

Gleanings from the Records of the Yearly Meeting of Aberdeen, 1672 to 1786.

Concluded from page 80.

It being proposed at this Meeting to make a general contribution towards the purchasing of ane plott of Ground for erecting of a comon stable for frinds horses And ane dwelling house for a frind to att end the samen [at Aberdeen] Followes heir the severall contributions.—

Andrew Jaffray	5.16.0	John White	2.00.0
Alexander Gellie	29.00.0	Georg Spring	2.00.0
Robert Keith	1.09.0	William Taylor	29.00.0
William & John Nepers	20.06.0	Georg Forbes	29.00.0
John Forbes	29.00.0	Robert Gerard	29.00.0
Robert Barclay	58.00.0	John Glenny Elder	2.18.0
David Wallace	2.00.0	John Robertson	4.00.0
Alexander Galloway	4.00.0	William Smith	1.09.0
John Glenny younger	1.09.0	William Lundy	2.18.0
John Simm	1.09.0	William Glenny Merchand	3.00.0
Georg Trowp	1.10.0	Robert Gordon	4.00.0
John Somervell	14.00.0	Robert Scott & his son	6.00.0
Georg Temple	1.10.0	Daniell Simpson	3.14.0
Alexander Jaffray	14.10.0	James Brayn	58.00.0
John Lesk	5.16.0	William Spark	(sic)
Robert Bettie	(sic)	John Smith at Urie	1.00.0
John Hunter there [?]	1.00.0	John Scott Elder	1.00.0
Elizabeth Hall	29.00.0	Jsobell Gerard	5.16.0
Jsobell Galloway	4.00.0	Margaret Ligert- wood	3.00.0
Anna & Jean Skenes	6.00.0	Barbara Forbes	6.00.0
Jean Gall	1.10.0	Margaret Laing	1.10.0
Mary Bannarman	29.00.0		456.00.0

[=Pounds Scots]

to which is added
of Eliz. Dickson's
Donation

600.

£1056.

[Aberdeen Monthly Meeting, 2. xi. 1700, Friends] cannot but observe that by slighting the particular decent order sett down in our paper regulating apparell some have given ocasion for strangers to be burdened among us and thus [as in Tho^s Hicks' paper] to caution and complain of us.

This Meeting desires two overseers of our Mens Monthly Meeting to go throw frinds in Town once more and Deall plainly with them as to their conversations or apparell or anything contrary to good order (or our paper) And if they come not under their advyce and censure and so amend, to bring any such to the Quarterly Meeting aproaching That so Truth and righteousness may be set over all. And the overseers are desired to sett the women overseers to ther part of the work among ther sex as above.

[Aberdeen Yearly Meeting, 24. ii. 1701] . . . Robert Bettie proposes from Montross Meeting the need of buying or mailling a convenient Room for a settled Meeting At Montross This Meeting Recomends back again to the nixt six weeks Meeting at Montross To look out for a convenient Room to be rented untill frinds be more Capable to purchase on, And this Meeting will contribut with them. . . .

This Meeting unanimously concludes That heirafter Non shall sitt in or be owned as members of the men's meetings whether Yearly Quarterly or Monthly Unless they be subject to the order and Government of Truth in the meetings in Conversation and apparell, &c.

[Aberdeen Y.M. ii. 1703] . . . John Glenney yo^r and George Temple being overseers of Kinmuck Meeting Report that thorow mercy things are well peacable and orderly in their meeting And non obstinat nor Refractory from good discipline to the best of ther knowledg. David Wallace and Robert Scot being overseers of Urie and Stonhyve Meeting gives account that thorow mercy things are also well and peacable Among them. Only gives a Caution That non own Robert Watson he being out of Unity with the Meeting after Gospell order, and no satisfaction.

[Aberdeen Q.M. 26. v. 1705] The Meeting apoints

A. Jaffray to writt a pungent Letter to our Correspondents with a record therin of dear Georg fox Letter a Litle befor his death which first sett up this Correspondence as from the Lord: wherin we Lay it upon them their great failure therin and discontinuance ther of in all the ends ther of theirin mentioned And that if they continue in such slackness theirin we will be necessitat upon the Truths account to choose others to corespond with us.

[Aberdeen Y.M. 24. ii. 1706] . . . The overseers of ye Towns Meeting being cald to represent that ther are some disorders therin both as to Tipling in Taverns and Gameing, this Meeting weightily lays upon ye two overseers apointed by y^m to signifie to all such as are Guilty of such disorderly practices y^t if they give not full Satisfaction to them by a full refraining from such bad things they must bring them befor the next Quarterly Meeting without further delay.

[Aberdeen Y.M. 29. ii. 1708] The first thing referd to and spoke of in this Meeting being the reprinting of William Dell's works This Meeting is opened in the Love of Truth to shew their Sympathy and Unity with the motion of our frinds at Glasgow¹⁵ and the Service of Truth which is eyed in the thing To apoint five pound Sterling from this Country to help to reprint s^d Book one third from Kinmuck, one third from the town's meeting one third from Urie and Stonehaven.

¹⁵ The matter was first brought forward in Edinburgh Q.M. ix. 1706, when George Swan, of Glasgow, consulted Friends as to the desirability of "buying the Works of Wm. Dell." Friends advised him to "writt to London for what number he may want of them." What answer came from London we do not know, but in the following spring, iii. 1707, we find that Euphan Wear, another of the small company of Friends at Glasgow, "having presented william dells works to this meeting in order to have a Concurance for reprenting the same the perusall therof is recomended to John Robertson and Robert Barclay who is to make there observes and retturn them to be communicat to the said Euphan."

We hear no more of the matter until the next Yearly Meeting at Edinburgh, 1708, when we learn that "Euphan wear delivered to William Miller five pounds sterling which with other five formerly delivered to [?] her is apointed for the reprenting of William dell's workes." In the sixth month further contributions were reported. Kelso meeting twenty shillings sterling; Hamilton five pounds sterling, and Edinburgh forty shillings; whilst six months later Charles Ormston of Kelso gave in twelve pounds Scots, and "The lick was from Linlithgow." In First Month, 1709, £5 were contributed by Aberdeen Q.M. for the same purpose; so that the reprint would seem to have cost twenty-five pounds. The work was

[Kinmuck M.M. xii. 170₁₀°] Our overseers being called had nothing to represent to our Meeting also freinds having understood that George Barclay intended to have troubled our meeting of worship by intruding himself to marrie w^t a certain woman unknown to us to prevent which freinds did not admitt him but kept him out and although he may have used some form of marriage w^tout doors it was altogether unknown to us none of our number being witnesses that we know of.

[Kinmuck M.M. ii. 1711] friends assembled for business and taking notice of Pipers accompanying the Marriages of the Worlds people and publick dinners at friends houses it is agreed upon and enacted by the s^d Monthly Meeting that no friend or friends in any ways hereafter shall suffer any Piper in or about their houses at such times as publick weddings or any oy^r time and that no friend shall receive such weddings w^tout consent of the Monthly Meeting.

[Aberdeen Y.M. ii. 1712] The members of the Meeting for Sufferings appointed as follows :—

For Kinmuck.	For Aberdeen.
John Forbes	Andrew Jaffray
John Glenny Elder	George Forbes
John Glenny Collyhill	Alex ^r Jaffray
William Smith	Robert Gordon
William Reid	James Gray
Rhoderick Forbes	Daniel Hamilton
George Temple	John Somervel
	For Ury.
Robert Barclay	Robert Scot
David Wallace	John Scot youg ^r
John Scot Elder	William Melvin
George Troup	

[Kinmuck M.M. i. 1713] It being reported to this

proceeded with very deliberately. Copies of the book, to the number of twenty-seven, did not reach Aberdeen until Seventh Month, 1711. Of these, eleven were retained for Aberdeen Friends, eight were sent to Kinmuck, and the same number to Urie and Stonehaven. It is not clear where the book was printed—perhaps at Glasgow. Aberdeen M.M., Fifth Month, 1708, “allows A. Jaffray elder to writ to Ephie Weyr or the meeting at Ed^r that we think it not fitt to offer her book to be printed at Aberdeen.”

meeting that Alex^r Sim is gone to the steeple house [Friends] appointed the overseers to speak to him and return his answer to the meeting.

[Four months later James Spring reports] that he had spoken to Alex^r Sim, who answered that he would continue in the way he was walking in.

[Kinmuck M.M. viii. 1713] Resolved by this meeting that Isaac Winchester should furnish thach to y^e stable at twelve pennies [Scots ?] the sheaf.

[Kinmuck M.M. iii. 1714]. . . Moreover friends conceiving it proper that the mortifications, donations, legacies and purchases belonging properly to this meeting should be entred amongst the records, have appointed John Glenny and W^m Smith to enquire after them for that purpose. That so succeeding ages may both see their ancestors care of the publike and also may be more capable to distribute them according to the true intent of the donners.

[Aberdeen Q.M. xi. 171 $\frac{4}{5}$. Report is] made that George Temple had some of his children sprinkled by the preist and that the said George kept ane sprinkling feast att his own house as likewise that he keeps penney weddings att his house this meeting orders the overseers of Kinmuck to inquire into these matters and to use gospel order with him if they find these things are true. It is the generall sence of this meeting that the goeing to penney weddings upon any pretence whatsoever is Contrarey to the Testimoney of Truth Except to bear their Testimoney against the Excess of such Conventions.

[Aberdeen M.M. iii. 1716. " John Messer y^r " having been " plundered of his household stuff by the Souldiers " is to be releived by Friends. This was probably an echo of the Stuart rising in 1715.]

[Aberdeen Q.M. v. 1716. Report made that " some at Kinmuck have tampered in indirect ways with paying the small Tyths." The matter is to be particularly enquired into, and at a subsequent meeting it is reported that those who through fear or inadvertency have tampered with the paying of Tythes are so far prevailed with

as to become willing to suffer for the future rather than lose their testimony.]

[Aberdeen M.M. vi. 1716]. . . It being sometimes uneasy to friends in hot weather that ther are so few opening windues in the Meeting hows friends think fitt that two of y^e windues be set in opening Casments for letting in aire and have recomended to Thomas Affleck and Jo Somevel to caws doe it.

[Aberdeen M.M. viii. 1716] The meeting kept but nothing of Business only Robert Keith desir^d a Certificat for his Son he being to goe abroad to seek imployment friends are willing that he get one declaring him a Childe of honest parents and that they have nothing to lay to his Charge.

[Aberdeen Y.M. ii. 1717] The publick funds belonging to Aberdeen Yearly Meeting are reported to be thus laid out.

£100 Ster^s left by Eliz. Dickson for the School at Kinmuck in the hands of S^r W^m Forbes of Craigivar. The bond for it in Ro^t Barclay's name.

The Meeting Ho : at Ab : stands in the person of Rob^t Barclay.

The 1000 Merks for the Women's School in the hands of Alex^r Forbes of Ludwharn. Jn the person of George Forbes as Assign of Sam^l Forbes.

The £40 Sterl^s for putting out apprentices, in the hands of Alex^r Jaffray. A bond by him and And Jaffray y^r granted to Geo: Forbes. [This was one of Elizabeth Dickson's gifts, 1701.]

The 500 Merks apointed by Ja^s Brown¹⁶ for putting out apprentices in the hands of Brux¹⁷ representative. The bond in Geo: Forbes name assigned to Alex^r Jaffray.

¹⁶ James Brown, "Tanner in the West port," was for several years one of the principal Friends of Edinburgh Meeting. Most of the Friends' marriages in Edinburgh, from 1670 to 1680, were celebrated at his house. He died there 11. i. 1681, leaving by will 2,000 merks towards the purchase of a meeting house at Edinburgh, 1,000 merks to Robert Barclay, 1,000 merks to George Keith, 500 merks to James Halliday, a ministering Friend of Allartowne, Northumberland, and 500 merks, the interest of which was to be applied every third year to "putting out an apprentice."

¹⁷ Roderick Forbes of Brux. He died 30. viii. 1712, aged 42. See *Piety Promoted*, ii. p. 196.

[In a minute of a later date the following additional finds are mentioned :—] £50, a donation of Elizabeth Dickson, 1701, whereof the annual rents, issues, and profits shall be given to such faithful friends who are low in the world, and may be drawn from their outward business and habitation to visit the people of God called Quakers in Aberdeen or elsewhere in the northern or western parts of Scotland.

A Fund for the Poor—2,000 Merks mortified by Mary Bannerman 1705 ; 50 Merks a legacy by John Porter for the poor of Kinmuck Monthly Meeting ; 30 Merks, a donation by William Reid ; £12.10, part of a legacy by David Barclay, and £13.17.9 part of a donation by Kathrine Forbes ; together with the yearly rent of £9.10. arising from houses in Guest Row, Aberdeen.

Fund for Ministering Friends expenses, £50, part of a legacy by Mary Rathbone ; and 200 Merks left by Mary Bannerman for paying the charges of stranger friends at Inverury.

Fund for upholding the Meeting house at Old Meldrum, £25, a gift by John Elmslie.

Heritable property—Kinmuck Meeting house, Burial Ground and 2 Crofts, purchased partly by contributions and partly a gift.

Guest Row, Aberdeen. Tenement of Backland with houses thereon, purchased in part by contributions [1700 ?] and partly a gift by Mary Bannerman.

Gallowgate Aberdeen Houses, Meeting house & burieing ground. purchased by contributions in addition to Elizth Dickson's donation of £50 for ministering Friends in low circumstances.

Old Meldrum One quarter and one eighth part of a tenement of Land, with a house & Meeting house thereon with moss and pertinents thereto belonging : a gift by John Elmlie 1789. [J.E. seems to have purchased the property in 1741.]

[Kinmuck M.M. vii. 1717] . . . Overseers represent their visiting and giving admonition And occasion requiring its desired that they continue in advising and reprovng.

[Aberdeen M.M. iv. 1725] A Testimony was issued

by the Meeting against tipling and excessive drinking There having been much sin of that sort.

[Aberdeen M.M. ix. 1727] . . . Likeways at this meeting Thomas Erreskin and James Gray are desired to speak to Joseph Williamson conserning his goeing to Chappel and Christian Jaffray daughter to Andrew Jaffray younger about her Gaudie apparel.

[Aberdeen M.M. x. 1727] . . . Joseph Williamson being spoke to answered that it was only curiosity, and had no other satisfaction or design in it. Christian Jaffray gave no satisfaction and friends are to take no more notice of her seeing she hath since gone off to the publick worship of y^e World.

[Aberdeen M.M. vi. 1730] Att this Meeting Fr^{ds} have taken to Consideration how stranger Fr^{ds} shall be Accomodated when they come to this Town and no particular place being thought so fitt as Tho^s Cutters his house he being willing to Entertain them kindly. This Meeting thinks fitt them stay there when in toun upon Publick Charge.

[Aberdeen Y.M. ii. 1743] Its the Sense of this meeting if any member in our Meeting shall proclaim to Strangers or in the publick Streets any of the smallest affairs done in our Meetings Shall be by this meeting Censured and be Declared incapable of sitting in our Meetings Henceforth.

[Aberdeen M.M. xii. 174 $\frac{1}{2}$] . . . Friends having under their Notice the hardness of y^e times for the poor recomends it to John Elmslie Colector to advance their pennie untill the times turn Esiar.

[Aberdeen, 1745.] The Reason of our not keeping the meetings of first and second Months is the Kings army being in the place poss^d the Meeting house. [The same thing occurred in the following year.]

[Aberdeen Y.M. ii. 1748] This Meeting having Considered what was Referd by the last Quarterly Meeting with respect to ocassional conformists do give our Sence as Followes *viz.* It is the Opinion of this Meeting, that although wee are not for cutting off from our Society for every trivial thing but where the same is directly

contrary to our Foundementall Principal. Wee ought to carry good order on the one hand and Charity on the other. Wee therefore Judge that no Person nor Persons whatsomever who makes it their continued practise to dessert our places of worship or by habitually frequenting other places of worship or if guilty of Lewd or Scandalous Behaviour or Vices though admonishd to the Contrary. In all or either of which cases wee declare that we Look upon such to be none of Us and consequently are to have no benefite as pretending to be of us Neither of our Burial places, Charity, the Indulgence granted by Law with respect to the Afirmation or any other Advantage as Belonging to our Society and Wee Recomend to our 3 Monthly Meetings to Examen into all Irregularities and to deal with the offenders Acordingly, and that these Regulations may be Minuted in their Different Monthly Meeting Books there to stand upon Record.

[Kinmuck M.M. iv. 1750] Frinds being assembled for effears it is the minde of this mitting that the Cloths that belonged to the mitting of Jnvirourie is to be given to Androw Jonston being two peare of pleads and eane Coverien and the reast of the bede furniter and neprie is to be sold to Gavien Crushank to the best welow and the money to be given in to the mitting.

[Aberdeen Q.M. vii. 1757] Robert Hervie¹⁸ having returned from England, did deliver back Friends Certificate and by all Accounts Friends do hear that he has Behaved Agreeable in his Travels.

[Aberdeen Q.M. vii. 1760] . . . it is heer by Recómeded that all frinds for the fouttr Dooe nearoly Jnquer Counsering the Charetor of Traveling frinds who askes for Guids for Jnverness whither it be on the accompt of Curiosity or for the Publick Servies of truth

¹⁸ Robert Hervey was a ministering Friend of Old Meldrum, where he died 21. xii. 1788, aged 77. Samuel Neale, in his Journal (*Life*, p. 96), mentions that "our worthy innocent Friend Robert Hervey [attended the Half Year's Meeting at Dublin xi. 1758] and had good service for his Lord and Master, and quite agreeable to the state of the meeting though his testimony was sharp." John Pemberton (*Life*, p. 263), when travelling in Scotland, alludes to him: "Ancient Robert Hervie nearly 80 years of age walked 18 miles through the rain to the half years meeting at Aberdeen; he seemed to possess an innocent green old age." See also *Piety Promoted*.

and if one any other accompt then for the Servies of truth then no Guids ar for the futter to be alloued to them.

[Aberdeen Q.M.] 30 July 1761 . . . The Meeting appoints John Elmslies Senior and Junior Gavin and George Crooshanks to look into the state of the School Croft and yeard w^t the priviledges thereof in Kinmuck and particularly that the Meeting House be in proper repair both within and without with seats lofts windows and others that the Stanse of the houses be kept and no body encroach upon any partt thereof by building upon them taking away Stones or other Materialls to enquire if J. B. [*i.e.* James Bean, the Schoolmaster] casts firing in that part of the Moss of Reethill which belongs properly to the Croft and a small Commonty in the s^d Moss adjacent to the s^d property and that he regularly Cast two spades Casting in the Reed Moss of Fintray and see regular receipts from S^r Aurther Forbes of Craigyvar for £2 Scots yearly as the few duty of s^d Croft. That they likewise enquire Jf J. B. Cow goes with the oxen of Kinmuck for £1 Scots yearly or pastures upon the Commonty of the 6 Ploughs for nothing and that he go regulary at least once in two or three years y^r to some other Mill with part of his corn besides Denmill lest it bring the s^d Croft into a thirlage which was always free.

[Old Meldrum M.M. iii. 1781] friends being Asembled for Affairs Nothing coming in Vue the Meeting Broke up.

I think, if one exact, uniform appearance in all things ever takes place in our Society, and is thought necessary and insisted on, it will be when the form has eaten out the substance ; or when, for want of a real, living growth in the inward life, the form becomes the main object instead of the substance.—JOB SCOTT, *Selections*, 1911, p. 115.

A minister of the Gospel has nothing of *his own* to offer to the people ; his whole dependance is on Christ ; he must speak as the oracle of God, and only in the ability that God giveth ; therefore is under an absolute necessity to keep silence unless immediately commissioned and abilitated from God.—JOB SCOTT, *Selections*, 1911, p. 196.