

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.

then shortly follows:—"The Business chiefly insisted upon, is my Popeperry, and endeavours to promote it. I do say then, and that with all Sincerity, that I am not only no *Jesuit*, but no *Papist*. . . . Is any thing more foolish, as well as false, than that because I am often at *White-Hall*, therefore I must be Author of all that is done there that does not please abroad?"

The *Answer* is only sent because of the writer's wish "not to deny a Friend the satisfaction he desires." There is the following PS. :—

"One thing in reference to my self I forgot to mention, I have been by some people with great art rendred powerful, that I might be made guilty, at least obnoxious; which hath often drawn from me this Expression to my Acquaintance: I have all the Inconvenience of a man of Power and Interest, but nothing of the reality or advantage of that Character. One thing I will say, and end; I must do as I would be done by, and cannot with fine Distinctions or popular Humor, absolve my self from that Duty; for, I thank God, I am what I was, and will be what I am, with his help, let the World say what it will, *Farewel*. W.P."

The verses headed *The Man of Honour, Occasion'd by the Postscript of Pen's Letter*, refer, in all probability, to the above Postscript. The piece begins:—

"Not all the Threats or Favours of a Crown,
A Princes whisper, or a Tyrants frown
Can aw the Spirit, or allure the Mind
Of him who to strict Honour is inclin'd;
Thô all the pomp and pleasure that does wait
On publick places and affairs of State,
Shou'd fondly court him to be base and great." }

Penn does not appear by name save in the title.

Corks for Sale

"12th and 13th day of ye 4th Mo. 1678.

"Memorand y^t this day it was moved in the Meeting whether the Corkes y^t is not vendable here should be ventured to Sea at the Charge of the Quarterly Meeting: To w^{ch} this Quarterly Meeting doth Assent and leaves it to Edw^d Nightingale John Taylor and John Todd to doe as they see meet in y^t Matr.—Minute Book of Yorks Q.M. 1669-1681.

At the Q.M. 27 x. 1677 it was decided to raise a stock whereby the poor Friends who were prisoners "might be employed in some labour to their subsistence." It was reported at the next Q.M. that £149 5s. 6½d. had been then raised. When the accounts were rendered to the Q.M. 25/26 iv. 1679 there had been expended for cork and a cable rope £57 9s. 7d., for teaching prisoners to make corks, &c., £2 1s. 0½d., and for cash paid the prisoners for their wages for cutting cork and picking oakum £18 14s. 10¼d. Corks and oakum had been sold to the value of £37 9s. 4¾d. and there remained in stock £10 worth of oakum and cable rope and 966 gross of corks worth £36. (Note by W. C. BRAITHWAITE.)