

house of the farm of Esgair goch, is the shell of the stone building, formerly the Meeting House, with its heavy oaken beams still supporting the roof.—Visited 28th June, 1910.

Abiah Darby's Dream¹

ABIAH DARBY retired to rest one night and dreamed that she saw a kitchen and the cook standing by the fire stirring something in a saucepan, then she saw her leave the kitchen and a man enter stealthily and approach the saucepan and drop something in; then she saw the cook return and pour the contents of the saucepan into a basin and take it up to her master, who was ill in bed—upon which she awoke.

She knew that there was at that time in Shrewsbury jail a young woman convicted of poisoning her master, and sentenced to death, and though her dream seemed strange she thought she need not trouble about it, and on falling asleep again she dreamed precisely the same thing, but without feeling she need arouse herself.

The third time she fell asleep, and for the third time the same scene appeared to pass before her.

It so impressed her that she felt she must get up at once, and she called her maid and told her to tell the coachman to put her horses into the coach, as she wished to drive to Shrewsbury at once (about fourteen miles distance). On arriving there, she enquired for the Judge, but found the Assize there was over, and the Judge had gone to the Assize at Hereford, so she ordered fresh horses to be put into the coach and drove immediately to Hereford, where arriving, she found that the Judge was at lunch. She waited till he had done, was admitted to see him and told him her story, which had such effect upon him, that he asked, if he could procure a reprieve and pardon for the accused, whether she would be willing to receive the prisoner into her service as cook. She replied she would most gladly do so. He told her that she would have to wait until the entire Circuit was finished, when the Judges would meet in London, and it would be brought before the Home Secretary.

The woman was reprieved through the influence of the Judge, and Abiah Darby took her into her service as cook, but the troubles she had experienced had affected her health and brought on consumption.

About twelve months afterwards the nephew of her deceased master, who had come into his property, being on his death-bed, sent for her, and confessed to her that he had himself put poison in the saucepan while she was absent from the kitchen. He felt afraid that his uncle would hear of his gambling habits and would cut him off from inheriting his estate.

¹ For Abiah Darby (1716-1794) see *THE JOURNAL*, x.

She took her cook in her carriage to pay this visit, and the face of this gentleman corresponded with the face of the man she had seen in her dream, as also did the face of the cook.

This anecdote is due to the recollections of Mrs. Hanmer, the aunt of the latter having married Abiah Darby's nephew, Samuel Thompson.

F. L. RAWLINS,

by the courtesy of Miss LUCY SOUTHALL.

A Quaint Effusion

THE following is the copy of a letter addressed to Ezra Enock, a Friend, who at the time was a watchmaker in London, and who afterwards returned to his native village of Sibford near Banbury :

“ Friend Enock,—I have sent thee my erroneous Watch which wants thy due care and Correction, the last Time he was at thy School, he was no Ways Benefitted by thy Instruction, for the Index of his Tongue is a liar, his Motion is unsettled & wavering, which makes me believe he is not right in the Inward Man, take him & with thy purging stick, purge him from all Pollution so that he may Vibrate & Circulate according to Truth, but when thou doest him, do him without Passion least by severity thou drive him to Distraction. Set him by the Sun & regulate him by the equation Table & bring him home with a bill of Moderation & thou shalt be paid by thy Friend &c.

“ JOHN H. GILES.”

“ Leman St,
“ Goodmans Fields,
“ Jan^y 11. 1827.”

It would be interesting to know if the writer of this epistle was a Friend. The letter bears the water-mark 1826.

Preston.

DILWORTH ABBATT.

For a similar effusion, see Pike's *Quaker Anecdotes*, 1881, p. 54.

Thomas Ellwood writes :

“ This latter meeting was like the clinching of a nail, confirming and fastening in my mind those good principles which had sunk into me at the former. My understanding began to open, and I felt some stirrings in my breast, tending to the work of a new creation in me. . . And now I saw that although I had been in a great degree preserved from the pollutions of the world, yet there were many plants growing in me which were not of the Heavenly Father's planting, and that all these must be plucked up.”

History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood.