

Peter Lely. I am sorry to say we have no documents or manuscripts relating to Viscountess Conway."

Unless, therefore, there are letters in the British Museum or elsewhere, the originals in the writer's possession, an accurate transcription of which follows²⁶, are the only ones now remaining.

Tunbridge Wells.

J. J. GREEN.

To be continued.

Jonathan Backhouse and the Bank Notes.

An interesting and amusing story of Mr. Backhouse and a "Commercial" was told of the late Jonathan Backhouse by Joshua Monkhouse of Barnard Castle, and vouched for by him as having actually taken place.

"Before the time of railways, near the beginning of the century, the commercial traveller of that day made his visits to the towns of the County of Durham either by mail coach or other conveyance, and sojourned for some days in each town, where he was an important person, especially at the head hotel or hostelry of the place. It so happened that one of those gentlemen, after having dined freely at the 'King's Head,' Barnard Castle, was boasting to a company present in the commercial room of his own importance and wealth, and exhibiting in proof a sheaf of bank notes taken on his journey. Jonathan Backhouse, attired in the usual dress of the Society of Friends, unknown to the rest of the company, was in the room quietly reading his newspaper, when he was attacked by the wealthy commercial, and by a series of sarcastic remarks held up to ridicule as a man out of harmony with the spirit of the time and place. Following up this raillery the commercial, displaying his handful of notes, offered to bet the Quaker £5 or any sum, that he could not produce as much money as he was exhibiting. Mr. Backhouse after a great deal of banter, said he did not bet, but to show his indifference to money offered to put a £5 note in the fire if the commercial would do the same. Suiting the action to the word Mr. Backhouse took out a £5 note, and put it into the fire. The commercial, not wishing to be behind, did the same. Mr. Backhouse offered to repeat the process, but the commercial, considerably cowed, declined; when Mr. Backhouse quietly thanked him for having burned one of his (Mr. Backhouse's) bank notes, for which he had received £5, while the note he (Mr. Backhouse) had burned was on his own bank, and had only cost him the paper."

From *A History of Banks, Bankers and Banking*, etc., by Maberly Phillips, 1894, p. 149.

²⁶ In consequence of illness it is not possible to include Lady Conway's letter in this issue.