

## Notes and Queries.

**EXTRACTS FROM STATE PAPERS, FIRST SERIES.**—The publication of these Extracts in Journal Supplement No. 8 lays students of Quaker History under a deep obligation to the transcriber, Charlotte Fell Smith, and the editor, Norman Penney. The object of the present note is to determine the date of three documents, which seem to have been wrongly placed in the Calendar, and are in consequence printed in wrong order in the Extracts.

The first two are the Northamptonshire and Dorsetshire papers referring to Justices of the Peace, etc., printed pp. 6-13. These belong not to December 1655 and October 1656, but to the year 1659. The following criteria determine the date of the Northants document: (1) The three Friends fit to rule for God are all stated to have owned truth four years ago. We have no reason for supposing that there were Friends in Northants in 1651, and the reference is to the beginning of 1655. The letters printed in *THE JOURNAL*, vol. i., pp. 39-43, show the situation at this time. (2) The paper refers to one Knightley, who sat "in this last Parliament." Sir Richard Knightley, the gentleman referred to, sat in Richard's Parliament, which must therefore have been dissolved. This gives us a date for the paper after April 22nd, 1659. (3) The references to Butler, the persecuting Major-General, are inconsistent with his being Major-General at

the date of the paper, as would be the case if December 1655 is correct. (4) Francis Harvey (p. 9) is said to have fined certain Friends "last Easter Session." The same case is reported in "Besse," i. 531, with date 13th April, 1659.

The Dorsetshire paper must be dated about the same time, as may indeed be inferred from the note at bottom of p. 10. The stoning of Friends at Sherborne belongs to September 1658, see "Besse," i. 167. The flogging of a woman Friend by Edward Chicke is no doubt the case in December 1657, given in *F.P.T.* 87.

The third paper misplaced is the important Draft Letter to Justices, given at pp. 33, 34. The paper at p. 31 relating to cases in Devon and Suffolk seems an insufficient ground for a general letter from the Council to Justices of the Peace, whereas the general list of Prisoners supplied in September 1658 (p. 37) and the replies received from the Gaolers of the Prisons where Friends lay furnished materials for an important Report, printed pp. 89-91, which, after dealing with some of the cases, refers to imprisonment due to refusal to find sureties, disturbance of ministers or contempt of court, and recommends that a letter be sent to Justices, "according to the draft herewith presented." This draft is, I have no doubt, the one printed at pp. 33, 34, which deals with just these kinds of cases.—  
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