

Dr. Lettson, and it is sad to notice that his funeral was attended by very few of his own Society ; and in the very long list of subscribers to Pettigrew's *Memoirs*, one is sorry to find the names of only about two Friends, the more so when one notices such names as Coleridge, Wilberforce, Earl Spencer, and many other eminent men.

JOSEPH J. GREEN.

A Scheme for Expediting the Transport of the Mails, attributed to Jonathan Dymond

A SLIGHT notice of this interesting proposal appeared among a list of presentations to D. printed in *The Friend* (Lond.), of December 27, but there the presumed date was incorrectly given. Charles William Dymond, F.S.A., of Sawrey, Ambleside, has sent us a further note on the Scheme, which is as follows :—

“ As neither date nor signature is attached to this production, it is desirable that its *provenance* and the reasons for its attribution should be stated. They are these :—

“ Several years ago my first cousin, Francis Williams Dymond, of Exeter, found this document among the papers of his late father, Robert Dymond, Senr., whose profession was that of a land-agent and surveyor ; and, supposing—but without any reason—that the author was my father, William Dymond, he sent it to me. It remained in my possession until a year or two ago, when I gave it to my cousin, George Cecil Dymond, of Birkenhead, who has lately presented it to the Friends' Central Library.

“ From internal evidence it is clear that the scheme emanated from one of Robert Dymond's four brothers. The handwriting indicates that the choice must lie between George, the eldest, and Jonathan, to whose usual style of penmanship it bears the strongest resemblance ; and I know of no reason that can be urged against the supposition that he was the author.

“ The probable date would be c. 1820, when Jonathan was twenty-four years of age and Robert twenty-two—lately out of his articles, and commencing professional practice on his own account.

“ CHARLES WILLIAM DYMOND.

“ Sawrey, 11th January, 1913.”

The scheme is presented on a large sheet of rough brown paper, measuring 24ins. by 19½ins. Half of this space is occupied by five plans of the roads near Topsham and Exeter, and below is written the following :—

When Francis Freeling sends down a thousand pound for this Invention (which, being somewhat tired in my throat, I have this evening put upon paper), I intend to pay thee a good surveyors fee for looking at it and telling me—

How fast an hollow Iron Globe, 3ft. diameter and weighing say 200lb. would run down a declivity of one inch in 20? or 265 feet in a mile?

Supposing it to be 12 inches an hour then on level ground the Ball must be raised 12 times in 12 miles to the height of 265 feet. I suppose it might be raised by simple machinery in a minute each which would make the rate of 12 miles in 72 minutes or 10 miles an hour.

The plans explain themselves—the last is the way of making the rail on which the ball is to run (in the way of the Menai Bridge but extremely slight). The supports in the manner of the mast of a vessel which (of a large vessel) is I suppose 2 or 300 hundred feet from the hold.

My mails are to be packed into the Globe, sent off (if you choose) 10 times a day.

I do not know that hilly ground would be much obstruction because you might gain in the descent what you lost in getting up. Some descents would enable you to run several miles together and at a great rate.

But alas this "Castle" or rather *Bridge* "in the air," has like other Castles an *If*. *If* it would run 12 miles or more an hour. Perhaps it would not run 6 or 3 or 2. If not, no fortune for me and no fee for my Brother.

2nd day Evg. 9 o'clock.

I find I have really amused myself by my employ.

[Endorsed]

Case.
for the Opinion
of Robert Dymond.¹

Fee.
Conditional.

This is a good illustration of the many-sidedness of the Quaker mind. Jonathan Dymond was linen-draper, moralist and inventor; Joseph Storrs Fry [d. 1835] occupied his pen alike "On the Necessity of Freedom from Sin," and "On the Construction of Wheel-Carriages"; William Allen [d. 1843] was a manufacturing chemist, and a friend of Kings and Emperors. The story is told of a Clergyman and a Quaker, living in the same district, who met travelling, and engaged in conversation on some abstruse literary subject. Said the Cleric, "I am sure I have met you some where." Replied the Quaker, "Yes, you have often been into my shop." On hearing his companion's name, the clergyman exclaimed, "You a bookseller at —!"

¹Another Friend, named Burgess, is said to have sent a plan for expediting the mails between London and Liverpool, to the father of W. E. Gladstone.