

## “ First Publishers of Truth ” in Staffordshire.

The document sent to London in 1720 and printed in *F.P.T.* (pp. 229, 230) was evidently not an exact copy of the original account which is written at the end of the Staffordshire Q.M. Minute Book, 1672-1743. We give below the principal omitted portions, copied from the original, the Minute Book having been lent by Staffordshire M.M. for the purpose of the transcription of these portions:—

He [Francis Comberford] was convinced with his wife and two of his children (to wit) Margrett and Mary. He, goeing from thence to live at Bradley, had meetings at his house severall years, & severall weere convinced there. Hee was a valiant man for truth, and in the time of persecution stood faithfull & gave vp ffreely to suffer both to Jmprisonm<sup>t</sup> & spoy[l]ing of goods, soe farr as was permitted for him to be tryed. He continued an honest, Simple harted man to the End of his dayes, and Laid downe his head in peace in a good old age; and J doe beleive is att rest with [th]e Lord.

In the begining of the 10<sup>th</sup> month, 1654, Richard Hickock came into the Morelands pt of Staffordshire with y<sup>e</sup> meesage of truth, and many were convinced in & about Leeke, and he gathered severall & settled meetings att Will Davenport, of Fould, at Mathew Dales of Rudgyard, & Tho Hamer[s]leys att Basford, and they with Richard Dale were the ffirst that receved him and his testimonie.

The first time y<sup>e</sup> said Rich: Hickock came into the Moorlands, hee was moved to goe to Leeke Steeple-house, & there standing vpon a Forme to declare the words of truth to the people, was violently throne down backwards & his head broak, & then haled out into the grave yard and throne of the grave yard wall into the Streete.

This Rich Hickock continued in the servis of truth for som years, & was in severall p<sup>t</sup> of this nation, also in Jrland. And whiles he kept his Jntegritie to God & truth he was servisable, and y<sup>e</sup> Lord blest his Jndeavors, but suffering his mind to be drawn aside by the inticem<sup>t</sup>

of the wicked one, & giveing way to the Jmaginations of his owne hart, was drawn into whimsies, and soe Lost the knowledg of the Eternall power, he degenerated from the truth & became an absolute Apostate; & many that were convinced by him in this Countie turned back from y<sup>e</sup> truth also.

The paragraphs in the Minute Book respecting Richard Hickock have a line drawn through them, probably on account of his defection. R. Hickock wrote two tracts, viz., *A Testimony against the . . . Ranters . . .* 1659, and *The Saints Justified . . . By a Witnessse against the Dragon's Message (of many alwayes living in sin here), & for the Truth, called Richard Hickock, 1660.*

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We beleive y<sup>t</sup> Marriages in the Truth with which friends hath satisfaction & unity are not bought & sold, made & broken, for money, but stands in an everlasting Covenant of life and righteousnesse.

BRISTOL MEN'S MEETING, 19th of 5 mo., 1675.

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It is related that William Miller [1722—1799] was one day informing Rebecca Jones, of America—then on a visit to Edinburgh—that he had a sermon ready written for every First-Day in the year, to which Rebecca Jones dryly responded, "We read that if the children of Israel kept their manna a single day it became corrupt; in what state then must thine be after a year's keeping!" His spirit not being properly exercised, he used, when sitting at the head of the Meeting, to "keek" down at his watch in order to see whether it was time to break up. A ministering Friend, one day present, gave him a very pointed sermon on the necessity of "the watch" being in the heart.

From *Memorials of Hope Park*, 1886, p. 15.

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In speaking of her own early days, she [Jane Miller, *aft.* Leef, 1788-1881] used to dwell with especial affection on the memory of Stephen Grellet, who was a guest at Hope Park in 1811. One little incident of his visit she was wont to relate with much feeling. There was a large company of friends to dinner, and Aunt, as the eldest daughter of the house and a very capable housewife, was bustling about, seeing that all the guests were properly attended to, when one of those at the table, turning to her, said, "Why, Jean, thou'rt quite a Martha!" upon which S. G., turning his expressive eyes upon her, said, in tones which she never forgot, "*But the Master loved Martha.*" From *Memorials of Hope Park*, 1886, p. 64.