

Friends in Current Literature.

Readers, and especially students, of Quaker literature will be deeply grateful to Mrs. Godfrey Locker Lampson, *née* de Rodes, for allowing the letters to be made public which appear in *A Quaker Post-bag*, published by Longmans, at 8s. 6d. net, with Introduction by the Right Hon. Augustine Birrell. These letters, eighty-two in number, were, with slight exception, written to Sir John Rodes, Bart., of Barlbrough Hall, near Chesterfield (b. c. 1670, d. 1743, the dates given by Augustine Birrell are incorrect). The letters were from William Penn (5), Lady (Martha) Rodes, mother of Sir John (16), Henry Gouldney (31), John Tompkins (28), and Silvanus Bevan (2). Although showing evidence of deep religious feeling, the letters are not so full of expressions of this feeling as many others of the period or of earlier date. William Penn's first letter is occupied with suggestions for a right expenditure of time and for the best reading for a man of leisure like Sir John. Most of the writers urge a more active life and a fuller advocacy of Quaker principles, "I have often begrug'ed thee thy unactive life. Gett abroad and mix with liveing friends," p. 10; "I am not for thy keeping too much at home," p. 62; "I must not have thee a domestick. Put thy selfe upon a suteable conversation," p. 63; Barlbrough is described as a "mellanchally Cell," p. 100; "that Corner," p. 125; and "that large prison," p. 190. Sir John was urged again and again to take to himself a wife—"a proper companion for thy selfe," p. 65; "marriage is a subject I thought of laying aside, wⁿ writeing to thee, but thy reviveing it, altho wth disponding thoughts, leads me to tell thee thy happieness wants compleating untill thou come under that Yoake. I presume thy Visage is more massculine, an agreeable object to the other sex; besides thou have many Oyles and delicious waishes that will sett off a more rugged Countinace, than I believe the fury of thy distemper [small pox] lefft thee," p. 88; "she is Young and hath a great deal of mony, and it's beleevd her Parents would be easy to consent," p. 132; "Thou lets every one step in before thee," p. 192. But Sir John was a bachelor to the end. There are incidental references to Edmond Waller, the Quaker son of the poet, to the Separatists Bugg and Keith, to the doubtful propriety of Penn's second marriage, to the last days of Margaret Fox, and other matters of importance for the study of Quakerism at the time when the earliest of its advocates had nearly all passed away, "orriginnalls of the primitive Quakers," as they are called, p. 188. There are also hosts of allusions to the every-day affairs of life.

The authorities at Devonshire House had the opportunity of suggesting a few identifications and giving some general assistance to the Editor, but they did not see either the original letters or the proofs of the book. It is to be regretted that a number of errors have appeared. *Isabella Yeatman* should have been *Yeamans*, p. 15; *Robert Barclay* wrote the *Apology*, not *Thomas*, p. 79; *Tate Sowle* should be *Tace Sowle*; *George Whitehead* died 1722/3, not 1722 or 1723, p. 102; *Crisp*, p. 135, was not *Stephen Crisp* but *Thomas Crisp*, the Separatist; the letters range in date

from 1690 to 1742, not 1693, as appears on the title page. There are beautifully reproduced portraits of Sir John Rodes and his mother, also a view of Barlbrough, and several facsimiles.

In the *Pharmaceutical Journal* for July 30th there is an account of the recent British Pharmaceutical Conference at Cambridge, at which Francis Ransom, F.C.S., of Hitchin, presided. The President is described as "a prominent worker in pharmaceutical research; the son of William Ransom, founder of the firm of W. Ransom and Son, manufacturing chemists, Hitchin, famous for the cultivation of medicinal plants and the distillation of essential oils." A portrait of F. Ransom is given.

A tract by Humphrey Bache, who lived at the Sign of the Snail, in Tower Street, London (d. 1662), entitled *A Few Words in True Love to . . . Parliament*, 1659, has just been reprinted by John Bellows, of Gloucester, for the Rev. Kentish Bache, Vicar of Walford, Ross, a descendant of the author of the tract (Gloucester: Bellows, 7¼ by 6¾, pp. 12, 1s.). This contains a short account of Bache's conviction, resulting in the return to the Excise Office, London, of one hundred and sixty pounds, which he had wrongfully taken by over-charges during a series of years.

The Yorkshire 1905 Committee (Ernest E. Taylor, Bannisdale, Malton, 7d. per doz., 3s. per 100), has just issued a paper by Ernest Dodshun, B.A., on *Strengthening the Teaching Power and the Preparation of the Teacher in our Adult Schools*. This is a portion of an address given at the Skipton Easter Settlement, and is intended to show the openings, practically unlimited, which exist in the Adult School Movement for the best service which men and women can give.

A new and imposing volume of family history is to hand from across the sea, *An Historical Narrative of the Ely, Revell and Stacye Families*, who were among the Founders of Trenton and Burlington in the Province of West Jersey, 1678-1683, with the genealogy of the Ely descendants in America. This handsome volume has been compiled by several members of the Ely family, including Daniel Brittain Ely, of Montclair, N.J., who writes a Preface to it. (New York and London: Fleming H. Revell Company, 9½ by 6¼, pp. 445, \$5, with numerous illustrations.)

Two new novels have recently been published, *Chickens Come Home to Roost*, by L. B. Hilles (London: Long, 7¾ by 5¼, pp. 320, 6s.), and *The Forsythe Way*, by Mrs. Fred Reynolds (London: Chapman & Hall, 7¾ by 5¼, pp. 312, 6s.); in each of these there is a Quaker character named Phoebe.

Among interesting articles in the current *Friends' Quarterly Examiner* is one by J. B. Williams on "George Fox and Walker the Ironmonger." It raises several important questions which need elucidation. Some of them will be dealt with briefly in the notes to the forthcoming Cambridge edition of "The Journal of George Fox."

The *Proceedings of Friends' General Conference*, held at Ocean Grove, N.J., in Seventh Month last, can now be obtained separately as a supplement to the "Friends' Intelligencer" (Philadelphia: Fifteenth and Cherry Streets).

The revised *Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the Eastern Parts of Maryland* is now on sale at Friends' Book Store, 304 Arch Street, Philadelphia. It is said to be more systematically arranged and better indexed than previous editions, but none of the essential principles advocated for so long by this Y.M. seem to have been weakened, and declarations on such subjects as theatre-going, card-playing, etc., are more emphatic than before.

Horace Mather Lippincott, Ph.B., has now completed his history of *The Mather Family of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Lewis J. Levick, 10 by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, pp. 168, \$3). Joseph Mather, age eighteen, with others of Bolton, Lancs., sailed from Liverpool in the ship *Submission*, in Seventh Month, 1682, for Maryland. He contracted with Phineas Pemberton, his fellow emigrant, in consideration of his paying the expenses of his passage, he not having the means, to serve him the term of four years, and he fulfilled his contract.

A full report of the *Proceedings of the Celebration of the Establishment of Whitewater Monthly Meeting*, recently held at Richmond, Indiana, has been printed, and can doubtless be obtained through Timothy Nicholson, of Richmond, Indiana. There are over two hundred pages of print and several illustrations.

A sketch of the life of Philip Edward Sewell (1822-1906) has been published by Jarrold & Sons, of London. P. E. Sewell was a son of Mary Sewell (*née* Wright, of Norfolk), who wrote "Mother's Last Words" and "Our Father's Care," and a brother of the author of "Black Beauty." He left Friends when about eighteen, but was ever full of deep religious feeling and philanthropic interests.

Theodora E. Clark, a member of Croydon Meeting, and the senior principal of Croham Hurst School, Croydon, has issued through George Allen and Sons, of London, a rhyming phantasy in three acts, entitled *Some Dreams Come True*. (1s. net.)

The London Friends' Tract Association has had reprinted from the "Friends' Witness," in pamphlet form, under the heading *Friends in Ireland*, an account by Joseph Haughton of some experiences during the rebellion of 1798. It forms an attractive *brochure* of 48 pages, well illustrated, price 2d.

Smith, Elder & Co., of London, have just published *John Bright, a Monograph*, by R. Barry O'Brien, author of biographies of Charles S. Parnell and of Lord Russell of Killowen, with Preface by Augustine Birrell (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, pp. 270, with portraits and facsimiles, 10s. 6d. net).

The perennial puzzle of Hannah Lightfoot and George III. has been fully treated, if not solved, by Miss Pendered in her latest book, *The Fair Quaker, Hannah Lightfoot, and her relations with George III.* (London: Hurst and Blackett, 9 by 6, pp. 355, 16s.). The author's enthusiasm

for her difficult subject has been unbounded, and she has made use of information gathered from very varied sources, many of them discovered only after long and patient research. The book will prove of much interest to all who have attempted to unravel this mystery, and especially to those in various parts of the world (some of whom have visited Devonshire House) who claim descent from Prince George and Hannah. Chapters II. and VIII., "The People called Quakers" and "The Evidence of the Westminster Minute Book," will be of special interest to Friends.

The Centenary Committee of Bristol Friends which arranged for the celebration recently successfully held, have issued in connection therewith, *One Hundred Years' History of Bristol Friends' First-day (Boys') School, 1810-1910*, with twenty-two illustrations (Bristol: Hemmings, 8½ by 5¾, pp. 35).

The articles by George Aaron Barton, Ph.D., which have appeared in recent numbers of the *Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, have been collected and reprinted in a volume, entitled *The Heart of the Christian Message* (London: West, Newman & Co., 8¾ by 5½, pp. 131, 2s. net).

J. Foster Stackhouse, F.R.G.S., a Friend well known for his skill in drawing, has recently constructed a relief model of Ingleborough and district, N.W. Yorks. An account of this model, with photographic reproduction, has just been issued, entitled *Guide to the Geological Model of Ingleborough and District*, by Aubrey Strahan, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S. (London: Stanford, price 4d.). We are told in this pamphlet that "the model was constructed by building up a series of accurately gauged layers cut to the contours as shown in the 6-inch maps of the Ordnance Survey, and verified, where necessary, by personal observation of the district."

Another sectional history of the Civil War has appeared:—*Sussex in the Great Civil War and the Interregnum, 1642-1660*, written by Charles Thomas-Stanford, M.A., F.S.A., of Preston Manor, Brighton, Mayor of Brighton for the Coronation Year (London: Chiswick Press, 9 by 6, pp. 354, 10/6 net). The book is of much interest from beginning to end, but that portion of it which refers to Sir William and Mary Springett (always given, *Springate*) is of course, the most interesting to Friends, seeing that Lady Springett became Mary, wife of Isaac Penington. Mary Penington's records of her childhood and first married life and of the tragic death of Sir William Springett at the siege of Arundel, are quoted at some length, and of them the author writes, "They present an unrivalled picture of an aspect of the times not very commonly appreciated—the life of a country gentleman of good degree, a soldier and sportsman, 'an artist in shooting and fishing and making of lines and ordering of baits and things for that purpose'—who was yet a Puritan of the strictest in upbringing and practice, and spent his whole fortune for the service of the Parliament" (p. 111).¹ There are incidental notices of Friends, such as (p. 290), "It is difficult to recognise in the conduct of some of these fanatics [the

¹ See forthcoming *Experiences in the Life of Mary Penington*, edited by Norman Penney, to be published by the Biddle Press, Philadelphia.

new sect of Quakers] any resemblance to the dignified and orderly life of their successors, which secured for them the confidence of their fellow citizens, and made them pre-eminently the bankers of the community." Mr. Thomas-Stanford takes vol. xvi. of the "Sussex Archæological Collections" as authority for Friends, with a reference also to "Joseph Bene," better known as "Joseph Besse"! In his account of King Charles's escape to France after the battle of Worcester, the author might have named Richard Carver, the Quaker seaman who landed the King from his back onto the French shore.

Bernard Thistlethwaite is to be congratulated on the appearance of vol. i. of his *Thistlethwaite Family, A Study in Genealogy*, printed for private circulation by Headley Brothers. In the more than three hundred pages of this well-printed volume, particulars are given of some 1,800 descendants of William Thistlethwaite, of Harborgill, in Dent Dale, N.W. Yorks, and Alice Mason, of the same district, whom he married in 1705. About 4,000 names in all appear. The book has been issued to subscribers; a few copies remain, for which application should be made to the author, at Great Ayton, Yorkshire.

Friends in charge of Preparative Meeting Libraries would do well to write to Ernest E. Taylor, Bannisdale, Malton, Yorkshire, for the *Friends' Library Leaflet* just issued by the Yorkshire 1905 Committee. They will find most useful hints regarding suitable books to add to the libraries under their care.

NORMAN PENNEY.

A Letter on Tithes, 1763.

The following is a Cobby of what I Sent W^m Jesse y^e Parson of Wellington when I belive'd it my Duty Not to Hire y^e Ministry.

Where as my Education and proffession ffrom my youth to this time, hath been with and amongst y^e People called quakers, whose ffaith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ is that what is contained in y^e Holly Gospell, Spoken by our Saviour and his Holly Apostles, are Commandments and precepts, that we in this Life Should Example and ffollow as much as in our power is, And Seeing our Blessed Saviours Commands in his direction for preaching y^e Gospell is ffreely y^e have receved ffreely Give—We ffrom this command belive that we in no manner ought to Support a Ministree by ffreely paying for Upholding y^e same—and as the Laws made ffor tender Consiences Gives ffree power for recovering all Such Claimes by Warrant of Distress—So I hope ffriend Jess who I can truly Say I much Esteem and haue Love and respect ffor will use the most kind method in recovering what I doubt Not but hee thinks his Just due—ffor I dare not any Longer pay it in y^e manner it hath hitherto been done Least I Loose that Dearly Beloved peace of God in my Soul which I Can truly Say I Esteem of moor value then the whole World.

Probably written by a member of the Were family. From a MS: book in the possession of Fox Brothers & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Som.