

Editor's Note

The next number of THE JOURNAL will be enlarged in order to take in numerous letters from the Abraham Collection of early Quaker MSS., the printing of which and other valuable matter having been made possible by a grant made for the purpose by the Trustees of the London Friends' Fund (George Stacey Gibson's Bequest).

Quaker Anecdotes

From a MS. collection in the possession of Thomas Henry Webb, of Dublin.

Samuel Grubb came to ask for Margaret Shackleton. Her father, Richard Shackleton, and his wife Elizabeth were considering his proposal. Elizabeth Shackleton objected on the ground that he had buttons¹ on the back of his coat, Richard Shackleton observed: "If he's right to a button, my dear, he will do."

When umbrellas first came into use they were considered as an indication that those who carried them were fashionable people. Hence an advice which was issued by the London Yearly Meeting against "the wearing of those new fashioned things called 'umbrellas.'"

Benjamin Clark Fisher, however, was of opinion that umbrellas were of use, and was so anxious to possess one that he ordered one specially from London. With a Friend who had done the same he went down the river Shannon in a boat to meet the vessel that was bringing them.

A servant girl in Ballytore, who had lived with families of different religious denominations, remarked on the different ways in which the pain of domestic bereavement affected people, observing: "The Catholics screeched it off; the Protestants dressed it off; but the Quakers bore it."

Joshua Jacob, the White Quaker, during the earlier portion of his life had a grocer's shop in Dublin and acquired a reputation for selling very good tea. A passer-by, observing a crowd about the shop, enquired what was the matter. He was told: "It's the Quaker's tay: it'd crack an iron pot."

It is stated that Archbishop Whately purchased some tea at Joshua's counter and asked to have the parcel sent to "The Archbishop of Dublin, The Palace, Stephen's Green." Joshua observed rather sharply: "None of thee nonsense here, Is thee name James or Robert?"

¹ Buttons were originally put on the back of a gentleman's coat for the purpose of keeping the sword belt in its place. It was considered a mark of plainness not to have such buttons.