

Proposed New and Complete Edition of the Journal of John Woolman

THE publication of an edition of the *Journal of John Woolman*, faithfully following the text of the original manuscript which has recently become accessible, must be of interest to all Friends, and to many others. Of the three copies, all of them in the author's own hand, the two earlier are deposited at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, and the third and final manuscript is owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. All three have been deposited by descendants of the Journalist. John Woolman evidently copied for the printer the rough drafts of the earliest sheets, not long before he sailed for London in 1772. His accounts books, of which there are two, bear silent evidence of the care and forethought which led him to settle all his worldly affairs with scrupulous exactness before setting out on that journey from which there was to be no return.

Many editions of Woolman's *Journal* have been published, some of them of very recent date, but it is a striking fact that not since 1837 has there been any attempt to collate the printed text with the original manuscript. This was done by John Comly in that year. Neither he nor his predecessors, however, ventured to follow the original text, although his name does not appear upon the title page; but their daring omissions and the verbal commonplaces which they inserted reduced the simple and vivid phrase to something less vital. With it all, the famous *Journal* yet remains a model of direct and simple style despite the fact that entire pages and paragraphs, carefully copied out in Woolman's very clear and fair hand for publication, have been entirely omitted—in one edition, an entire chapter! Some of the omissions deal with such interesting subjects as inoculation and the law, while two are remarkable dreams, one of them at the age of *eight*.

The Friends Historical Society of Philadelphia proposes to print a final edition of the famous *Journal*, which will closely follow the original text, accompanied by biographical notes of each person named. Letters and manuscripts of Woolman are very rare. His "A.B.C." book, or Primer for children, of which there were three editions, the first probably about 1769, has disappeared.¹ It is a rare little paper-covered thing, possibly not more than three or four inches in length, and very valuable. A copy is much desired. Anyone who owns or knows of the existence of such material will perform a real service to the Society in its efforts to set forth the work with accuracy, and do fuller justice to the hitherto little-known personal life of John Woolman, by communicating with

AMELIA M. GUMMERE,
Haverford, Penna.

An Atlantic Crossing in 1726

In *The Life and Travels of Samuel Bownas*, 1756, p. 136, we read :

"I left my home the 22d day of the Tenth Month, 1726, to Pool, being to take shipping there, but the ship was not quite ready; and when it was ready, the wind being against us, were obliged to stay there about five weeks, so I had sundry satisfactory opportunities both amongst Friends and others.

"All being ready and the wind fair, we set sail the 24th of Eleventh Month with a fair wind and pleasant weather, which carried us a considerable distance off the land; but it held but three days and then it was very contrary hard winds after that, which made me very sick and other ways out of order. . . . We had a very long and tedious passage, being eleven weeks and two days upon the sea, from land to land, and on the fourteenth of the Second Month 1727 we landed at Hampton, otherwise Kickatan, in Virginia."

¹ This statement may be true as regards America, there is a copy of the third edition in D. [ED.]