

Stranger Friends visiting Scotland, 1650-1797

MOST of the following names are those of Ministering Friends; a few are definitely stated to have been "not publick."

1650

There seems to be only one name on record, that of JAMES NAYLER. In the autumn of that year, after the battle of Dunbar, one of Cromwell's officers, riding in Scotland at the head of his troop, "observed at some distance from the road a crowd of people, and one higher than the rest." A soldier who was sent to see what was the meaning of the gathering not returning, a second was despatched, and when he also failed to return, the officer himself rode up to the concourse. "When I came thither, I found it was James Nayler preaching to the people; but with such power and reaching energy as I had not till then been witness of. I could not help staying a little, although I was afraid to stay; for I was made a Quaker, being forced to tremble at the sight of myself."¹

1651-1654

For the next four years the records are scanty, and not a little vague. Referring to this period, John Barclay says, "Very soon, however, were the feet of several gospel messengers from England turned in this direction as CHRISTOPHER FELL [of Cumberland(?) in 1653²], GEORGE WILSON [of Cumberland], JOHN GRAVE, GEORGE ATKINSON [? Watkinson], SARAH CHEEVERS, KATHARINE EVANS."³ The two last-named Friends were in Scotland in 1654.⁴ EDWARD BURROUGH was at Berwick-on-Tweed in April, 1654, "from which place," writes William C. Braithwaite, "I fancy he may have gone into Scotland." In that year also JAMES LANCASTER and MILES HALHEAD travelled in parts of Scotland,³ whilst JOHN BOWRON, of Yorkshire, journeyed in Scotland "soon after his convincement in 1653." "At Edinburgh he preached to

the people as he went through the streets . . . and at the Cross." Some English soldiers were kind to him as he journeyed, "but the priests were in a rage against him, for he was a dread to them."⁵

1655

In 1655 and the two following years there was a wonderful influx of Quaker missionaries from the south.

JOHN BOWRON,⁶ WILLIAM CATON,⁶ RICHARD CLAYTON of Lancashire,⁶ CHRISTOPHER FELL,⁷ JOHN GRAVE, who this year had £4 9s. from the Swarthmoor Fund "at severall times for Scotland,"⁶ THOMAS HUTTON,⁶ RICHARD ISMAY (Ihmaide, Esmaid, etc.) had £2 this year from the Swarthmoor Fund, "at his goeing twice for Scotland."⁶ JAMES HARRISON,⁶ THOMAS HOLME and his wife ELIZABETH,⁶ JAMES LANCASTER,⁶ JAMES MOORE,⁷ JOSEPH NICHOLSON,⁷ THOMAS RAWLINSON received from the Swarthmoor Fund thirteen shillings "that he laide for friends in Scotland,"⁶ WILLIAM SIMPSON,⁶ JOHN SLEE,⁷ WILLIAM STOCKDALE of Ireland,⁶ JOHN STUBBS,⁶ THOMAS STUBBS,⁶ GEORGE WILSON received one pound from the Swarthmoor fund "for Scotland."⁶

1656

JOHN BOWRON travelled as far north as the Orkney Isles, taking shipping from Kirkwall for Barbadoes,⁹ MARGARET BRADLEY, to whom five shillings was paid from the Swarthmoor fund "as shee returned from Scotland in her journey towards Yorke,"¹⁰ WILLIAM CATON,¹¹ THOMAS CLIBBORN,¹² CHRISTOPHER FELL,¹² JOHN GILL.

William Stockdail and John Gill with severall other freinds about Glasfoord being mett at Strathaven and keeping a meeting in the graveyard [6 x. 1656] wer by the rude and crwel multitud from thence expelled and stoned and some of their blood shedd by the multitude of persecutors.⁸ About this tyme [x. 1656] George Wilsons and the said John Gill being moved to goe to the steephous of Glasfoord wher George Wilsons did aske the preist a qwestione three tymes, but he uowld not ansswer, then Claud Mershell (called a constable) did lay hands on him and the rude multitud did assist him in stockeing and persecuting of them till some of George Wilsons his blood was Shedd.⁸

JOHN GRAVE was visiting Scotland with WILLIAM CATON in May of this year,¹³ JOHN HALL of Yorkshire, had money from the Swarthmoor fund for a horse, clothes,

etc., when he "went into Scotland."¹⁴ ANN HARGROVE,¹⁵ JOHN LANGSTAFF of Durham, and ALEXANDER PARKER of Lancashire,¹⁶ GEORGE REYNALDS,¹⁵ WILLIAM STOCKDALE.

William Stockdail and John bourane with some other freinds of truth journeying through a merkat towne called strathaven and declaring the Word of the Lord in the streets were by the inhabitants of the towne and some others crwelly beat with stones and abused with mire of the street [and] shamefully driven out of the towne about the sixt moneth.¹⁷

William Stockdale was a witness to the first Quaker marriage recorded in Scotland in the Tenth Month of this year. HUGH TICKELL "has good service for the Lord" at Heads, Douglas, Glasgow, Hamilton, Edinburgh, etc.¹⁸ JOHN WESTRAY of Cumberland,¹² GEORGE WILSON.⁸

1657.

CHRISTOPHER FELL (?), GEORGE FOX,¹⁹ E. GYBSON,²⁰ JOHN GRAVE,²⁰ THOMAS HOLME this year "went againe for Scotlande,"²⁰ FRANCIS HOWGILL,²¹ ROBERT HUNTINGTON of Carlisle (?),²⁰ RICHARD ESMAID, (probably Ismay) in the Fifth Month of this year was put in the stocks at the Castle of Glasfoord and imprisoned at Hamilton for preaching in Glasfoord steeplehouse, and three months later he was again put in the stocks, gagged, and imprisoned "for declaireing the Word of the Lord to the people" on Hamilton Green, the Constable sending "for the preists fetter Locke to Locke the stockes withall."⁸ JAMES LANCASTER,²⁰ ALEXANDER PARKER,²⁰ RICHARD PINDER was moved in Fourth Month to go to Kilbride steeple house and speak to the people and was forthwith carried off by the constables and imprisoned at Ruglane, "where he could scarcely get any strae to lye wpon." He was then set in "the stockes at Kilbrid steephous the space of five howres," and afterwards "carried from constable to constable furth of Scotland into ingland."⁸ THOMAS RAWLINSON,²⁰ THOMAS ROBERTSON,²⁰ WILLIAM STOCKDALE in Second Month of this year and other friends were "apprehended as vagabounds," and passed on from constable to constable "till they came to James Campbell of Cesnock, who after examinatione and threatening dismissed" them.⁸ ROBERT WIDDERS went to a

82 STRANGER FRIENDS VISITING SCOTLAND

steeple house at New Monklands and many other places directing the people to the word of God in their hearts.²² GEORGE WILSON, suffered with other Friends in the West of Scotland, in Sixth Month two Scottish Friends were imprisoned for entertaining him at their houses.⁸

1658

JOHN BURNYEAT of Cumberland, afterwards of Dublin, writes:

About the beginning of the eighth month, I took my journey into Scotland and travelled in that nation about three months; and was both in the north and west of it, as far north as Aberdeen, and back again to Edinburgh, and so down west to Lithgow, Hamilton, Ayr, and as far as Portpatrick; and back to Ayr and Douglas. And our service was at their steeple-houses and markets and other places . . . and sometimes at Friends' meetings where there were any . . . we returned into England and came over the water to Bowstead hill, the first day of the eleventh month.²³

WILLIAM DEWSBURY "alarms" sundry at Aberdeen, when he with other Friends "came thorough this Nation sounding forth the day of the Lord,"²⁴ SAMUEL THORNTON,²⁵ GEORGE ATKINSON (probably Watkinson) joined Dewsbury at Leith in September and travelled North with him.²⁵

1659

JOHN BOWRON,²⁶ STEPHEN CRISP of Colchester, writes:

I got into Scotland in the 9th month . . . I travelled to & fro that winter on foot with cheerfulness. Many straits & difficulties attended me . . . & it being the time of the motion of the English & Scottish armies upon which succeeded the revolution of Government & the bringing back of King Charles 2nd.²⁷

1659-1669

I have found no records of the visits of Stranger Friends between 1659 and 1669, except that of WILLIAM DEWSBURY in 1662,²⁸ but, in addition, very probably there may have been visits from some of the following Friends who are said to have been in Scotland, some of them several times, though no dates are given:— THOMAS ALDAM,²⁹ JOHN BANKS,²⁹ JOHN BLAYKLING,²⁹ WILLIAM CARTER of Cumberland,³⁰ JOHN FELL of Cumberland,³⁰ THOMAS FELL of Cumberland (c. 1624-

1697),²⁹ ROGER HAYDOCK,³¹ ROGER HEBDEN,³² WILLIAM HORNOLD of London,²⁹ RICHARD HUBBERTHORNE,³⁰ ANTHONY PATRICKSON of Cumberland,²⁹ SAMUEL WATSON of Yorkshire writes in 1699 that he had been in Scotland "about 40 years ago,"³³ ELIZABETH WHEATLEY,³⁴ WILLIAM WILSON of Westmorland (d. 1682).²⁹

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(To be continued.)

- ¹ *Jaffray's Diary*, 3rd ed., 413.
- ² *Camb. Jnl.* i. 451.
- ³ *Jaffray's Diary*, 195.
- ⁴ *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 374.
- ⁵ *Piety Promoted*, 1854, i. 233.
- ⁶ THE JOURNAL vi. 51, 85.
- ⁷ *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 326, 331.
- ⁸ MS. *Register of the Sufferings of Friends in Scotland*.
- ⁹ *Piety Promoted*, 1854, i. 233.
- ¹⁰ THE JOURNAL vi. 128; *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 333.
- ¹¹ *Tuke's Biographical Notices* ii. 216.
- ¹² *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 333.
- ¹³ Braithwaite's *Beginnings of Quakerism*, 227.
- ¹⁴ *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 476; THE JOURNAL vi. 127.
- ¹⁵ THE JOURNAL vi. 127, 128.
- ¹⁶ These two Friends were expected in Scotland "about y^t time," *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 334.
- ¹⁷ This is the first entry in the MS. *Register of the Sufferings of Friends in Scotland*.
- ¹⁸ Whiting's *Memoirs*, 1715, 52.
- ¹⁹ *Camb. Jnl.* i. 292-310.
- ²⁰ *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 337.
- ²¹ *Camb. Jnl.* 336.
- ²² *Piety Promoted*, 1854, i. 98.
- ²³ *Jaffray's Diary*, 196. George Fox's *Journal* ii. 325.
- ²⁴ THE JOURNAL vii. 92.
- ²⁵ Braithwaite's *Beginnings of Quakerism*, 363, 364.
- ²⁶ *Piety Promoted*, 1854, i. 234.
- ²⁷ *Jaffray's Diary*, 414.
- ²⁸ *Jaffray's Diary*, 197.
- ²⁹ *Piety Promoted*, 1854, Vols. I. and II.
- ³⁰ *The First Publishers of Truth*.
- ³¹ *Sewel's History*, 1795, ii. 235.
- ³² *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 464.
- ³³ Aberdeen Meeting Book v.
- ³⁴ Robson MSS., T.R. i. 78.