

Early Quakerism in Ireland.

Charles Harding Firth, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford, has drawn our attention to letters and other documents relating to early Quakerism in Ireland, to be found among the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum.

We have pleasure in printing below a specimen letter, transcribed and forwarded by Prof. C. H. Firth. Should our readers think it well to do so, we will arrange to have further letters transcribed, and printed in later issues of THE JOURNAL.

Lansd. MS. 822, fol. 117.

My Lord

Heereinge y^t Capt Holmes a discontented Quaker has petition'd y^r Lor^p & y^e Councell Agst mee, for my Actings toward him and y^e rest off y^t Fraternity (y^t once gaue to dandgerouse a disturbance to this place) I thought itt my duty for y^r Lor^ps satisfaction, & my owne vindication to giue this ensueinge Account off my Proceedings wth those wild yett subtill and designeinge Generation off people; For y^e Quakers y^t are y^e growth off y^e towne, vipers bred in o^r bosomes, they haue y^e Liberty quietly to meete amongst themselus wth out disturbance; but iff Any strandgers crow'd in wth them & gett crowdes about them, then I thinke my selfe concerned in Order to y^e Security off y^e place, to turne y^e disturbers out off itt. beinge to answeare y^e safety off y^t place wth y^e hazard off my Life; w^{ch} I would not vndertake, should I not haue y^e Liberty to secure y^e Garrison from hudles off disconten[te]d Spiritts.

2 For those y^t are Strandge Quakers y^t come from incognita terra (since I haue bin back'd by y^e councells authority, w^{ch} I diuulge not) as Soone as they come in att one gate, I send them out att another, neaver Letting them rest a minute in the Garrison after I know off them 'till they are conuayd out off y^e Lybertyse off Lymb^r, some haue come Late to prevent y^t course, but I haue ventured them in y^e darke rather then fayle; by w^{ch} meanes wee are very Quiett & are troubled wth them very Seldome.

3 A Proclamation is put out by mee y^t those Inhabitants y^t Entertayne Strandge Quakers or Irish Papists a night in their houses wth out first acquaynteinge y^e present Gov^r thearewith, shall bee turn'd they and their familyse out off y^e Garrison.

4 Those Souldiers y^t weare Quakers I chasheired them by a court martiall out off y^e Army, not barely for beinge Quakers, but for their disobedience to their officers, & things off y^t nature; w^{ch} has cur'd more then a hundred off y^t Aguish distemper they weare Inclineinge to.

5 Those y^t abus'd y^e ministers & disturb'd y^e Congregations (before I had notice off them from y^e Councell) I imprison'd for a time, & then sent them from whence they came.

6 A Sarjeant y^t was chaseird the army about Waterford for abuseinge the cuntry, gave mee such base Languadge in a Letter, beinge a Quaker, that I was forc'd to beate him into better Manners, another fellow I seru'd soe y^t braught mee base Letters, w^{ch} has giuen mee freedom from y^t trouble ever since.

7 On a Sabbath day wⁿ I was att Sermon, y^e officer off y^e guard acquaynteinge mee y^t att Capt Holmeses house there was a greate Number off Strandgers and discontented persons togeather; I gaue him an order Vnder my hand to goe into y^e house & see w^t y^e Matter was, & iff y^t hee found Any Strandge Quakers there, y^t hee should secure them on y^e guard 'till further orders from mee but wⁿ y^e officer off y^e guard came wth my order to see y^e occation off such a Meetinge in y^e garrison y^e dore was kept agst him, 'till hee broake itt vp with his guard; Ph^rips an Inhabitant off this towne kept y^e dore shutt, & for his offence I clap'd him vp in the Martials for 24 howers or Lesse: Leiut^{nt} Waller was amongst y^e Company y^t resisted y^e guard & thow hee pleaded his Excuse yett I thaught conuenient to suspend him from his Imployment for a while, to make him sencible off his folly; this is a passadge y^t fell out 3 monthes agoe, but beinge assur'd y^t a complaynt is made agst mee about itt, I have giuen this account; As likewise off y^t off y^e Sarjeant Quaker, y^t I banged for giueing mee base Languadge. y^e cheife

Quakers y^t wee haue inhabitants off this towne are Cap^t Holmes, M^r Phelps, & M^r Peirce, y^t are starke mad att mee, y^t I giue not all Quakers strandgers as well as others liberty to meete in this Garrison, w^{ch} shall neaver bee Sufferd whilst I have to doe wth itt, Since I know them to well to trust them ; My thinks iff theire deuotion weare soe hott for y^t w^{ch} I dare not call a religion y^e cuntry att Lardge should Serve there turne to bee in, for the Exercise of itt ; but noe place will please them but this.

8ly Perhaps tis chardg'd as a crime agst mee for makeing Pierces wife a Quaker (in y^e absence off her husband) pay 20^s for entertayneinge a strandge Quaker in her house a night wth out giueinge notice, contrary to y^e proclamation. y^e mony was giuen to y^e poore.

My L^d I know not any thinge y^t I haue done that I haue not heere acquaynted y^r Lor^p wth Iff they are faults I haue told them you all ; but y^t y^r Lor^p has a better judgement then to beeleive them to bee soe, is y^e opinion off my L^d y^r Excellencyse most obleidged most faythfull, humble Seru^t

H. INGOLDESBY.

Lymb^r [Limerick] 31th march 1657.

"Lancasterian Pippins."¹

In the year 1809 when Will^m Corston² opened his school at Fincham in Norfolk—Joseph Lancaster and Joseph Fox with other friends being present—W. Corston was planting his Orchard and being desirous that each should plant a Tree—the "Three in one" as termed by W. Corston were planted together that their arms might entwine—none survived the season save that planted by Joseph Lancaster the fruit was called "Lancasterian Pippin" having received some from W. C.—J. Brignall respectfully requests his friend W. Pollard's acceptance of a few for trial as well as for the remembrance of the founder of an Institution of which the plants have been so carefully watered by W. Pollards attention and benevolence.

¹ From a MS. in D.

² Author of *A Brief Sketch of the Life of Joseph Lancaster*, 1840. See H. B. Binns's *History of the British and Foreign School Society*, 1908.