

## Bathing Machines—A Quaker Invention.<sup>1</sup>

Explanation of the Structure of the Machine (see illustration).

- A. The Bathing Room, to the steps of which the Machine B. is driving, with its umbrella drawn up.
- C. A back view of the Machine, shewing its steps, and the folding doors which open into a Bath of eight feet by thirteen feet, formed by the fall of the umbrella.
- D. The Machine, as used in Bathing, with its umbrella down.

The entrance into the Machine is through a door at the back of the driver, who sits on a movable bench, and raises or lets fall the umbrella by means of a line, which runs along the top of the Machine, and is fastened to a pin over the Door.

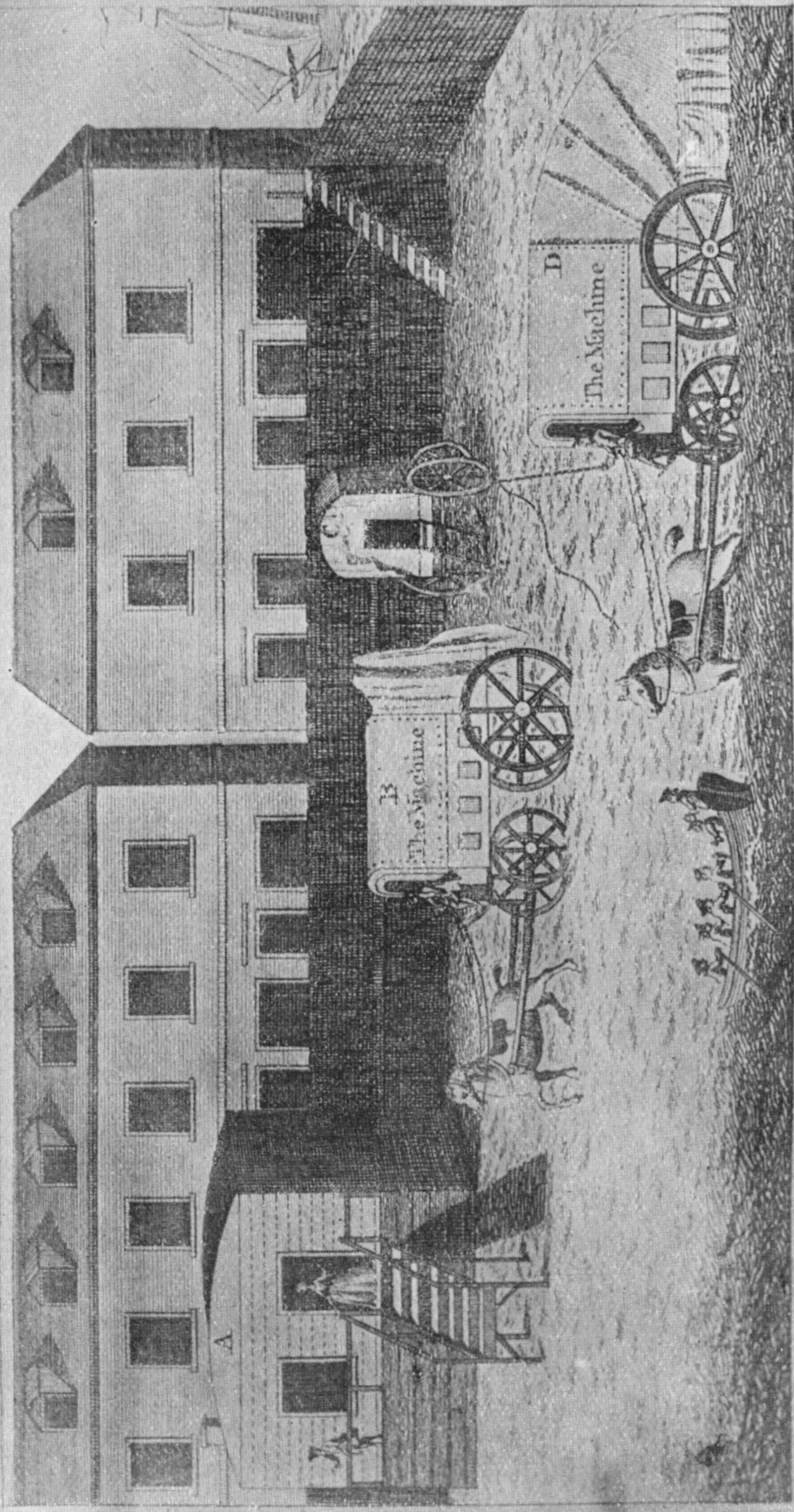
### The Back of the Bathing Houses,

which has been much improved by the building of convenient waiting rooms; for as the whole of the bathing machines are sometimes occupied, the names of those wishing to bathe are inserted upon a slate, which is kept in the lobby, and every one is obliged to wait his regular turn. These waiting rooms, where there are grand piano-fortes, newspapers, and telescopes for the use of subscribers, are frequently filled of an evening by a respectable assemblage of visitors, who entertain themselves with playing, dancing, singing, etc. Some prefer the morning for bathing. The sea-view from the galleries is very fine.

The bathing houses have each a certain number of machines, which are constantly in preparation to carry out the company when the tide permits. From a door at the back of these machines, which resemble close caravans, the bathers, who are entirely concealed from observation by a pendant covering of canvas, which falls over the hinder part of the vehicles, descend by wooden steps, until they reach the bottom, composed

<sup>1</sup> From printed extracts in an old scrap book, in D.

For Bathing in the Sea at Margate in the Isle of Thanet KENT.



From an old print in D.

entirely of fine sand. These canvas screens or umbrellas were contrived, about half a century ago, by Benjamin Beale, a Quaker,<sup>2</sup> and an inhabitant of Margate, whose widow lately died at Draper's,<sup>3</sup> and whose successors, it is said, have derived far greater advantages from them than the inventor. Thus the pleasure and advantages of sea-bathing may be enjoyed in a manner consistent with the most refined delicacy.

---

### Editors' Notes.

The Editors intend to print, in the next issue of THE JOURNAL, two letters, written in 1675 by Anne, Viscountess Conway, "Quaker Lady," to Dr. Henry More, which contain most interesting references to Quakerism and to George Fox, William Penn, George Keith, and others. The letters will be accompanied by an introduction and notes from the pen of Joseph J. Green.

The Editors hope to publish, during the coming year, some, if not all, of the undermentioned MSS. :—

Extracts from letters to Mary Watson, 1798, giving details of events during the Irish Rebellion; The Reckless Family in America, by James Emlen; The Family of Greene of Liversedge and an ancient West Riding "Gods Acre," by J. J. Green; Henry Frankland's Account of his Travels in America, 1732; Some Account concerning the Women's Monthly Meeting in the County of Bucks.

It is intended to supply materials for the setting up of a standard of spelling of the names of early Friends as it is felt that in these days of exactness in historical matters some authorised and generally accepted presentation of names is desirable.

All communications respecting THE JOURNAL should be addressed to Norman Penney, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C.

<sup>2</sup> This Quaker invention is also referred to in *Tit-Bits* of 28 viii. 1909. From another source we learn that these machines were placed on Margate beach about 1750. It was claimed for Beale's machines in 1803, that "they may be driven to any depth into the sea by careful guides."

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth, widow of Benjamin Beale, died in 1806, aged ninety-two. She was convinced of Friends' principles about 1751, and was a Minister for many years. See Testimony of Folkestone M.M.