

## An Unauthorised Philadelphia "Discipline"

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A LITTLE book with the following title has recently been acquired for the Devonshire House Reference Library—*Rules of Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, carefully examined and compared with the Copies printed by direction of the Meeting, and now in use in all the Meetings in Philadelphia.* (Philadelphia: J. Mortimer, 74 S. Second Street. James Kay, Jun., Printer, 1828 (6 by 3½, pp. 135). There is an Appendix of manuscript additions to the printed copies, dating from 1807 to 1818. The "Address to the Reader" is as follows:—

"Hitherto the Books of which the following pages are an exact transcript, have been kept in the different meeting houses of our society, under the charge of the overseers and clerks; and how deeply soever we, as individuals of the same community, may be interested in their contents, they have for the most part been kept as secret and as sacred as the books of the Hindoos.

"We have always been of opinion that what is in itself good, cannot be too widely diffused, or too extensively known. We believe that the Rules of our Discipline have this tendency; and so believing, we have taken the usual means of making them public by printing them; and we earnestly hope that all our good intentions may be realized.

"Philadelphia, 11th mo. 1825."

Attached to the front cover of the book is a paper on which is written the following:—"This edition was printed without consent of the Yearly Meeting, by a person who is not a member of society, but is said to be correct with the exception of one paragraph on page 27 enclosed in Brackets: the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia has not adopted this regulation (receiving disowned persons on 'request as other applicants')."

Can any reader supply the name of the author?

Since writing the above, another earlier edition of the same book has come to light—the one entered in Smith's *Catalogue*, i. 763, among official publications of Philadelphia Y.M., printed in 1825.

The early authorised editions of the *Discipline* appear to be:—*Collection of Advices*, in MS. only, 1763; *Rules of Discipline*, 1797, 1806, and 1834. All these editions are in D.

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Mrs. Drummond,<sup>1</sup> the famous Quaker Preacher, came to Town on Thursday Night from Oxford, having been the Admiration of the Countries where she made her Progress.

Newscutting in D., dated 1736.

<sup>1</sup> For records of the life of May Drummond, see THE JOURNAL, vol. iv.