

The Quaker Allusions in "The Diary of Samuel Pepys."

Continued from vol. iv., page 144.

JUDITH PENINGTON.

The references in *The Diary* to "Madam Penington" shed a lurid light over the private relations of the Diarist with some of those with whom he was acquainted. Judith Penington was the daughter of Sir Isaac Penington, Lord Mayor of London in 1642, and one of the Commissioners for the trial of Charles I. At the Restoration, her father was committed to the Tower, where he died in 1661. Two of her brothers were Isaac, the well-known Quaker, and Arthur, a Roman Catholic priest. Pepys describes "Mrs. Penington" as "a very fine, witty lady, and indifferent handsome, also a very discreet, understanding lady." He writes with great freedom¹ of his frequent visits to her at the house of the Rev. Joseph Glanville.

The insight into her free and easy manner of life, as revealed in the pages of Pepys, may explain the earnestness of the appeals of her brother, Isaac, in letters written to her about this time, or somewhat later. In one, undated, he writes² :—

. . . Js thy soul in unity wth God, or art thou seperated from him? Whither art thou travelling; O, whither art thou travelling? Is it towards y^e eternall rest & peace of thy soul, or from thy soul's life

¹ With too much freedom to be reproduced here.

² A curious instance of the necessity of a revision of estimates of persons and things in view of fresh light cast upon them occurs in connection with the Peningtons. C. Fell Smith, in her article on Isaac Penington, the elder, in *D.N.B.* states that the letters to Judith from her brother, "imply that she also became a Quaker." The same writer evidently understood Pepys's description, "a very fine, witty lady," to refer to Mary Penington, wife of Isaac, the Quaker, as did the writer in *Quakeriana* (vol. ii. p. 11).

Visits to "Madam Penington" are noted under dates November 13th, 24th, and 26th, December 4th, 17th and 20th, 1665, and there are references to her on October 22nd, November 5th, 7th, 12th, 15th, and 24th, and December 15th, of the same year.

towards death? Every day thou art sowing somewt w^{ch} thou must hereafter reap. What art thou daily sowing? Will y^e crop at last be comfortable to thee?

And in another letter, dated "26 of 1st mon., 1678," he writes of "y^e utter undoing" of her soul, and adds "Without a new birth, without a new Creation, inwardly felt and abode in, thou canst not possibly be saved."

We have not discovered any later references to Judith Penington than those given in *The Diary*.

SIR JOHN ROBINSON.

Son of Archdeacon Robinson, of Nottingham, created a baronet, 1660, was Alderman of the City of London, and Lord Mayor in 1662, lieutenant of the Tower till 1678. There is a portrait of him at Clothworkers' Hall. Samuel Pepys had frequent intercourse with him, but did not, apparently, entertain a high opinion of him. He writes, in 1662/3 "I am resolved to shun too great fellowship with him." Again, in 1663, "I to dinner to my Lord Mayor's, . . . a very great noble dinner, as this Mayor is good for nothing else." Two years later Pepys records that after a drinking bout, lasting till midnight, at which Sir John was present, "Mrs. Penington and I very civilly sat an houre by the fireside observing the folly of this Robinson, that makes it his work to praise himself, and all he say and do, like a heavy-headed coxcombe." Pepys also calls him a "bufflehead" and a "loggerhead." Of Lady Robinson (who was daughter of Alderman Whitmore, Lord Mayor in 1631), he writes, "His lady was a very high-carriaged but comely big woman."

In view of the relations between William Penn and other Friends and the Governor of the Tower, this contemporary estimate of the character of the latter is interesting.

SIR JONATHAN TRELAWNY.

The second baronet of his family, and father of the Bishop of Winchester, of the same names.

Elizabeth Trelawny, of Plymouth, is described by George Fox as "daughter to a baronet" Her father was Sir John Trelawny. She became the first wife of Thomas

Lower, and died c. 1662, s.p. Was Sir John the first baronet? Was Sir Jonathan her brother, and was the Bishop of Winchester her nephew?

D. possesses a deed, dated 1666, on which appear the names of Jonathan Trelawny and Walter Hambly.

DR. RICHARD LOWER.

Pepys met him, July 3rd, 1668. He was a Cornishman, educated at Westminster School, whence he was elected a student of Christ Church, Oxford; B.A., 1653; M.A., 1655; M.D., 1665; F.R.S., 1667. For a time he practised in Oxford, and afterwards became the most noted physician in London. He died at his house in King Street, Covent Garden, 17th January, 1690/1.

He was a brother of Thomas Lower, and was the means of his liberation from imprisonment in Worcester. He was of great assistance to other Friends also, having “improved his interest with some lords of the Royal Society to plead with the King” for those in suffering. See G. Fox, *Journal*; *Fells of Swarthmoor Hall*, 1865, pp. 245, 247, 261, 287, 289, 412.

MAJOR-GENERAL DESBOROUGH.

Born 1608, married Jane, sister of Oliver Cromwell, 1636. He was imprisoned after the Restoration, but, on enquiry, was set at liberty. He died at Hackney in 1680. There are only slight references in *The Diary*.

George Fox came into contact with Desborough in Cornwall, and had some conversation with him at his coach-side. He ordered Fox's imprisonment at Launceston.

SIR JOHN BERKENHEAD.

Was M.P. for Wilton, 1661. Knighted, 1662. Master of the Faculty Office and of the Court of Requests. Died, 1679.

Berkenhead obtained from the King an order for G. Fox's release from Scarborough Castle, 1666. He is called “the master of requests,” in G. F.'s *Journal*.

To be continued.