

Early Quakerism in Ireland.

Continued from p. 58.

FROM MAJOR HODDEN,¹ OF KINSALE, 1655/6.

My Lord,

I entreate leaue humbly to offer these few Words with y^e Incloased Concerning y^e psons called Quakers, &c. Many of them were psecuted in y^e daies of y^e Late Bishoppes by y^e name of Puritans (though vnblameable in their Conversations) and Since haue faithfully served this Comon Wealth even in y^e Worst of times and y^e god of glorie therein Supported them through evill Reporte and good Reporte : and other names of Derision, too many here to Mention, While bloody minded, evill men, and seducers haue Waxed worse & worse, deceiving and being Deceived.

And now, my Lord, I beseech yo^u Consider that Reformaçon is began, not finished, and y^e foundation & principall pte thereof Spirituall, without which all outward formes are but Deceipt. As it is written, wee looke for a new heaven and a new Earth wherein Dwells Righteousnes, And it hath bien, & is hoped, that in thiſ wast Lande may be Comfortable habitations for Religious English men, if thereunto encouraged.

God hath heretofore Remembered his serv^{ts} in their Low estate and it will be yo^r Joy Strength and happines to owne such in the Lord, And I also beseech yo^u to take notice, againe & againe, how Pollitick and wise in their generation Some men are for other Ends than yo^r Service or the Peoples soules.

I haue nothing to Say for Such as shall be fownd fighters against god, Denie his holynes, Justifie themselues in their Abominaçons, or that comit other Misdemean^{rs} or breaches of y^e peace, God forbid.

¹ "Major Richard Hodden, Governor of Kinsale, encouraged and protected the Quakers to such an extent that he was accused of holding atheistical principles" (Firth, *Last Years of the Protectorate*, 1909, ii. 155, see Thurloe, iv., 672, 698; Burton, *Parliamentary Diary* (1656-1659), 1828, ii. 113n; Besse, *Suff.* ii. 460.

Lieutenant Mason, Deputy-Governor of Kinsale, also "shewed Moderation, and for the same he was complained of, and put out of his Employment in the Army" (Fuller and Holme's *Compendious View of Sufferings . . . Ireland*, 1731, p.125).

These are private Lynes to yo^r Lordsh^{pp}e out of a Deepe sence of my Duetie, and in Sinceritie of hearte as in y^e Sight of God, wherein (its Like) few will be soe free and plaine wth you. Which I the Rather am for that I haue (through y^e Tender Mercie of god) had full knowledg of Divers of y^e before Mentioned p^{ersons} in England and here. Deare Sir, It will never Repente yo^u that yo^u Incourage Vertue, and punishe Vice, wherein I beseech y^e god of heaven to be yo^r Guide, in whom I am

Yo^r Exc^{ies} faithfull and Affect^t serv^t

Ri. Hodden.

Kinsale Jann 4th 1655.

ROBERT EVANS TO HENRY CROMWELL² AND HARDRESS WALLER,³ 1656.

ffor the comander in Chife of the fforges in Irland these

To Henery Cromwell and Hardress Wallar freinds

Whereas I ame Accused for demanding my pay and a discharg from thee Henery Cromwell in a miutinous and sedisous maner it is falce, I disowen it for I Came in the feare of God to desire a discharg of thee which thou did promis me. I demanded it not in a miutinous nor sedisous maner as thou of God in thy Conscience may wittness and as many peopele whoe were then present may wittness to the Contrary and when I Came to thy House to looke for thy promis I was put out of doors by the shoulder then I Came to thee again and gaue thee a paper sheweing the Justnes of what I desired of thee and in it demanded my wages not in a miutinous nor sedisous maner as yee falsey accus me and as that of God in all yo^r consicences may wittness to the Contrary and to the light of Christ in all tender Consicences who Reads that paper I leaue it to Judg whether thos words be spoken in a mutinous and sedisous maner which are written in that paper.

Also to thee Hardress Wallar and the Rest of thy

² That is, Henry Cromwell (1628-1674), son of the Protector, at this date Major-General of the Forces in Ireland, also Deputy-Governor.

³ Hardress Waller, one of the Judges of Charles I., was Major-General in Ireland.

asistence at the Court Marshall soe called from whom I Receiued an unjust sentence without the breach of any Just law although I desired thee and the rest to make it appier wherein I had transgrased any Just law of God but yee did not. have yee passed Sentence vpon me because I Could not Respect yo^r persons and soe transgras the Just law of God whoe is noe respecter of persons, which of all the Holly men of God who Judged for God in ages passt is yo^r example to pass a sentence of imprisonment, make slaue and banish a seruen for demanding his wages when he hath don his masters worke faithfully and hath leaue to depart from the Seruice. doth the Scripturs which yee say you owen Justify you hearin.

Henery Cromwell I desire thee to Cause some Care to be taken wherby I may haue my cloths and other things of myn which is left with the Compainy where I was doing thy Seruice and the Comonwelths. allsoe I demand a discharg in writtings of thee being Chife in the nation accordeing to man and my wages alsoe wherby I may paye moneys where I owe it as at Athlon Balymoor and other places, for things which I had need of whilst I was in the seruice for which things I am free to paye before I be banished out of the land. if I may haue my due and if not upon yo^r accounts I leaue it to answer the Lord.

Written by one not knowen to any of you but by the name of Rob Euans a prisoner for the truth sake.

ffrom bridwell,
the 3 of the 11th
month, 56.⁴

LIEUT.-COL. NELSON, ROSS, 1657.

Honrd Sir

Upon the last Lords day whiles the Minister was in Sermon the Dru^mer to Maior Hoddens late Companie, by name Rob : Whetstone,⁵ Came in and gaue publicke

⁴ Wrongly placed in chronological order in the rearranged Lansdowne MSS. owing to ignorance of the peculiarities of Quaker dating. It is to be found under November, 1656.

⁵ Robert Whetstone is mentioned in Besse's *Sufferings*, under Ireland, and also in *Compendious View*, p. 68.

Disturbance with much bitterness of spirit and revillings. I haue Committed him, being a soldier I desire to know my Lords pleasure Concerneing him hee is the first qaker that hath giuen disturbance heere its good to nipp such spirits in the budd: I am under some distemper and Can not in larg. I Craue a word from you as to this, and the presenting my ffaithfull service to my Lord, with my harty acknowledgmennt for his fauor in admitting tow files af my men to goe to my Lott [?], which fauor with those many I haue receiued I hope hee will not find misplaced. pardon my trobleing of you and doe that right as to belieue mee to be cordially

Your faithfull, affectionat, humble Servant,
John Nelsonn.

Ross, the 26th May, 1657.

These
for my honnrd ffreind Dockter
Robert Gorge Secretarye
to his excellencie the
Lord Genn^{rl} Cromwell,
in Dublin,
p^rsent.

At this meeting something was mentioned concerning Walter Long's selling of Jews-harps, George Gray & Ralph Jackson are desired to speak to him, that he may take the said Jews harps again and return their money to them that he sold them to, and that they be sent from whence they came. And the said friends are desired to speak to the Widow Culcop that she deliver the said Jews harps, which she bought, to Walter Long, from whom she had them.

Walter Long having been spoken to concerning the selling of Jews harps, he promised to sell no more, and that he would be at part of the Loss of those that he sold and take them again to the satisfaction of this meeting.

Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 30th of 8th Month, and 27th of 9th Month, 1696.

George Gray is desired to speak to friends next first day after the morning meeting, That they meet about the ninth hour in the morning, on first days, and not to exceed half an hour after that time.

Phila. M.M. 24th of 9th Month, 1699.

Printed in *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, vol. iv., no. 2.