

Quakers and Recusants

ATTENTION has been drawn by E. A. Fry, of 227, Strand, London, W.C., to an important MSS. in the Bodleian Library, giving a list of Friends convicted as Popish Recusants. This MS. has been inspected by William C. Braithwaite and Charles R. Simpson, and the latter has sent us some notes on this valuable document¹

In Madan's *Summary Catalogue* it is thus described :—

“ In English, on paper, written about A.D. 1660-70,² a roll 5 ft. 6 in. by 18½ in., in three pieces, in a cloth box 19½ by 2½, ‘ an abstract of the Names of the people called Quakers, lately convicted as Popish Recusants upon the Statutes made in the Reign of the late Queen Elizabeth . . . taken out of the Exchequer Rolls and accounts sent out of the Countrey . . . ’; a list of over 500 names, largely from Westmorland, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Lancashire. The date appears to be about 1660-1700.² Affixed is ‘ The Case and Request of the People called Quakers.’ A copy of a petition to the King and Privy Council signed by Wm. Penn and seven more. About 1665,² on two leaves.

“ Found in the Gough Room in 1889, and then referenced.”

An approximate calculation yields the following :—

Westmorland	200	Hunts	36
Cambridgeshire	120	Norfolk	150
Lancashire	92	Kent	2
Sussex	2	Surrey	4
Bucks	16	Wiltshire	15
Gloucestershire	21	Herefordshire	22
Essex	48	Suffolk	7
Dorsetshire	34	Hants	6
Cumberland	9	Cheshire	24

Total 808.

The following entries under Westmorland are typical :—

“ In Preston Patrick parish of Burton

Arthur Burrow Webster.

Anne Thompson Spinster.

Wm. Cartmell Husbandman.

John Blackburne Webster.

Oliver Leighton Carpenter.”

The MS. is in an excellent state of preservation, and it would seem from the form of it to be a contemporary copy of the one submitted to Privy Council.

¹ Pressmark : “ MSS. Eng. misc. C.2 (R.) and C.1 (R).”

² W. C. Braithwaite suggests 1669.

The petition mentioned by Mr. Madan is attached. It is as follows :

To the King and his Privie Council.

The Case and Request of the People called Quakers.

Whereas we the peaceable people called Quakers, after diverse tedious and hard imprisonments even to death of many, and that on several Statutes and the great havock and spoile made upon our goods and estates in this Kingdom upon the late Act against Conventicles, only for our meeting together to worshipp God, which hath alwaies been after a Sober and strict manner, are now further dayly exposed to utter ruin in our estates, being persecuted and convicted as Popish Recusants; and writts issued out to seize upon two thirds of our real estates . . . that we together with our Children and families may enjoy our Just rights and Liberties in peaceable exercise of our tender consciences towards God, that we may live a pious Industrious, and peaceable life under the King and his government to whom with Christian minds we sincerly wish all true and lasting happiness.

Signed on Behalf of our
Suffering Friends by us—

WILLIAM PENN.
WILLIAM MEAD.
FRANCIS MOORE.
WILLIAM SHEWEN.
JOHN OSGOOD.
WILLIAM WELCH.
SAMUEL NEWTON.
STEPHEN CRISP.

Hingston and Prideaux,¹ Bankers, Plymouth

IN a privately printed memoir of Frederick Prideaux (1817-1891), barrister and ex-Quaker, of Co. Devon, written by his widow in 1891, we read :

“ I may mention his vivid recollection of a run upon the Bank in 1826, when he was nine years old. Attracted by the crowd and aware in some dim childish fashion of trouble in the air, he crept into the Bank to his father’s side, and watched Mr. Browne, the cashier, slowly cashing the cheques that were thrust forward in sheaves to him. Child though he was, he was deeply impressed by his father’s quiet dignity and self-possession. He often reproduced the scene to me and the phrases he heard him use—‘ Each in his turn, good people.’—‘ Quietly, quietly, you shall all have your money.’—‘ Patiently, my friends, all in good time.’ Meanwhile a four-horse express was galloping to Exeter for bullion, returning in time.”

¹ Walter Prideaux married Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Ball) Hingston, of Kingsbridge. He died of apoplexy while in meeting, 1832 (*Annual Monitor*).