

Quakerism in the Isle of Man.

The *Friends' Quarterly Examiner* contained, in its Tenth Month issue, a valuable historical paper written by Thomas Hodgkin, D.C.L., D.Litt., entitled, "Ruillick-ny-Quakeryn: Notes on the History of Friends in the Isle of Man." By the aid of original documents at Devonshire House, Besse's *Sufferings*, the *Journal of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, and from other sources, including information obtained during a visit to the Island, Dr. Hodgkin has traced the story of Manx Quakerism from the rise of Friends down to about a century ago, when the Island became "practically free from 'the poison of Quakerism.'"

Among the many sufferers for conscience' sake were William Callow and Evan Christen, the latter having married Jane, sister of Anne, wife of William Callow. Frequent fining and imprisonment in Peel Castle was their lot, whether by Governor, Bishop or titled Proprietor.

The following letters¹ have come to light too late, unfortunately, for inclusion in Dr. Hodgkin's paper. At his suggestion they are printed in THE JOURNAL, and they should be read in connection with the *F.Q.E.* article.

I.

From "Peele Castle the 13th of 6 Mounth 1664," William Callow and Evan Christian, "companions & fellow sufferers for the Testimony of Jesus," wrote a short paper, addressed to "Dearely beloved freinds in the land of onghland," but as this does not contain anything biographical, it is omitted.

2.

Two days after the date of the above-described paper, the same two writers pen the following striking description of their sufferings:—

W. CALOW TO FRIENDS, 1664.

My deare freinds.

These are to let you vnderstand how that we haue been yo^r Companions & fellow sufferers this 3 mounthes by the seasure of Rob. Parr

¹ Copied from the originals in D. (Swarthmore MSS. i. 105, 128, iii. 115, 117). Letters 4 and 5 appear to be in their original form and in the handwriting of William Callow; the others are by different hands. All are endorsed by George Fox.

& John Harrisson, two Judges in the Bishoppes Court, before the Bishopp came to the Jland & since the Bishopp Came J haue written vnto him seueral times for liberty of our tender Consiences, yet could get but very litle answer ; last of all J wrote vnto him to let him know my greate charge, payinge the Sume of 40. 7s. rents yearely, besides 13 or 14 parsons in famaly, of which 6 of them beinge smale children, the eldest of which is not yet 10 yeares of age ; my man servant was taken from me in winter last, & my wife hath been sicke, lieinge in the feuer, & is yet vnder the doctors hande. This J desired of him, beinge it was the season of the yeare that harvist was on & that my Corne was ripe my hay vnmaued my Boat vnder nets not mended was both the loss of the Jland & the Lords profits, deisired him to set me at liberty to get in my harvist, & J willinge to suffer & vndergoe whatsoeuer the law did Jnflict vpon us Accordinge as the Rest of our freinds did in the Nations about us that p̄vision might be made for the lords rent, & to my wife & distressed famalyes, which by Reason of our soe longe lieinge in prison was now left desolate & perishinge Condition as to our outward meanes & estates. His Answer to me was that the lords Rent would be secured for him in the forfituer of our estates if not payinge the Rents, which you may se more at large by his answer or a Coppie of the same, let that be none of our plea nor trouble not our selues nor him nether, for our writeinges heareafter would signifie nothinge to him but rather an adition of some thing worse very shortly, & threatened much because that the rest all fell vnder him & left us in Prison both together. J beleue the adition of some thing worst was his Generall Sumnor as the Call him 13th of this Mounth Came to Cargh my wife & Ewans mother with his sister & his sister in law to come to their Church the next day or els they would sease vpon all our goods & estates alsoe by an Act of Parliment as he said they might be brought to the barr to be secured & them banished out of the Jland as J have heard.

Theire Answer was to him that they would giue him none of their goods vnlesse he would take it by force, neither would they goe to their Church while they liued, & how they haue done with them since we know not because he threated them that was but weake. We did Appeale from him to the lord of the Jland to giue him a stopp to his purpose in oppression, yet his Answer to us out of o^r Appeale was soe that we were not able to make it good as you may se in the appeale answer.

Theirefore, our deare freinds, we deisire you to let us know how it is with yo^u, & that some of you goe to the Earle of Derby to know whether we may haue the same law that you haue or noe, and if his answer be nay, send them or get them sent to some of our freinds their to get us the benifit of the Act & lawes that you haue or may haue, & not to be Judged by a man or two how to vse us Accordeinge to their owne minde ; neither Can we get to you to make it knowne, for we doe not expect to far better heare then you doe but rather worse. Theirefore we deisire yo^u, my deare freinds, to worke in our behalfe that we may haue as you will haue & not be sufferers at every mans pleasure. What you suffer we are willinge to suffer the same Jf it be to the layinge downe of o^r bodyes, & we shall Continue where we are till such time as we shall heare from you, & send us the Act that you suffer by & whatsoeu^r will be Asked

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against you heareof to send us one of them still as sone as yo^u can that we may know what to suffer. They had an Act in this Jland, & wee deisired of them to let us se it, yet they would not. The Bishopp said if he had an Act he was not bound to keepe it for us nor to shew it us. My answer to him was when an Act is Acted it is not to be hided or kept priuetly but to be published abroad to let them that it did Concerne se it before they were to suffer Any thinge by it ; yet we could not se it that we might know what it was, but deisired us to ꝑcure one for our selues & had not liberty to looke for it. But now they goe with it to fricken the woman & Childer with it, to them that cannot reade nor know what it is but heare with what they say, yet they haue not let us se it but threatens abroad to fricken people withall. Not That J deisire of you to ꝑcure one for my releasement of them, for J doe not thinke there is Any such thinge in them, neither doe J thinke they are Acted to that purpose, but y^t J might knowe that my sufferinges be not greauous then yours.

Deare freinds, my sufferinges is greuous as to the outward estate, yet in my measure am satisfied Accordinge to what is made manifest vnto me. But as for my outward they haue vndone me, my wife is liueinge all the while before mentioned, & haue neuer a man servant but litle Children with two maide servants, soe that they haue spoiled me quite that J am not able to subsist nor liue amongst, & that is there deisire which grives my soul. J did not deisire the Riches of this worlde, but that J might be debtlese & haue a liueliehoode amonge them. My wife, beinge as aforesaid, Could make noe saile of Any thinge that we had for Rents & other thinges they haue taken some of the oxen of my plow in it. J know not how now my Corne lieth without none to take Care of it, & the fishinge this time of the yeare has been formerly good, helps vnto me both in mantaineinge my house & Rents & other debts. Now J haue noe hopes of Any of them for this yeare they haue kept me prisoner all summer soe that J must not se my wife though beinge sicke all the while till now, Thinkeinge now to bringe me to this Mountaine & shew me all the glory of the harvist & fishenge, all things els & this J might haue Jf J fall downe to worship them & there Command.

Theirfore, my deare freinds, feel me neare you ; doe somethinge for me in my miesery ; sue to the Earle of Derby for my Realeasement, & Jf it Cannot be had from him, get it vp to London to se what Can be had there. For all them that was with us is fallen to them 2 Mounthes agoe but we two, & send it me as sone as yo^u Can, & J deisire Jf it be the Lords will to se some of your faces, els J doe not know but J must leave the Jsland to them, which is sore against my will Jf J were able to mantaine my selfe in it ; noe, for that is it they deisire though J will stay in it while J am able.

Your Companions & fellow sufferers in our measure to they layinge downe of these bodyes ; for all that J haue written is yo^r liberty as yo^r thinke ffitt.

WILLIAM CALOW.
EWAN CHRISTIAN.

Peele Castle prison
15th of 6 Mounth 1664.

3.

Four months later we have the following :—

W. CALLOW TO HIS BROTHER, 64.

Bro : Euen.

Our deare loue in y^e pure endless Loue of Christ in o^r mesurs wee doe dearly salute y^e And All y^e rest of o^r dearly beloued ffrinds y^t Away. Though Absent in body yet wee ffeelee you All deare And neare vnto us in o^r mesurs of gods truth And loue of Jesus ; wee your brethren And ffellow sufferers in o^r mesures ffor y^e testamony of y^e truth, doth heare by Let you vnd^rstand how y^t wee yo^r powre dispisd Brethren ffor Christs sacke doe still remayne prisoners since y^e 22 of y^e 3^d moth And now, by way of Excommunication in the bishops Court they say y^t o^r estats Are sequestered And o^r bodys deliuered to the Earle of Darbyes discrecion, to doe w^t hee pleases wth our bodyes & estats. And on y^e 18 of y^e 8 mth All y^e rest of o^r ffamelyes y^t Are ffrinds were brought to priso to us, 7 in number 6 wiming And one man saruant, besides Will Callows wife : y^t had bene sicke 3 months, they brought her to y^e bishop, And because she was Able neither to goe nor ride nor yet to Abide Jmpresonm^t the bishop sent her backe Agayn, yet they brought her mayd to prison wth him selfe And 2 other seruants.

Deare ffrinds, wee Are some thinge troubled y^t in All this time wee have sene none of yo^r faices nor heard ffrom you, but As wee doe heare by report y^t o^r sister, Mary Cristian, is in Dublin, yet Jf Jt were y^e Lords pleasure wee would gladly see y^e ffaices of some ffrinds in this Jland. Bro : Euen : thy Mother, And thy Bro : Ewan, And thy sister Mary, And thy Bro : And will Cristions wife, besides other seruants, Are still in prison, only thy sister An And Besy Are left Att whom yet, as presoners since y^e 18 of y^e 8 mth And as yet soe y^t J was willinge to spend And bee spent ; but now thy are soe eniuous Agaynst mee Because there is noe other man in y^e Jland that hath Any Land or hould in Jt, soe y^t Jf Jt had not bene y^e Lords mighty powre to preserue & keep me, they would haue swallowed me vp of y^e earth long Agoe ; glory bee to his wholly name ffor euer, soe y^t as to the outward I Can hardly subsist Amongst them, And to leave y^e Jland J dare not, though Jt is often soe wth me. But J would haue y^e soe Acquaint ffrinds wth Jt, that they might weigh Jt in the Light of Christ And let me know w^t ffrinds thinkes best ffor me to doe, And Jf ffrinds Can doe Any thinge in the behalfe of thos powre wiminge towards theare releasm^t, or wether they thinke fitt y^t one of us Both goe to y^e king or to y^e lord to make Any request ffor our selues.

Noe more Att pesent, but in y^e lord J rest & remayne yo^r deare And faythfull Bro : to the layinge downe of this earthly body

WILL CALLOW.

Peele Castell prison 27 of y^e 10 mth 64 :

4.

During the banishment from Man referred to by Dr. Hodgkin the following letter was written to Margaret Fell :—

W. CALLAWAY OF JLA OF MAN, 1668.

London y^e 6 off ffirst mo : 68.

Dear Ly beloued ffreind.

My dear Loue in my measuer doth dearly salute thee, & all thy Dear Children as if J haue named them one by one, wth y^e rest of freinds near thee as thou art free. All freinds hear is well Jn generall & our meetings very full and peacable at psent. & as concerning ffreinds proseedings at y^e Court at psent J need not say any thing of it ; for E. Stubbs its lick will Jnforme thee of : but what may be done J know not at psent but y^e Lords will be done ; into whose will & liuing power J wth many more wholly & freely are giuen vp to y^e lords will, what he sees good for vs, knowing by good experient to our great Comfort y^t hele suffer noe more to be laid one vs then what he will allsoe inable vs to beare.

The paper of our sufferings J receiued y^e last seuenth day & J do acknowledge my selfe ingaged much to thee for thy loue & Care to me in many things and alsoe for this. G ff. we heare is Come to Barkshire and is expected to be heare this weeke. There is but few ffreinds in y^e minstry hear now but John burnyett & J : Coall w^{ch} came hear y^e last seuenth day.

Not eles at present, but wth my Deare Loue in my measur to thy selfe & thy dear children, J rest yo^r truly louing ffreind in deed & in truth,

WILL CALLOW.

Addressed :—

To his

Louing ffriend Margrett

ffell at Swartmore in

ffornish these dd

Lancash^{ire}

Leaue this wth thomas green

to be dd as above said

Marchant in }

Lancaster. }

5.

Recently restored to home and family, Callow embraces an opportunity to inform the Fell family of the improved conditions on the Island :—

W. CALAY OF THE ISLAND OF MAN TO M F, 1671.

Ballaffaill y^e 23^d of 10th mo : 71.

S : ff :

And dearly beloued freind. My dear loue wth my dear wives, in our measur of gods endlesse truth doe we dearly and nearly salute thee wth thy dear mother and sisters ; my dear loue is to L ff : and his wife, wth all y^e Rest of yo^r family and to Jo : Stubbs and his wife, Ro : Salthouse and his wife, wth T. S. W. S. R. . . . wth all y^e Rest of our dear freinds y^t aske for vs, as if J had named them one by one. My dear Loue is to G : ff : if at hoame or eles it may meett wth him.

Dear Sarah, J haueing meet wth this optunity, J coulde not forbear to lett know how it is wth vs at p̄sent, and by these thou may know y^t J wth my wife and children and all freinds in this Jsland are all well, glory be to god for ever more, and ou^r Litle meeting quiet and peacable after ou^r great and Long sufferings, everlasting praises be giuen to ou^r for ever and for ever more. Only sum treatnings wee doe hear of sending vs away againe ; but we are not afraid at their treats ; the lord god of power in y^e mightyness of his gloryouss infinit power has deliuered vs in 6 : and will be wth vs in y^e 7 : as we abide faithfull vnto him, everlasting praises be vnto his holy name for ever more.

Dear harts, J long to hear of yo^u or from yo^u, therefore lett me Jntreat yo^u to write to me by y^e first optunity y^t J may know how things is wth yo^u.

Dear S, if Reny be at y^e forges,² or whoeuer is, if thou would doe soe much as gett him to make a gredle in y^e forges, and not over broad but ordnary, and send it me and a 100, or halfe a 100 of Iron, by y^e nex y^t J shall by againe Spring and y^e Rate of both, J shall Returne thy mony ether in goods or monys ; for although J haue been an old houskeeper, yett a new beginer almost as ever, all things being decayed & out of order at my coming home ;³ soe y^t things as to y^e outward is su^m thing hard wth mee to finiss. My deare wife whose loue is to thee. Rachel, and Susan, is deliuered of a daughter about 7 weekes agoe.

Soe wth my deare loue to yo^u all in my measur of gods truth in w^{ch} J Rest and Remaine as hereto fore thy frend in deed and in gods endlesse truth

WILL CALLOW.

Addressed :—

The hands of
my dear and Louing frend
Sarah ffell at Swarth
more in ffornish fell this dd
Lancashire.

Where the holy sense is lost, possession of the highest truths cannot preserve against the enemy's assaults.

WILLIAM PENN, *Tender Counsel and Advice*, 1695, p. 6.

The Lord doth not visit the souls of any to *destroy* them, but to *save* them. . . Neither doth the Lord cause People to *Hunger* and *Thirst* after Him, and not fill them with his good things.

WILLIAM PENN, *Tender Counsel and Advice*, 1695, p. 18.

² There are references to the forge at Swarthmore in Webb's *Fells*, see pages 326, 330, 335. Sarah Fell had much responsibility in this work, and George Fox had money in the concern.

³ This is a very interesting natural touch. When estimating the financial losses caused by distraint, we must bear in mind the expenses incurred in replacing the goods removed.