

## Side-lights on Quaker History to be found in "The Diary of Samuel Pepys."

*Continued from vol. v. page 147.*

### THOMAS CHIFFINCH.

"April 8, 1666. The Court full this morning of the newes of Tom Cheffin's death, the King's closett-keeper. He was well last night as ever, playing at tables in the house, and not very ill this morning at six o'clock, yet dead before seven: they think, of an imposthume in his breast."

Chiffinch occupied numerous posts at the Court of Charles II. He was one of the pages of the King's bed-chamber, keeper of his private closet and pictures, and of the privy purse, and Controller of the Excise. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

He is referred to in a letter from Mary Fell to her mother, dated in London, 1664, as "Chifines the King's favourite page" (*Fells of Swarthmoore Hall*, p. 215). See also *Cal. S. P. Dom.*

### WILLIAM CHIFFINCH.

Brother of Thomas, was also in the employ of the Crown. In 1662 he was admitted as "Page of the back stairs to the Queen" (*Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1661-2, p. 498). In 1664 he was a "page of the bedchamber to the Queen" (*ibid.*, 1664-5, p. 137). He succeeded to the position before the King, vacated at his brother's death. Pepys calls him "Mr. Chevins." He appears in Sir Walter Scott's *Peeveril of the Peak*.

George Whitehead records in his *Christian Progress* (page 374) that at an interview with the King, Friends were introduced by "William Chiffins, Esq., Closet-Keeper to the King." See further references in *Cal. S. P. Dom.*

### WRESTLING IN MOORFIELDS.

"June 28, 1661.—Sir W. Pen and I in his coach went to Moorefields, and there walked, and stood and saw the wrestling, which I never saw so much of before, between the north and west countrymen."

" July 26, 1664.—Great discourse of the fray yesterday in Moorefields, how the butchers at first did beat the weavers (between whom there hath been ever an old competition for mastery), but at last the weavers rallied and beat them. . . ."

" March 24, 1667/8.—To White Hall, where great talk of the tumult . . . . about Moore-fields, among the 'prentices."

Moorfields were first drained in 1527, and walks were laid out in 1606.

Into such scenes as above described Edward Burrough introduced himself on one occasion. When a champion wrestler, having thrown all antagonists, stood ready for further work, suddenly the outwardly meek but inwardly courageous Quaker stepped into the ring, and taking advantage of the surprise of the crowd, addressed them earnestly for a short time on matters of spiritual warfare, and passed away without hurt.<sup>1</sup> The "rude savage apprentices" often came into conflict with the work of early Friends in London.

#### JUSTICE KEELING.

Sir John Kelyng appears in *The Diary* on several occasions. He carried things with a high hand, but "seems a very able lawyer." He was M.P. for Bedford, 1661, a Judge of the King's bench, 1663, and Chief Justice 1665. He died in May, 1671.

Judge Keeling's name appears in a letter from Ellis Hookes to Margaret Fell, printed in *The Fells of Swarthmore Hall*, page 227. See Swarthmore MSS.

#### SIR RICHARD BROWNE.

Major-General of the Parliamentary forces, Sheriff of London 1647, M.P. for London 1659, Lord Mayor 1660-61, created a Baronet for his services during the rising of the Fifth Monarchy Men, which took place during his mayoralty. He was a great persecutor of Friends, and is frequently mentioned in Friends' literature.<sup>2</sup> He died 1669. He had a son and grandson of the same name. There was another Sir Richard Browne, at the same time, who was clerk of the Council.

<sup>1</sup> See Sewel's *History*, 1811, i. 137.

<sup>2</sup> See *History of Thomas Ellwood*; Besse's *Sufferings*; *F.P.T.*; Sewel's *History*; Swarthmore MSS.