

Jane Watson, of Edenderry, Ireland

JANE WATSON, Mary Ridgway's companion (see pp. 120, 132, 154), was a member of Edenderry Monthly Meeting (of which Meeting M. R. was at one time also a member). In 1772 she was given a minute to accompany M. R. on a religious visit to Munster, and prior to that, in 1769, she had a minute, when about to accompany M. R. on a religious visit "to some parts of Great Britain." In 1774 she was liberated to accompany "our well esteemed Friend Esther Tuke (now on a religious visit to Friends in the Nation of Ireland) to England and to some Meetings there." On this occasion J. W. is described as "a Minister in good Unity with us, her Ministry though not large being sound and edifying." The certificate continues: "She has our Concurrence and her mother's Consent to her said intended Journey."

In the book of the *Occurrences for the Progress of Truth*¹ it is recorded that in 1783 Mary Ridgway and Jane Watson visited the counties of Wicklow and Wexford. A minute of Wicklow M.M., 29 vi. 1783, is as follows:—

"Since our last Men's Meeting our Friends Mary Ridgway and Jane Watson . . . performed a Family Visit to the Families of Friends belonging theirto [Wicklow], and as we have reason to believe said Visit was performed in the Love of Truth, and much shuitable Council and Admonition haveing been Delivered by them in Several Families, It is Strongly Recommended to Friends to be Careful to make the best Use of it, and where anything appeared amiss to be Careful to Endeavour to have it Mended."

In the minutes of the Province Meeting at Moate, referred to in Richard Shackleton's letter (see THE JOURNAL, x. 154) occurs the following: "Our Friends Mary Ridgway and Jane Watson have paid a visit to this meeting, whose labor of Love amongst us hath been acceptable, and we hope, to edification." (The service of Edward Hatton and Joseph Garratt is also recorded. They were friends from Cork, then on a religious visit to Ulster and Leinster provinces. See p. 154.)

In 1789 there are certificates for M. R. and J. W. from their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, and the Y.M. of Ministers and Elders, liberating them for the visit to America. We have also copies of the returning certificates from Philadelphia, New England, and New York. These say much more of M. R. than of J. W. The former seems to have been a very gifted minister. Both Philadelphia and New York seem to have been impressed with the unity and harmony in which the two Friends travelled together.

The Edenderry Register records the death of a Jane Watson, in 1812, aged seventy-three, but I am not sure that this is the above Friend.

¹ See also THE JOURNAL, ii. 134.

There were two Friends named Jane Watson also living in Carlow, one of whom was appointed Overseer there in 1773, but there is nothing to show that either of them removed to Edenderry.

EDITH WEBB.

*Central Offices of Friends in Ireland,
6, Eustace Street, Dublin.*

A Particular Observation of Truth's Progress

31 iii. 1731. Some time ago it was much in my mind how though we have large meetings in many places among people and they seem affected with what they hear, yet I find little or no convincement follows, which makes me think the manner and way that Truth is now published to the People is not as formerly it was when many were gathered to the Church. The Government and better sort of people are very kind and civil to friends, and they have respect and interest with them, yea the very Priests in divers places are seemingly at least loving to Friends. Now I greatly fear that too many Friends being unwilling to give them offence (as they call it) are too easy towards them in respect to religious matters, not concerning themselves to speak much to them about such things, so pass smoothly on, and the common people, knowing the Favour that is shewed us by their superiors, behave themselves more civilly. But I do not see that this adds little or anything to the Increase and Prosperity of Truth, and had Friends commission (I am not for any to go without commission) to testify openly against the reigning wicked practises in the great, and the lifeless superstitious ministry of the Priests (both of which in my thought are as visible and flagrant as ever), there would be more converted to God in a little Time; for it is in vain to be lopping at the branches when the Root remains strong and spreading. And it is my belief God will raise in due time a People out of Friends or others, who will be commissioned to strike at the Root and branch of Antichrist, without regard to the Frowns and Favours of High or Low clergy or others, and then and not till then I greatly fear it will be that we shall have any considerable addition to the Church. I have mourned in secret that it has not yet been laid as a work and concern upon some of our eminent Friends and ministers, and do wish they may not put the thing too far from them, but consider whether there may not be some such service for them to do, being the present concern and labour seems not to be effectual.

Diaries of John Kelsall, vi. 248, MS. in D. (copy).

My wealth consists in living on what I have.

ELIZABETH POWELL BOND, Dean Emeritus of Swarthmore College, Pa.