit that day ; and he told me, At a Town eight miles off. My

¹ This Inn, the Bowl in Hand, has only been altered in late years.

sight began to come to me again, & I went & Ran thitherward as fast as I could. When I was come to the House where they were & many Servants with them, I exhorted the Justices, Not to oppress the Servants in their wages : but to do that which was Right & Just to them ; And I exhorted the Servants, To do their Duties, & serve honestly, &c. And they all received my Exhortation kindly ; for I was moved of the Lord therein.

ELIZABETH HOOTON.

Elizabeth Hooton, who is mentioned very early in George Fox's *Journal*, resided at Skegby, a small village about four miles from Mansfield ; she appears to have been the first person who openly joined in religious profession with him, and was the earliest Minister, himself excepted. In Besse's *Sufferings*² we find an account of her persecution by Jackson, priest of Selston, as follows :—

Anno 1660. On the 2nd of the month called April, Elizabeth Hooton, passing quietly on the Road, was met by one Jackson, Priest of Selston, who abused her, beat her with many Blows, knockt her down, and afterward put her into the Water.

In the first Quarterly Meeting Minute Book in the custody of Friends at Nottingham, there is a copy of a very interesting letter from E. Hooton, giving her consent to the marriage of her son, Samuel, with Elizabeth Smedley, 26 x., 1670 :—

This doe I certify concering my sonne Samuel, I spake to Geo. Fox about taking the young woman to wife, & he asked me what she was, & I told him as near as I could of her behaviour, & he bade me let him take her, & soe that makes me willing that he should take her to wife.

ELIZABETH HOOTON.

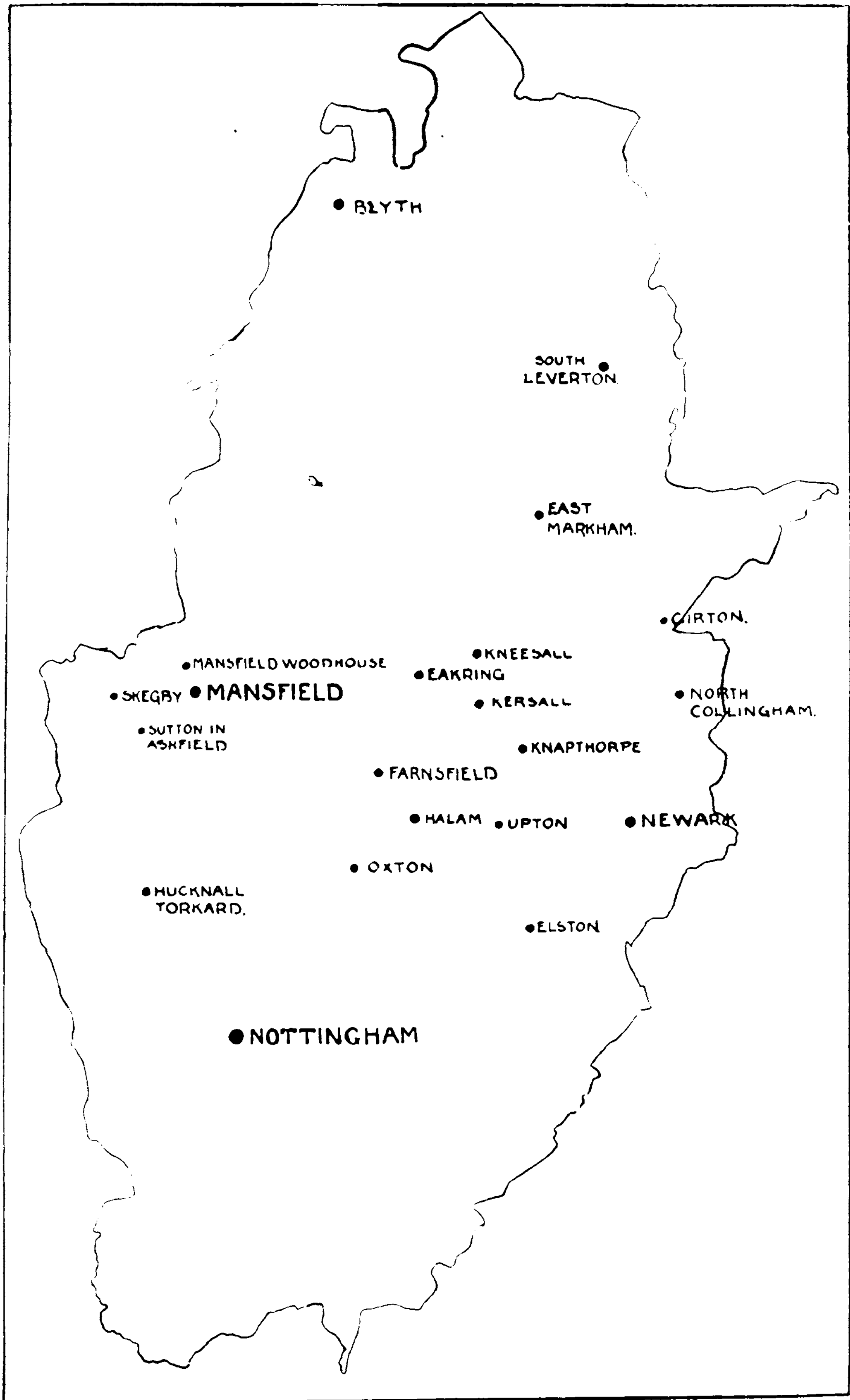
There is reason to believe that the meeting at Skegby was held at her house for some time.³

A glance at the map of the county of Nottingham, giving the places where Meetings were established very early in the history of the Society, clearly shows the reason why the earliest Quarterly Meetings of which we have any record, 1668-1676, and again in 1688, should be held at Mansfield rather than in the county town.⁴

² Vol. i., p. 553.

³ See THE JOURNAL, iv. 154 ; Bailey's *Annals of Nottinghamshire*.

⁴ These meetings were held at the house of Tymothy Garland.



EARLY MEETINGS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. (See page 12.)
(Drawn by A. S. Buxton.)

Dear friends being sensible that the old spirit of
 persecution hath of late & probably at present reigns
 in the hearts of adversaries to the imprisoning the persons
 and spoiling the outward estates of many of our dear
 friends who have borne a faithfull testimony for God &
 his truth against the false ways & worship of the world
 & it being at present in our minds (as opportunity shall serve)
 10 lay our grievous sufferings before the king & consist
 of their next meeting supposed the thirteenth of the
 2nd moth next ensuing desire with all speed as punctually as
 account thereof as may be and what hereafter shall
 happen that it be set up with all reasonable
 Expedition and that we may be plain & intelligible
 as well to magistrates as to the nation in case they are
 thought meet to be published let it be your endeavor
 to set forth in your accounts to us

1 The names trades & place of abode if at towns or smaller
 villages & near what more noted town or parish friends
 who suffer by priests magistrates &c

2 If imprisoned or sued in any court by priest or
 impropriator for tythes

1 the name & year of habitation of priest or impropriator

2 how long in prison & copies of warrant or mittimus

3 what sort sued in Kings Bench Common Pleas or in any other

4 what & what demands & what spoyle they have made
 by takinge Corns and in kind

3 If by the Bishops Courts

1 the names &c of the officia^{ll} or Judge of the Court

2 the pretended cause of friends being cited there

3 if promunitated when published in their streytlhouse

4 if in prison A copy of the mittimus &c

Photo]

[Rachel L. Manners.

FIRST PAGE OF BOOK OF SUFFERINGS OF MANSFIELD, ETC. (See page 13.)

BOOK OF SUFFERINGS.

The original Minute Book of the Sufferings of Friends in this district, now at Devonshire House, was for many years in possession of a former member of the Society of Friends in Mansfield, and at her death it came into the hands of Friends. The first pages are occupied by the general instructions, sent from London in 1675 and signed by Ellis Hookes, as to the manner in which Sufferings should be recorded, and the information which was required. It then proceeds as follows :—

A True Relation of the tryalls and sufferings and spoylings of the goods of us the people of god called quakers onely for worshiping god in spirit and in truth ; which are hereafter Related accordinge as they were inflicted.

We being mett together peacably in the feare of the lord at Hucknall, in our meeting house, upon the 16th of the 2^d month, 1676, here came in three informers : namely , John Smith, of Remson, and Thomas Sharp, of Newarke, the third not known : and the said John Smith was deboist⁵ in his caridge in our meeting, and gaue many threateninge words. To one freind hee said hee would thrust his fachin⁶ down his throat : and to another that he would cleane him down, haueinge his fachin drawn, and then said hee would thrust him into the buttake, with many other threatening words ; and then tooke seuerall of our nams and caried them to Robert Thoroton, caled Justiss, [who] fined seuerall of us : as is hereafter named.

HUCKNALL.

Franciss Clay, of Hucknall, was fined five shillings for his own offence, as they said, and ten pounds for the pretended pouerty⁷ of A preacher or teacher.

William Clay was fined five shillings for himself and five shillings for his wife, and the said William Clay had houshold goods taken—peuter, brass, wooden ware, and other smalle things, to the ualue of two pounds, and they sold them for ten shillings. The officers was forst to sell great peniworths, because the said Justice gaue them order to sell them for what they could gett ; if the goods was worth ten pounds, they might sell them for thirty shillings, if they could gett no more ; and that which

⁵ *Deboist*=debauched, corrupt. See *F.P.T.*, p. 106.

⁶ *Fachin*=*fascine*, a long cylindrical faggot of brush or other small wood firmly bound together at short intervals, used in filling up ditches, the construction of batteries, etc. *N.E.D.*

⁷ *Pretended poverty*. A single Justice could convict, and fines of five shillings and ten shillings were imposed for the first and second offence, to be distrained for ; and, in case of any offender's poverty, the distress up to ten pounds for any one meeting might be levied on any other person convicted of the like offence at the same meeting. *F.P.T.*, p. 358.

was worth one shilling they might sell for 8^d or 6^d or 3^d, if they could gett no more ; and because they could not sell y^e goods so soon as they would haue had them, the said Justice fined the officers five pounds A man.

Richard Bateman was fined five shillings for his own offence, and ten pounds for the pretended pouerty of the preacher or speaker, and his goods was taken—one bedstead, one table, one coubard, & three chaires, with other small things that was in his house; and the said Richard Bateman being A poore man, they tooke most of the goods in his house to the ualue of two pounds, and they sold them for three shillings six pence, for they were forced to sell them for what they could gett as is before recited.

SUTTON IN ASHFIELD.

Elizabeth Clay, of Sutton, was fined five shillings.

Anthony Tomlinson was fined five shillings for his wife.

Cristopher Brandrith was fined five shillings for his own offence and one pound five shillings for the pretended pouerty of Richard Binge, Robert Grace, John Blackburn, Joseph Roberts, and Sarah Stopard, and they tooke A mare from the said Christopher worth four pounds, which the officers sold for thirty shillings. Thus far in the town and parish of Sutton in Ashfield: the officers names that made the distresses was Samuell Britton, Constable, Samuell Chadwin, headborow,⁸ Thomas Ward and Nicolas Ward, caled churchwardens.

SKEGBY.

Thomas Cockrom for beinge att the same meetinge was fined five shillings for his own offence and ten pounds for the pretended pouerty of the house, for which the officers took A yoke of oxen, worth ten pounds ten shillings.

George Cockrom, for being at the same meeting, was fined five shillings, for which the officers took two peuter dishes, one flagon, worth eleuen shillings.

John Bulliant, the elder, for being at the same meeting was fined five shillings for his own offence, and ten pounds for the pretended pouerty of the house ; for which fine the officers took one mare, and his stithy,⁹ and sowmettell pot ; A little table, one box, some nailes, two chaires, two spoons, and A dish, and seuerall other small things that was in his shop. And the said John Bulliant, being A nailer by trade, and but low in Estate, not keeping house but inhabiting in his shop, the said Robert Thoroton gaue order to the officers to take all hee had ; as his Coate if it were of his back, and his hatt if it were of his head, his hammer that hee wrought with if it were out of his hand. And because the officers could not sell freinds goods so soon as they would haue had them, the said Robt Thoroton, caled Justice, fined the officers five pounds A man, and their goods was seized of for the fine.

John Bulliant, the younger, for being at the same meeting, was fined five shillings.

⁸ *Head-borough*=a parish officer identical in functions with the petty constable. *N.E.D.*

⁹ *Stithy*=an anvil.

The distresses made by ffraunciss Scarcliff, constable, and Thomas Urdich, headborow.

* * * * *

MANSFIELD.

The 9 of ye 5 month, 1676.

ffriends being mett together to wait upon the lord at Mansfeild, they being kept without the gates to the streetwards, which some cales lords wast,¹⁰ others the kings high way, there came three Jnformers to the meeting, namely, John Smith, of Remson, Edward Simpson, of Lenton, both in the same county, the name of the third J know not—and they, heareing no declaration when they came, sent for the constable and tooke freinds names they knew; and those they knew not, they drew out of the assembly and put them to the constable to haue before A Justice; and one woman, when shee was put to the constable, did speake some words to one of the informers, which hee said hee would make preaching. So haueing sent some freinds to one caled Justice Stanhop of Linbee, they went to Robert Thoroton, caled Justice, dwelling att Carcolson, all in the same county, who granted them warrants and fined freinds as followeth. . . .

MANSFEILD.

George Hopkinson, maultster, for being at the same meeting was fined fiae shillings for his own offence and ten pounds by reason of the pouerty of the Teacher or speaker, as they pretended, which was but the woman that spoke A few words to one of the informers, as Aforesaid; for which fines the officers took seauen quarters and seauen strikes of mault; and they came into his house, and searched his rooms, and said they would haue all his houshold goods, they would not leaue him A spoon.

John ffulwood, maultster, for being at the same meeting was fined ten shillings for his own offence, and y^e sum of fifty shillings by reason of the pouerty of John Bulliuat ye elder, and John Bulliuant ye younger, Mary Leadbeater and Thomas Leadbeater, and William Molson.

Robert Moor, for his wife being at the same meeting, was fined ten shillings, for which the officers tooke two pairs of shoos and A pair of boots; y^e officers names were James Hardy and francis Watson, constables, & John Plomtree and Thomas Clark, third borows.¹¹

SKEGBY.

George Cockrom, husbandman, for his wife being at the same meeting, was fined ten shillings, for which the officers took A heifer worth one pound, and they sold her (as George did heare) for eighteen shillings; the officers names were ffraunciss Scarcliff, constable, and Thomas Urdidg, third borow.

¹⁰ "The track of the roadway was very often a strip of the waste land of the manor left for the purpose of the road, and the soil belonged to the lord of the manor; hence 'the lords wast.' The green strip at the side of the road is often waste of the manor to this day."—
J. LISTER GODLEE.

¹¹ *Third-borough*=an under-constable. *Encyc. Dict.*

MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE.

Richard Cooper, for being at the same meeting, was fined five shillings for his own offence and y^e sum of ten pounds by reason of the pouerty of the place where the meeting was kept ; it being without the gates to the street wards, as at the begining of the Relation of this meeting is mentioned.

WARSUP.

Thomas Scoaley, for being at the same meeting, was fined ten pounds for the pouerty of the place, as Aforesaid.

SUTTON AND IN YE PARISH.

Robert Grace, for himself and his wife being at the same meeting, was fined twenty shillings.

Elizabeth Brandrith, for being at the same meeting, was fined ten shillings.

John Blackburn, Samuell Whitworth, Elizabeth Whitworth & Elizabeth Fello, for being at the same meeting, was fined euery and each of them five shillings.

HUCKNALL.

Margaret Whitworth, for being at the same meeting, was fined five shillings for her own offence, and the sum of forty shillings by Reason of the pouerty of Richard Battman, Joseph Roberts, Sarah Clay, and Francis Clay.

We find no later account of meetings disturbed by informers, or of Friends brought before the Justices ; the entries in the Minute Book are merely records of goods taken from Friends for church rate or tithe, and the value of same, with the names of the tithe farmers and vicars.

The last entry is dated, " 3 mo. 1798 " :—" Taken from Wm. Ellis to hire a substitute for the Militia by warrant sign'd by Urban Hall & Jno Litchfield, Deputy Leiutenant, Candles, &c. Six Pounds 12s." William Ellis was a grocer in Mansfield, and John Litchfield fought at the battle of Culloden, 1746.

EMILY MANNERS.

To be continued.

I wish to acknowledge the kind help of my friend, A. S. Buxton, Esq., for his map of Nottinghamshire and photograph of " The Bowl in Hand " Inn ; and my thanks are also due to my daughter, Rachel L. Manners, for her photograph of the Book of Sufferings.

E.M.