

Very little remains to be chronicled regarding the old Meeting House—except its demolition. About the year 1790, the heavy hand of the city improver was laid upon it and the adjacent houses, the very Wynd itself, being swept away to make room for the alterations which resulted in the present South Bridge of Edinburgh. Friends were allowed £375 as compensation. And now, at length, something of the old idea was carried out, and “a good Large Meeting Howse” erected on the unused portion of the old Burial Ground in the Pleasants. In Eighth Month, 1790, workmen were engaged, and very shortly the Monthly Meeting was informed by the committee of management that the contract had been signed for the erection of the new Meeting House for the sum of £475. The contract, dated 9th November, 1790, was made between George Miller, Alexander Cruickshank and John Witchell,<sup>8</sup> “merchants in Edinburgh . . . on account of the Society of people commonly called Quakers in and about Edinburgh of the one part, and Alexander Paterson, mason, and Thomas Dott, wright, both builders in Edinburgh, of the other part.” The mason work and roof were finished by the 27th of November, and £200 paid on account. The building was to be entirely completed by the 20th April, 1791, in time for the recently established “General Meeting.”

And so, ever since, the house has remained in use, a square-built, grave, substantial-looking building of stone, as beseems a Friends’ Meeting House.

WILLIAM F. MILLER.

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### **Southey’s Appreciation of Sewel’s “History.”**

Sewel’s *History of the Quakers* is an honourable exception to the generality of Ecclesiastical Histories which of all other books are most remarkable for falshood. Never was any book written with more perfect veracity, & the consequence is that with the best disposition to believe that miracles were vouchsafed in favour of his brethren he relates but very few, & of those few the only one which may not obtain belief from the coolest judgment, is fetched from a distance, & the manner in which he relates it is sufficient to persuade me of his veracity. SOUTHEY.

<sup>8</sup> John Witchell was the first husband of Mary Wright, a Friend of some note last century, who died at Leeds in 1859, aged 103.