

Extracts from the Diary of Abiah Darby

ABIAH DARBY (1716-1794) was the youngest child of Samuel and Rachel (Warren) Maude, of Sunderland. Samuel Maude (c. 1667-1730) was a native of Leeds, and in early days a Presbyterian. When eighteen he removed to Sunderland, to reside with his Quaker uncle, William Maude, and soon afterwards attached himself to Friends (*Testimony in D.*). Abiah Darby first exercised a ministry of the Gospel when about thirty-three, although years before she had felt a call thereto. Of her first husband, John Sinclair, she wrote in her Diary, evidently some time subsequent to his death:—

About this time among other young Friends, women as well as men whom I was acquainted with, One young man who simpathized with me and often spoke to my State, insensibly drew my weak tender mind into Friendship for him and by degrees I let my Affection go too much Out in harkening to his Offers which hurt me in my inward Exercise. Nothing can plead my excuse but youth and inexperience. . .As this increased, and I had so long resisted the heavenly vision. . .The Lord was pleased to withdraw his high Commission from me. I have long deplored my Loss with bitter moan. . .My sufferings were Great. . .I humbly trust accepted and deem'd suffecient.

The Friend was religious. . .had a Gift in the Ministry. . .and travelled some in Truths Service. . .but my Friends were against him as he had not so much in the World as I had. . .however my Mother in the end gave consent, and she died a little time after we were married. But this conduct of mine quenched the holy Spirit in me, filling my mind with the cares of Life in my tender years. But it lasted not long. . .he died before I was twenty-one. I had one child called Rachel which died before its father in the Small Pox. He departed in Peace and Assurance of Eternal Happiness. All the time I was married, which was about two years or upwards. . .I remained poor and barren in Spirit, as one left alone.

In the certificate of her marriage with Abraham Darby, in 1745, she is described simply—“ Abiah Sinclair of Kendal,” without mention of her parents or that she was a widow.

The printed extracts from her Diary shed considerable

light upon a somewhat dark period of Quakerism historically. The rapid alternations of her preaching journeys with additions or expected additions to her family—her entertainment of noted people and her prayers at meal-times—her attendance and vocal exercises at meetings of other Christians—her astronomical observations—her contact with the saintly Fletcher of Madeley—all present a picture of middle eighteenth century Quakerism well worthy of study.

The following Extracts are taken, by permission of John T. Dickinson, of Bloxham Lodge, near Banbury, from a closely written book of 175 pages folio, in his possession, commencing 1745 and ending 1769. Many sermons and letters are given at length. The book is in different handwritings, so that it is possible that some of the later parts were dictated.

1746

Little Rachel¹ was born..the child only lived 15 weeks. I was in a poor low state of health for a pretty while after, being inclined to a Consumption. The Physician advised me to leave water drinking which I had done wholly for many years in dislike to any other & to bear my testimony against one who had made all Illuse of Malt and other Liquors. I took to Small Bear but did not like it so well as water.

1748

viii. 4. Birth of my Mally.²

1749

First spoke in Meeting.

In a few weeks after Ann Sumerland³ appeared [in the ministry]. I was truly thankful that I had appeared first, for the Enemy would certainly have suggested

¹ There had been an earlier Rachel by the first marriage. See Table.

² Mary, afterwards Rathbone.

³ Ann Summerland (1709-1798), was daughter of Joshua and Rebecca Waterhouse, of Dronfield, co. Derby. In early life she lived as a servant in the house of Joseph Freeth, of Coventry. She married, in 1737, John Summerland, and removed to Coalbrookdale. Her ministerial journeys were frequent, but confined to the British Isles. MS. *Testimony* in D.

my concern only sprung from Something of Desire to put myself forward.

1750

iv. 24. I was delivered of my son Abraham.

We were constant in attending Meetings. Before I came here the Meeting was on First days held at Broseley,⁴ an ancient Place, no Friends being on this side of the Water,⁵ till my Husbands Father came into this Country, and for long after no Meeting held on this side except occasionally. My Dear Husband used to go sit by himself twice on first days and fourth days at a Meeting house set apart by the late Richard Ford⁶ and which I did hear he intended to give Friends, but his son refused to give it up as his Father made no will.. but let Friends meet in it, and Sister Mary Ford became a constant attender of the Meeting with her daughters and some of her sons. On the sixth day of the week we held a Meeting in our laundry where some attended.

1751

iii. I set out..Warrington, Penketh, Lancaster.. several Friends in Company but they rid so fast it hurt me..Next day some Men Friends had a deal of talk about the reconing, it gave me pain and I thought to have put down double rather than have words about a trifle (I payd for My Self & horse)..Had a bad fall, my horse came down, hurt my knees pretty much..Kendal..Preston Patrick .. Brigflatt .. Raby .. Auckland .. at Meeting I missed my right time which hurt me but it was my fault.. Sunderland. Here at their First day Meeting I had to open my mouth with the very words I spoke when first appeared..And had to tell them that they were the same words I should have appeared with among them sixteen years ago had I given up to the Heavenly vision as I ought to have done But through great disobedience and the slavish fear of Man I refused and was only as a Dwarff in true Religion.. We came pretty direct home..

⁴ Broseley, an ancient stronghold of Friends in the early days, was situate on the south side of the river Severn, Coalbrookdale being on the other side of the valley through which the river flows.

⁵ That is, North of the river Severn, as it flows through the Dale.

⁶ Richard Ford (d. 1745) married Mary, daughter of Abraham and Mary Darby, in 1718.

arrived safe and sound and found our Children well which was a great favour..Mally had had the Measles badly but was preserved through.

6mo. Was laid up very ill..the pain in my side & stomach was hard to bear. And how I took Cyder I cannot tell but I did, and gott well of my complaint and have never had it since and the harsher the Cyder the better. Yea so sharp I have long continued to drink it that it would make my eyes water & others called it Vinegar yet it hurt me not..and still continue it to this day My constant Liquor.

1752

I was delivered of My Sally 8th mo. 24th.

1753

In the Spring altho a nurse, went with my Dear Husband to our Welsh Yearly Meeting at Abergivanny⁷ 24th 4 mo. left my Sally to the care of a neighbour..had a bad journey bad roads..I got such a bad cold could hardly attend Meetings or do business but did attend.. had Great Waters to come through in returning and very difficult coming but got safe home.

I found an engagement upon my mind to write a letter to a person [Brook Forrester] who was called a Gentleman and a leading man in this County whose example did not correspond with his station in Life.

1754

4mo. 26th. My husband, Daughter Hannah and myself set out with several Friends from hence, 14 horses, for our Yearly Meeting at Swansy..hired a guide over the Mountains..lost our way, the guide could not speak Welsh nor none of us..went to a Cottage..a poor Welsh woman whom we made signs to get up behind Richard Phillips⁸ and conducted us into the right road..Most of us gave her money but was obliged to force her to take it,

⁷ The Yearly Meeting for Wales (including the counties of Monmouth and Salop) was set up at the instigation of Richard Davies (1635-1707/8) in 1681, and was held at various places from 1682 to 1797. It was one of some half dozen Y.M.'s, circulating in certain districts of the country, attended by large numbers of travelling Ministers and local residents. A complete list of the places where the Welsh Y.M.'s were held is printed in *The Friend* (Lond.), 1870, p. 15.

⁸ Richard Phillips (d. 1772), of Madeley.

she was so disinterested. . . got safe home and found my dear Babes well.

On 5th of 6 mo set out with My Dear Husband to London. . . got well there.

Our Daughter Hannah went in a Boat to Worcester to bring from thence our honourable Worthy Friends Grace Chambers⁹ & Cousin Lydia Lancaster.¹⁰

1755

1mo. 14th. Was taken ill and on the 16th was delivered of my son Samuel.

4mo. 29th. Gentlemen here, in my mind often especially when such are here engaged to address the Great Name at Table.

7mo. 2nd. The High Sheriff Francis Turner Blyth Esq. and Edward Blakeway dined here.

1756

1mo. 31st. First Waggon of Pigs came down the Railway.

[A Series of accidents recorded in this year.] The man let the Horse and Chaise fall over the Hill, the horse got no hurt—my Husband slipd down stairs with Sally in his arms but was little worse—Cousin Darby Ford,¹¹ My husbands own Nephew fell into the New Pool and was drowned—My Husbands only Brother Edmund Darby fell from his horse near Olbrighten [Albrighton] and fractured his scull and broke his Ribs¹²—My dear Husband slipd off the Arch of the New Furnace at Horse Hays, hurt his knee badly, but a great mercy his Leg was not broke—I had a fall from my Horse but did not receive much Hurt.

12mo I was deliverd of my 3rd son Wm.

^{9, 10} The visit to Worcester of these two worthy women is recorded in *An Account of those publick Friends who visited Worcester Meeting*, 1753 and 1754, MS. in D. They were in the City from 7 mo. 26 to 30.

For Grace Chambers (1676-1762), see THE JOURNAL, vol. vii., etc. For Lydia Lancaster (1684-1761), see *Camb. Jnl.*

¹¹ A contemporary account reads: "29th 2^{mo} Darby Ford was found drowned in the New Pool & was buried 2nd 3^{mo} 1756 at Broseley." (MS. in D., at end of *Account of those publick Friends who visited Coalbrookdale & Broseley Meetings*, 1755, 1756.)

¹² A contemporary account (see last note) records, "Edmund Darby, from a Fall from of his Horse, on the 24th 5^{mo} died the 1st 6^{mo} at Albrighton & was buried at Broseley the 3rd."

1757

5mo. 20th. Our Daughter Hannah was married to Richard Reynolds Junior of Bristol¹³ and to live at the Bank.¹⁴

7mo. 11th. My Dear Child William Departed this Life and was Buried at Broseley. It is our Duty and Divine Providence hath placed in us a Strong attachment and affection for our Children, therefore it is our Duty to do what we can for them and long for their Lives But when we reflect that they are taken away from the Evil to come, and are sure they are Glorified Angels dwelling in the Presence of Joy unspeakable, not for a few moments but for ever and ever, Oh how can we repine at their happiness Extatick Joy. It was hard to me to submit, but now I am glad he was counted worthy.

1758

4mo. 1st. My Dear Children Molly Abby Sally and Sammy were now under preparation for the Small Pox to be inoculated I was in great distress about it, but my Husband was desirous to have it done..as this distemper had been very fatal in his and my Family..I was passive but could not freely give my consent..they were all four inoculated on the 14th of the 4 mo..My Husband in his Memorandum says between four and five in the afternoon the Irruption came out 8 days after and 8 days after that they were at the height and through the Blessing of Kind Providence got well through.

6mo. 9th. 2nd hour in the afternoon I was deliverd of my daughter Jane Maude Darby.

10th mo. My Dear Child Jane was ill and departed this life the 2nd of 10mo and was buried at Broseley the 14th.

1759

5mo..To the Welsh Yearly Meeting held at Neath in Glormorganshire.

¹³ Abiah Darby's step-daughter, Hannah, married Richard Reynolds, "the Philanthropist," at Shrewsbury. Portions of her Diary, 1761, 1762, and of her letters, 1753, etc., are printed in *Reynolds-Rathbone Diaries and Letters*, London, 1905.

¹⁴ That is, the Bank House, Ketley, near Shifnal. There is a view of this house in *Reynolds-Rathbone Diaries*.

6mo..At Yearly Meeting at London..by request wrote Epistle to the women Friends in Pensilvania.

9mo..Set out..to Litchfield..Derby..Chesterfield..Sheffield..evening to Ferry bridge which was 28 to lodge..Sandy Hutton..worthy friend Boswell Middleton¹⁵..he was above 90 years old..was very fresh—had lately rode to York..18 miles without lighting, and read my Certificate (I believe) without spectacles..Newcastle..while I was here I waited upon General Wm Whitmore, Member for Bridgnorth who knew my Husband..He received me very respectfully and I informed him of my intention of going to Berwick and as I was informed he was Governor of the Garrison and Fort there, I requested he would please to favour me with a letter to the Commanding Officer there, that if I found I could not be easy without having an Opportunity with the Soldiers, I might have such a liberty. He was pleased to promise me a letter..Alnwick..requested the Town Hall which was readily granted and many people were at the Meeting..as we went to the Inn a well dressed man came to us and requested we would give them another Discourse that afternoon..So agreed to it..and the Carpenter who had put up a Gallery and had taken it down, very readily put it up again and would have nothing, nor hardly let his men take anything..many people attended it..even from Inns, for a Stage Coachman came to the door and called out for anyone belonging to the Angel Inn, servants, Chambermaids &c for he could find none at home. Berwick..went to the Mayor to request the Town Hall..who readily granted it, and was sorry he was obliged to be out of town, also the Sheriff said the same..also Major Beauclerk the Commanding Officer was very civil and said that the assistance he could give should be at my service. I found I could not be easy without having an opportunity with the Soldiers and sent to the Major who ordered them to be collected in the large Square of the Barracks..and drawn up by the officers..when we were placed they

¹⁵ Boswell Middleton (c. 1667-1763) of Boroughbridge, was the son of Boswell (Bossall) and Margaret Middleton, of Knaresborough. A newspaper paragraph in *D.*, relating his death, states that he had been "Master of some Oilmills near that place; he retained his senses and memory to the last."

made a half circle round us..I was engaged to speak and style them Dear Fellow Soldiers..I was engaged to pray for the King in an earnest manner..Morpeth..leave for the Town Hall must be had of the Priest..Oliver Naylor..who was also a Justice..he refused answering with a sneer that he sometimes let it out to Rope Dancers Players, &c.

10mo. 22nd. Home. Dear Husband and children pretty well.

1760

4mo. 1st. Sent our Chaise to meet Grace Chambers and Cousin Lydia Lancaster.

26th. My Husband & self with our Children went in our Boat for Worcester.

5mo. 20th. Sent many Books relating to Wars and Fighting to Monmouth to be dispersed..a young man being put into Prison because he could not serve in the Malitia.

6mo. 23rd. The Priest of Highly lodgd here.

7mo. 17th. To Wellington and had a Meeting in the Market House..the Priest set the Bells in the Steple House a ringing but some of his own professors stopd them.

10mo. 2nd. Set out on our journey..Hereford..to the Mayors house..I was free to ask him for the Town Hall to have a Meeting in but he was affraid..I shewd him my Certificate that I was no Impostor he behaved very civilly.

Next day I went to the Bishop. When he came into the Room he asked our Business, if it was about Tithe. I told him No. I was engaged to come to speak to him from the Holy Spirit..he said We dont hear such things ..I said something of what was on my mind but he would not stay to hear me out..I writ to him from the Inn. [She preached by the Market Cross.]

11mo. 10. Worcester..Cousin Thos. Beesley¹⁶ and Timothy Bevington¹⁷ went to the Mayor to request an opportunity with him..he freely granted it and said what-

¹⁶ Thomas Beesley (1683-1770), of Alcester, Warwickshire, son of Thomas and Martha Beesley of the same.

¹⁷ Timothy Bevington (c. 1727-1802), of Worcester, married Hannah, daughter of Joseph Freeth, of Coventry, in 1750. Both were Ministers.

ever advice should be given him he would endeavour to put in to practise..I had a free time to speak, and what I said he received very kindly..he was very loving & said if he ever came within five miles of our house, he would come to see us.

11th. Set out for home.

20th. I was taken very poorly and miscarryd soon after..got well through as heretofore in like cases.

1761

1mo. I see in my notes that the Moon is two hundred and forty thousand Miles of the Earth..and is fifty-one times less than the Earth..and the Sun is a Million times bigger [and more to similar import].

1mo. 20th. John Fletcher,¹⁸ Parson of Madeley here with several others, he asked us several questions relating our Principles..my mind engaged in awful prayer at Table, a great cross to give up to it, but found peace in so doing..we lent him several books.

2mo. 19th. My Husband at Mo. meeting at Salop.. several Gentlemen dined with me. I was powerfully engaged in awful prayer, having Reverently to bless the Great Name amongst them.

21st. John Fletcher here & returned the Books we had lent him and confessed to the truth of our principles & that our friends were greatly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

3mo. 4th. Put up papers in the Dale to warn the disorderly of both Sexes.

29th. My mind drawn to the People in Wales in Love to their Souls..named it to my Dear Husband.. Dear Nephew Wm Maude a Religious young man indeed offers to go with me to our Welsh Yearly Meeting at Langhorne.

4mo. 1st. I set out..very bad road and much in the night but favord with starlight..the Heavens

¹⁸ John William Fletcher, or De La Fléchère (1729-1785). He was born in Switzerland and came to England, c. 1752. He was vicar of Madeley from 1760 till his death. "From the beginning of his settling there, he was a laborious workman in his Lord's vineyard; endeavouring to spread the truth of the Gospel and to suppress vice in every possible form."—*Life*, by Benson. See p. 92 of this issue.

appearing on a Glow with the Rays from the Glorious Bodys placed in the mighty extent of infinite space.

7th. Womens meeting held in a room in the old Castle.

8th. Two Publick Meetings held in a Booth against the Castle wall, the people solid and the meeting satisfactory.

9th. I had all the business in the Women's Meeting to transact myself as I generally have, writ the Epistle to the Women's Meeting in London and the Epistle to Wales..not having the least accident in the course of 360 miles.

1762

5mo. 14th. James Daniels¹⁹ from Salem in West Jersey in America came to visit us.

18th. Daughter Hannah Reynolds took ill of the Measles.

24th. The Lord saw meet to take her out of this troublesome world about 4 o'clock to our great sorrow.. the Children²⁰ came down to our house.

Sent a paper to be inserted in the Royal Magazine, relating the Salutary effects of artificial Baths..having had the experience of it. It was inserted in the Month called April page 180.

8mo. 19. Wrote a few lines to the Priest of Madeley as follows, with Richard Clarridges Book :

“ Esteemed Friend

“ As thou hast always treated me with candour I have presumed to use freedom with thee..as I now do in sending thee this book, which I shall be obliged to thee to read..the author was a Priest of the Church of England several years, but at last was obliged to give up all..I make free to say that I believe thou hast been of service in the Lords Hand to reform the people hereaway..”

¹⁹ James Daniel (1704-1776), of Salem, N.J. “ He travelled in the work of the ministry, in several of the American provinces, and once in England, of which services we had comfortable accounts.”—*Phila. Memorials*, 1824.

²⁰ These children were (1) William, b. 1758, m. Hannah Ball 1787, and had children, and (2) Hannah Mary (1761-1839), married William Rathbone, of Liverpool, 1786 (see portrait in *Reynolds-Rathbone Diaries*).

30th. The Priest of Madeley was here and after he was gone I felt a strong engagement to go to his meeting held at George Crannages²¹ where he and several of his followers met. I gave up to go tho' an exceeding great cross to me. I had full time to declare against dead formality in Religion..he made some little objection but behaved civil..we parted very friendly.

9mo. 7th. Set out on our Journey [with certificate.. Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Wiltshire. At Corsham] dined at Thomas Bennits²² a worthy Friend & Minister who kept a Boarding School. I think he said he came from Barbadoes & had the grounds of his Convincement at Sankey school.

[Copy of a letter from Thos. Bennett, dated Pickwick 10mo. 9th, 1762.]

"I have had the pleasure of thy Mother Darbys Company at my house..she posts on so fast having frequently two Meetings a day, as for instance from Melksham she and her companion Agnes Horton²³ went to Bromham took that Meeting at 11 o'clock and from thence the same day had a meeting in the evening at Devizes..from thence they came to Corsham had a Meeting there the 7th inst. and went thence to an evening meeting at Chippenham..thence they attended the meeting at Caln the 8th.."

[Berkshire, London, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex] Colchester..Meeting House & Galleries were not sufficient to contain them..the Malitia for the County was all in Town and the Officers were all there, but one upon duty and a many Soldiers [London, Oxford] Home and found all well..this Journey of above a thousand Miles.

²¹ Members of the Cranage family lived at Broseley and Coalbrookdale. The will of George Cranage was proved in 1807 (abstract in D.).

²² The Bennett family of Pickwick, near Corsham, Wiltshire, was prominent in the annals of eighteenth century Wiltshire Quakerism. Thomas Bennett (or, more correctly, Thomas Headley Bennett) had Abiah Darby's future son-in-law, Richard Reynolds, as a pupil about 1745. Thomas Bennett died in 1764, and his widow, Mary, in 1778.

²³ Agnes Horton (c. 1721-1781) was, presumably, the wife of Robert Horton, of Sheriff Hales, and Coalbrookdale, Salop, whom she married in 1746 (certified copy of certificate in D.). She was the daughter of William and Jane Wilson, of Sedbergh, Yorks.

1763

3mo. 31st. My Dear Husband departed this life.

4mo. 3rd. My Dear Husbands remains were inter'd in a piece of Ground which he in his illness pointed out and directed us how we should convey his Corps to it with the greatest calmness and composure.

7mo. 14th. A strong engagement came upon me to go to the Meeting of Parson Fletcher and his followers ..I had the Word to declare with power..the Parson heard me patiently and commended what I had said and desired all to take notice of the advise..but objected to the points of Doctrine I had advanced..which had touched his Copyhold or Priest Craft..I had close work of it for above 3 hours..Ann was engaged in prayer..the Parson kneeld down & upon the whole he behaved with respect.

8mo. 4. Hugh Forbes & Thomas Fisher came from Pensilvania Thomas's Grandmother Name was Margery Maude a Yorkshire woman..Believe of our Family.

9mo. 3rd...for Stratford, Seven County Meeting.

8th. Home.

25th. At Meeting..it hath been held in the Malt House sometime as we are enlarging our Meeting House which My Dear Husband left to Friends..he also left a Graveyard which I have had walld round.

1764

11mo. 22nd...A great weight came upon me to go to the Meeting of the Priest of this Parish and his followers ..where I had been before at considerable distances of time..I then stood up and desired leave to speak..an argument ensued..which lasted some hours.

1765

1mo. 4th. John Fletcher sent me word he would read my Manuscript at his meeting if I chose to go. I sent him in answer that I hoped he would read it impartially but had no desire to attend. Daniel Rose found his mind drawn to go (though unknown to me). The Parson read here a line and there one, and made strange work of it and Daniel had to stand up and contend for the Truth..the Priests who were together at my house

asserted things that I had said when they were here that I never had said & Daniel being in the next room & hearing all that passed was able to contradict them..they returned sharply..how could he tell not being present but he told them he was in the next room & heard all which surprised them much.

20th. I sent to Shrewsbury another copy of my Address²⁴ to what is called the Dancing Assembly and it was presented as the foregoing..a Gentleman took it & put it in his pocket & when they went to tea he read it to the Company..who were very serious and some affected by it, especially him who read it..who had been much addicted to these diversions, being a chief man among them his name Scot, a Captain in the Army & from that time he left off such Diversions..and became a Preacher among the Methodists.

2mo. 25th. Having been summoned to appear before the Justices at the Court at Much Wenlock, I wrote as follows :

“ Respected Friends

“ I have received your summons to appear before you on complaint made against me by John Hayward Priest of Little Wenlock on account of Tythes, which he demands of me for land held in that Parish, also I received an obliging message that I need not trouble myself to come..therefore I send these few lines to inform you that I cannot in conscience pay to an Hireling Ministry.. I cannot think hardly of you in acting as the law directs only I hope you will be so obliging as to restrain the Priests and officers from imposition in the exaction of it.

“ Sunnyside, 25th 2mo. 1765.

“ ABIAH DARBY.”

4mo. 26th. Set out for the Welsh Yearly Meeting at Hay.

²⁴ Abiah Darby wrote *An Expostulatory Address to all who frequent Places of Diversion and Gaming*, no date; and *An Exhortation in Christian Love, to all who frequent Horse-Racing, Cock-fighting, Throwing at Cocks, Gaming, Plays, Dancing, Musical Entertainments, or any other vain diversions*, printed at Shrewsbury in 1769.

She also wrote *Useful Instruction for Children, by way of Question and Answer*, first published in 1763, and reprinted six times (all edd. in D.)

5mo. 17th. Lady Leighton with her son and daughter dined here. I omitted doing my duty..but the Lord is merciful to pardon & pass by.

1767

6mo. 1st. Having heard of Lady Huntington²⁵ being come to pay a visit to my neighbours the Parsons,²⁶ I sent to offer her the use of my Carriage as she had not brought her own & she desiring to see me I took my Fd. A. Summerland with me, & she received us with much kindness.

1768.

4mo. 25th. To Wellington at which place the Welch Yearly Meeting is now held..the seats of the gallery gave way, but no material hurt was sustained..it was supposed 4000 attended..who behaved well.

Church arrangements, important in themselves, must be regarded as simply machinery through which forces can work, and the more efficiently the machinery allows the forces to work, the richer will be the service of the Church.

WILLIAM C. BRAITHWAITE, in *The Message and Mission of Quakerism*, Phila. ed., 1911, p. 41.

²⁵ Selina, Countess of Huntingdon (1707-1791), founder of "Lady Huntingdon's Connexion." She was intimate with John and Charles Wesley. John Fletcher was Superintendent of her college at Trevecca, 1768-1771.

²⁶ That is, John Fletcher. This visit is also mentioned in Benson's *Life of Fletcher*, 11th ed., 1838, p. 109.

The following references to Friends are to be found in Benson's *Life*:—

1782. His thoughts were much engaged concerning the utility of Sunday-Schools [Robert Raikes opened his first Sunday School in Gloucester in 1780], especially after they were recommended to him by Mrs. Darby, an intelligent and pious person, whom he always found ready to promote every good work, p. 297.

"God forbid that I should exclude from my brotherly affections, and occasional assistance, any true Minister of Christ, because he casts the Gospel net among the Presbyterians, the Independents, the Quakers, or the Baptists! . . . They may build up a wall of partition between themselves and me; but, 'in the strength of my God, I will leap over the wall.'" p. 330.

The income of his living was not, on an average, more than one hundred pounds per annum. For many of the people called Quakers, living in his parish, believed it unlawful to pay tithes; and Mr. Fletcher did not choose to take from them by force, what they did not think it lawful to give him. p. 344n.

When ill in London in 1776, Fletcher was under the care of Dr. John Fothergill, p. 195.