

The Fire in Gracechurch Street, 1821.

Extract of a letter from Robert Ransome to his son, James, 9 mo., 1821:—

The Fire presently communicated to the Meeting premises. The doorkeeper's family were alarmed by the fire entering their skylight and windows; they just had time to get out but left all behind. The Meeting house shared the same lot, also another house in Gracechurch St. near to Samuel Fossick's, and in about 2 hours these different premises were quite destroyed.

The Meeting Library is destroyed together with all the Records of the Monthly Meeting from its commencement, with the exception of the present Book of Minutes, which is 3 or 4 years old, and the Book of Removals (they were out at a Friend's house and so have escaped).

All the Manuscripts are gone and several books which were very scarce. Claude Gay's manuscript Journal—the Bible which was presented to the Women's Meeting by G. Fox—the Morning Meetings Minutes¹—the Box Meetings papers. We cherish a hope that perhaps some of the books may be found in the rubbish; they are now digging for them.

From a manuscript inserted in a copy of *London Friends' Meetings*, once belonging to its author.

On page 161 of this book there is a further contemporary account of this fire.

Extract from the MS. *Journal of George Fox*,² relating to his travels in Wales:—

And att night wee [George Fox and John ap John] came to a litle Inn; very poore, butt very cheape, for wee and our two horses cost but 8d [but ye horses woulde assoone eate y^e heath one y^e common as there oates].³

¹ This proved incorrect—one volume only was partially burnt.

² The MS. *Journal* (D. Spence MSS., vols. i. and ii.) is now being transcribed at Devonshire House by J. Guthlac Birch, and is to be published *in extenso* by the Cambridge University Press.

³ The last few words in brackets are omitted from the printed editions.