

Obituary.

Our friend, John Handley, who died on the 13th October, will be greatly missed, especially by those interested in historical research. "He was born in 1836, in the farmhouse at Brigflatts, which adjoins the Meeting House where he worshipped all his life, and where he is now laid to rest beside generations of his ancestors" *The Friend* (London). His great store of information on local Quaker and other matters was always at the disposal of enquirers; he was of much assistance in the preparation of notes to the forthcoming Cambridge edition of the *Journal of George Fox*.

John Crook and the Haunted Room.

Our friend John Crook (1617-1699) was brought by an informer before a justice of peace for preaching in a meeting, and the justice being a moderate man was loath to send him several miles to prison so late in the evening as he was brought before him, and told the informer to call in the morning, and he would then hear his accusation; and told John Crook as he appeared a decent man he should have lodgings in his house that night if he had no objection to lie in a room which his servants said was haunted, no other being unoccupied as he had company on a visit to him. John expressed his acknowledgment for this favour and accepted the offer. He was kindly entertained, and had much conversation with the company on religious subjects, with which he and they appeared well pleased. He was shewn to his lodgings at the farther end of a long gallery by the justice himself, and slept well untill about one clock, and then awoke with the overflowings of sweetness and peace covering his mind and such intimations of divine favour as greatly refreshed him. Just at this time a rattling noise was heard along the gallery, which held for some time, and on ceasing, a shrill voice, as if coming through the key hole of the chamber door (said), "You are damned," repeating it three times. John answered, "Thou art a liar, for I feel this moment the sweet peace of my God flow through my heart." All the noise and voice then ceased, and John soon fell asleep, and did not awake untill about his usual time of rising. He then walked about the garden waiting for the justice's rising; soon after which a servant man came up to him, fell on his knees and begged his pardon, and that he would pray to God to forgive him; and then confessed that it was he who made the noise near his chamber in the night, and spoke those wicked words, but that his reply pierced him to the heart: He informed John how his master had been robbed by him and others for years past, and concealed their practices by the pretence that the house was haunted. All this, at John's request, the servant confessed to his master with penitence and obtained his pardon, as John did his dismissal from the informer; and this servant soon after became an honest friend and minister.

FROM A MS. IN D.