

The Enlargement of Devonshire House in the Eighteenth Century

YEARLY MEETING, 1787:—"The following Proposal from the Committee on the Epistles was brought in & being twice read, this Meeting concurs therewith and recommends to the several Quarterly Meetings to promote a Subscription for the purpose therein mentioned when the Meeting for Sufferings shall make application to them for it viz.

"The great inconvenience which hath attended the holding the Yearly Meeting in the present Meeting Houses having engaged the Attention of this Committee, the Yearly Meeting is requested to consider if it may not be proper to direct the Quarterly Meeting of London & Middlesex to provide more suitable accommodations and to recommend throughout the several Quarterly Meetings a liberal contribution for effecting a purpose so desirable & necessary."

Y.M., 1790:—"Spacious freehold Premises near to Devonshire House are offered for Sale to the Committee on reasonable terms, That these Premises together with a part of those belonging to Devonshire House affording ample scope for building two large Meeting Houses, one for the service of the Men Friends & the other for the Women. That the purchase of the Premises & the building of the Two Houses will probably require £10,000. Friends in London have not been able to find any other premises so well adapted to the occasions of the Society."

This was the origin of the present Y.M. buildings at Devonshire House.

"The Man of Honour, Occasion'd by the Postscript of Pen's Letter"

A FOUR-PAGE quarto pamphlet, bearing above caption, has recently been added to D. It consists of 139 lines of verse without author's name and without any imprint.

From London, on October 20, 1688, a nameless but friendly writer addressed a letter¹ "To the Honourable William Penn, Esq. Proprietor and Governour of Pensylvania," relating to the part Penn had recently taken in public affairs, and endeavouring to persuade him "to labour after a Remedy" for the "many Imputations which are cast upon your self, together with some of their evident Consequences."

Penn's *Answer*, dated "Teddington, October the 24th 1688" commences with the words, "It is now above twenty years, I thank God, that I have not been very solicitous what the World thought of me," and

¹ Printed as *A Letter to Mr. Penn, with his Answer*, London, 1688, for Andrew Wilson, and reprinted, same year, for Andrew Sowle, the Wilson being doubtless a mistake. Tace Sowle brought out an 8vo edition.

Joseph Besse, in his life of Penn, introductory to the latter's *Works*, states that this letter was written by "a particular Friend of his, William Popple, Secretary to the Plantation-Office." Besse omits Penn's Postscript.