

Unpublished Letter of Margaret Fox, 1684:5.

The following letter is a transcript of the original which I discovered accidentally in a manuscript book having no connection with it, and enclosed in a wrapper endorsed by my late uncle, Henry Robson, who died at my father's house, Stansted, Essex, 1850, aet. fifty-one. It is probable that it was given to my grandfather, Thomas Robson, of Liverpool, by his intimate friend, Thomas Thompson, of the same, whose collection of Quaker MSS. is now at Devonshire House. The letter is a folio one, on one side of the paper only; the right hand margin has portions missing, and has been mended by the late H. Robson.

The letter is addressed at the back:—

“ To Rachell Abraham at Swarthmore near Lancaster These ddd in Lancashire.”

It is dated, “ London y^e 7th 12th mo., 168⁴.”

Dear Son & Daughter¹ Abraham.

J received your letter & J praise y^e Lord for your pres[er]vation in y^e truth & in y^r health as we are here all a[t] this time glory to y^e lord forever, our busyness at y^e L[ords ?] is not yet ended but we hope in y^e Lord to get it ende[d] this next week, here hath been a great & as Suddain Change, King Charles was taken Jll on 2^d day morning and departed this life yesterday about Mid day, & in y^e after noon Kings James y^e 2^d Late Duke of York was proclaimed, soe y^t this day y^e Judges have received Comission to Sit agⁿ (as we hear), We expecte your Sister Lower² to be here y^e next week for I writt to her to return as Shortly as She could because yee writt y^e Small pox was Soe near hand w^{ch} J confess J was affraid of, We doe not know how things will be as yet but we will wait upon y^e Lord to Manifest his will and pleas[ure] and for your Suffering you must

¹ Rachel Fell, wife of Daniel Abraham, of Swarthmore Hall, who nursed her mother in her last illness.

² Mary Fell, wife of Thomas Lower.

be Content & in y^e Strength of y^e Lord give up to doe his will & J hop[e in] y^e Lord it will not be very long till we shall ende[avour] to return to you, My dear love & Constant pr[ayer] is to y^e Lord for you y^t in his powerfull Ar[m and] Strength yee may be preserved, My dear Love is [to] Leonard ffell & his wife and to all y^e Servants [&] friends, We Can give noe account what will [become] of Mary Woodburns busyness till our Motion C[omes] on, Your Brother and³ Sister Mead & Sister Susanah⁴ have [their ?] dear Loves remembered unto you, which is all at present,

From your dear
Mother in y^e Lord
M.F.

Your Cussin Bethia⁵
hath her dear Love
remembered unto you.

On the reverse is the letter following from Sarah Meade, wife of William Meade, of Gooses, Essex, and daughter of Margaret Fox :—

“ J have in closed thee an acct betwixt us, by w^{ch} thou will see there is [] of thine in my hand ; w^{ch} J shall pay to bee laid out as thou desires. J desire [] if thou has done as J desired in paying Addison wife 20^s from her sonn w^{ch} J mentioned in one [of] mothers Lettrs, but J doe not know that thou mentioned y^e receite of it ; it was alitle [before ?] y^e time called Christmas : J am glad to heare y^t Bro : hath gott the money [of] [M]arshall & Buskell, J thinke hee hath done very well in it, & J take his care [] kindely in gettinge it. J would know of thee, what more of y^e fforge money (besides [what t]hou hath in thy hands, & if all y^e forge money bee come in) : and then J shall ord^r [] how to Returne it ; J intend to order thee y^e 12^s thou mentions about Ratcliffe ; out [of the ?] money in thy

³ These last two words in Sarah Meade's hand, as an omission.

⁴ Susannah Fell, wife of William Ingram.

⁵ Bethiah (daughter of Margaret Fell, Jun., wife of John Rous), who married David English, 1692.

hands ; [Sister] Lower will J suppose supply her selfe another way.

not else but kind Loue to thee & Brother
from Thy truely Loveinge sist^r, S.M.”

On the reverse are also the following endorsements :

“ 40 ” : and “ My Dear & Honour’d Grand Mothers
Letter to my Dear and Affectionate ffather and Mother
when she was att London.

“ J. ABRAHAM.”

In the above mentioned wrapper is also a copy of a letter of Margaret Fox to King William III., dated “ London the 24th of ye 4th moth called June 1698,” written on a large square sheet of paper in the excellent caligraphy of Sarah Meade. At the foot of this document Sarah Meade has added :—

“ This is A Cobby of a paper, deliuered to Kinge William the Third, at his Pallace at Kensington, the 25th of the 4th moth 1698 :—by Susannah Ingram, sixth daughter of the aboue mentioned Margarett Fox.”

This address is printed in Maria Webb’s *Fells of Swarthmoor Hall*,⁶ but it does not say there that Susanna Ingram was Margaret Fell’s *sixth* daughter, though this is stated on page 441. Owing to the loss of the registers of Ulverston at the period of their baptisms, the sequence of the children of Judge Fell has been uncertain, but in this case at least, it is cleared up by the autograph endorsement of one of the Fell sisters herself, *viz.*, Sarah Meade.

JOSEPH J. GREEN.

Hertfordshire Sessions Rolls.

Much information regarding Friends in Herts may be found in *Notes and Extracts from the Sessions Rolls, 1581 to 1698*, compiled by W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., Vol. I. (Hertford: Office of Clerk of the Peace, 10 by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, pp. 494).

⁶ Second edition, 1896, pp. 421, 422.