

Editor's Notes.

On pp. 5-52 we print a transcript, with notes, of a MS. in the Bodleian Library, relative to the journey in America taken by George Fox in 1671-3. The MS. is described in Madan's *Summary Catalogue*, where it is stated, "The volume is said to be the autograph of Elwood the friend of Milton. . . . It was bought from John Pearson, London Bookseller, on Feb. 15, 1869, for £3 13s. 6d. Now MS. Add. A. 95." We have seen reproductions of several pages, and are not satisfied that the writing is that of Thomas Ellwood. The notes, which follow the text, have been contributed, mainly, by Dr. William I. Hull, professor of history in Swarthmore College, Pa. See *Camb. Journal*, ii. 426.

By the kindness of Wilfrid Grace, of Bristol, we are able to commence in this part of THE JOURNAL the printing of a series of Swarthmore MSS. belonging to him and lent to us for this purpose. This series of twenty-eight papers is known as the Thirnbeck MSS., and was presented to the present owner by his aunt, the late Ellen Clare Grace, who received them from her aunt, Mary Thirnbeck, a descendant of Rachel Abraham, daughter of Margaret Fell.

In July, 1875, the English Government, of which Disraeli was Premier, issued the notorious Fugitive Slave Circular, instructing ships' captains to surrender to their owners all slaves who had sought refuge on English vessels. Robert Spence Watson called a meeting, at a few hours' notice, and in an impassioned speech, declared to the crowded audience that if any captain did act on the Admiralty instructions, he himself would not only indict him under the Kidnapping Act, but would indict the Prime Minister as an accessory.

Said Disraeli to Cowen, who was then one of the Parliamentary representatives for the town [Newcastle-on-Tyne], "Who is this fellow at Newcastle who has been threatening to indict me?"

Said Cowen to Disraeli, "They call him Spence Watson. He is a Quaker, and if he has said that, you may depend upon it that he will do it."

In the following November the obnoxious circular was withdrawn.

—*The Annual Monitor*, for 1912, p. 191.