

Notes and Queries

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- D.—The Reference Library of London Y.M., at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.
Camb. *Jnl.*—*The Journal of George Fox*, published by the Cambridge University Press, 1911.
F.P.T.—“*The First Publishers of Truth*,” published by the Friends Historical Society, 1907.
H.S.P.—The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, located at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

THE WILL OF JOHN BELLERS.¹
—I, John Bellers, late of London Merchant but now of Coln St. Alwins² in the county of Gloucester Gentn being at this time of sound mind and memory but calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the hour and time thereof do make and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following. And first I commit my body to the earth to receive such an interment as my executors hereinafter named shall in their discretion think fitt or as I may hereafter give directions. And as

¹ Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (169 Romney). Charles R. Simpson called our attention to this interesting document at Somerset House. Our thanks are due to him for much of the information contained in the notes.

² The residence of John Bellers at Coln St. Alwyns had been formerly the home of Giles and Elizabeth Fettiplace, parents of Frances, wife of John Bellers. The estate remained in the possession of their descendants until the middle of the nineteenth century, when it was sold to Sir Michael Hicks Beach and others (article by W. C. B[owly] in *The Friend* (Lond.), 1861, p. 176).

to that worldly estate which God hath been pleased to intrust me with I give devise and bequeath the same as followeth. Imprimis I give devise and bequeath to my cozen Anne Bellers of Upton in the county of Worcester forty shillings a year during her life And I give to such servants as shall dwell with me at the time of my decease and twelve months before the sum of five pounds each. Item I give to my daughter Mary³ the wife of Joseph Ingram and to the heirs of her body and for want of such issue to her right heirs for ever all those houses and gardens thereunto belonging at Greenwich in the county of Kent now lett unto Richard Walker and to George Creed Weaver and late in the occupation of Philip Nutt and one piece of ground lately held by Thomas Norman Brewer and now by Captain Medcalfe who married his widow lett for thirty shillings per annum on his or their undertennants I having by deed settled some years since several houses in Greenwich aforesaid in the occupation of the said Thomas Norman or his undertennants upon my said daughter

³ Mary (c. 1689-1751) married Joseph, son of William Ingram, in 1710.

Mary Ingram and the heirs of her body with diverse remainders over in lieu of lands at Little Aulne in the parish of Austin Cantlo in the county of Warwick and lands at Lemhill in the parish of Letchford in the county of Gloucester which she and her husband Joseph Ingram have settled by Deed upon their sister Theophila⁴ and her husband John Eliott Merchant then of Falmouth and now of London and their heirs. And I hereby confirm the marriage settlement which I made at the marriage of my said daughter Theophila the now wife of the said John Eliott in which settlement I am bound to leave in the hands of trustees the sum of one thousand pounds at my decease to be settled on them the said John Eliott and Theophila his wife and the heirs of their bodies.⁵ Item I give to the Committee of Friends Workhouse⁶ that

⁴ Theophila, the second daughter, was born in 1695; she married John Eliot in 1719. Her portrait in oils is in the possession of Henry Howard, of Stone, near Kidderminster, a photographic reproduction, measuring 11 in. by 9 in., has just been obtained for D., through the good service of Eliot Howard, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

⁵ John and Theophila Eliot had three daughters, Frances, Rebecca, and Mary, only one of whom married, namely Rebecca, to Sir John Bridges, Kt. (*Eliot Papers*, I. p. 4).

⁶ John Bellers was the moving spirit in the establishment of this institution at Clerkenwell in 1702. After many changes both in locality and purpose, it is now represented by the Friends' School at Saffron Walden, Essex (*Sketch of Two Hundred Years*, by James B. Crosfield, 1902).

are or shall be appointed by the People called Quakers to take Care of the poor amongst them in London the sum of one hundred pounds on condition that my said daughters Mary Ingram and Theophila Eliott or the survivor of them or their heirs or posterity shall and may if they think fitt have the nomination and appointment of one child to be kept in their Workhouse from time to time as one child goes out to have Liberty to put another child in they being in Health and conforming to the Work Orders and meathods thereof and not else Item I give to my cosen Thomas Church⁷ what things I had from Kensington that were my sister Elizabeth Fettiplaces⁸ (the plate only excepted). Item my will is that all my printed Books and papers that have been or shall be by me printed shall be reprinted in one volume whereof some to be printed on good large paper and well bound in Turkey Leather and one of them to be presented to

⁷ According to a marriage certificate in Friends' Library, Arch Street, Philadelphia, Thomas Church married Theophila, daughter of Giles and Elizabeth Fettiplace, in 1693 (Information from George Vaux of Philadelphia, 1906). This would make Thomas Church *brother-in-law* to John Bellers, and not *cousin*, but there may have been some relationship before marriage.

The minutes of the Six Weeks Meeting (1700) show that Thomas Church left money to Clerkenwell Workhouse, and various legacies for the service of Friends. He died in 1699.

⁸ Probably refers to his wife's sister, Elizabeth, who died unmarried in 1716. Her grave is in Friends' Burial Ground, Cirencester.

the Envoy of every Sovereign Prince and State in Europe who shall have such Envoys residing at our British Court for their respective Masters perusal and one to every publick library in London and Westminster and to the two publick Librarys of Oxford and Cambridge.⁹ Item I give to my cousin Thomas Church a trunk of linnen or so much as is in it which my sister Elizabeth Fettiplace left at Cowne Allens at the time of her decease And I further give in trust to my Cozen Jacob Harvy Merchant and to my cozen John Mucklow Silkman for the following uses All those my lands tenements and hereditaments being at Poulton in the county of Wilts which are not otherwise by deed already settled on my son Fettiplace¹⁰ And also those my lands lyeing in Kennerton in the county of Warwick And also those my lands and hereditaments which are at Ratcot in the county of Oxford And also those my lands and hereditaments lyeing at Lemhill in the parish of Langford in the county of Berks and also all those my copyhold messuages lands tenements and hereditaments lyeing in Islington in the county of Middlesex which are in the Mannour there belonging to Sir John Austin where I surrendered the estate to the use of my last will And also all my lands lyeing in the Provinces of Pensilvania and West New Jersey in America And also all those my leasehold messuages lands and tenements

⁹ Unfortunately this instruction does not appear to have been carried out. Joseph Smith mentions no such collection of writings, and upon enquiries no copies are to be found in the Libraries mentioned in the will.

with their and every of their appurtenances which are lyeing and being in Cowne St. Aldwins aforesaid and elsewhere in the county of Gloucester held by lease from the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester together also with all my horses goods utensils and implements of household and other things and coaches and harness or implements belonging to husbandry that shall be there or at Poulton at the time of my decease And also the plate there or at London belonging to me To hold the same leasehold messuages lands tenements and all and every other the freehold premisses and goods and chattels to my said cozen Jacob Harvy and John Mucklow their heirs executors administrators and assigns upon the trusts and to and for the intents and purposes hereinafter limited and appointed and subject nevertheless to the payment of my debts and of the legacyes hereinbefore mentioned or shall herein after be particularly mentioned or in any future codicill that I may add to this my will that then all the rents issues and profits as they shall arise yearly off my messuages lands tenements and hereditaments both freehold copyhold and leasehold and all the rest and residue of my estate both reall and personal of what nature or kind-soever shall from time to time be payd to my son Fettiplace Bellers¹⁰

¹⁰ He was the oldest son and appears to have been a person of some note, and a writer on philosophy; his most important work is entitled *A Delineation of Universal Law*. He also wrote a play entitled *Injured Innocence*, produced at Drury Lane in 1732. In addition to being a philosopher and

for and during his natural life and from and after his decease and in case he shall marry a wife and she survive him that then one third part thereof from time to time shall be payd to such wife for and during the term of her natural life and the other two third parts thereof to be payd to his child or children if he shall leave any or leave his said wife ensient or with child of any and which shall be borne within ten months next after his decease for and towards the respective mainteynance of such child or children until he she or they shall attain to his her or their respective ages of twenty one years or day or days of marriage and from and after his her or their arrival to their said respective ages of twenty one years or days of marriage then and in such case my said cozens Jacob Harvey and John Mucklow and the survivor of them or the heirs executors and administrators of such survivor shall and will permit and suffer such child or children and his her and their heirs and assigns to have receive and take the same to his her and their own proper use and uses for ever the same to be divided equally between them share and share alike and to take the same as tennants in common and not as joint tennants and my will and meaning further is that my said cosens Jacob Harvey and John Mucklow and the survivor of them and the heirs executors or administrators of such survivor shall by and out of my estate be payd and

playwright, he was something of a geologist, came into intimate touch with Sir Hans Sloane, and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1711.

satisfied all such costs charges and expences whatsoever that they or either or any of them may sustain or be put unto for or by reason or means of their or either or any of their transacting and managing of any affairs relating to this my last will and testament and they or either or any of them shall not be charged or chargeable with more moneys than what shall actually come to their respective hands or possessions and that if any loss or damage shall happen to them or either of them by putting out at interest any money which may happen to be payd into either or any of their hands for the uses aforesaid then my mind and will is that my said cosens Jacob Harvey and John Mucklow or either of them or the heirs executors or administrators of the survivor of them shall not in any wise be charged or chargeable therewith or be obliged or made lyable to answer and make good the same but in case my son Fettiplace Bellers's children shall all dye before they come of age or are marryed or there shall be no such child or children then my will and meaning is that my said daughters Mary Ingram and Theophila Eliott shall have receive and take the same to the use of them and the heirs of their bodyes and in default of such issue to them their heirs executors and administrators to be equally divided between them share and share alike and to take as tennants in common and not as joint tennants. Item I give and bequeath to my said son Fettiplace Bellers one hundred pounds one half thereof to be payd to him within one month and the other half within three

months next after my decease and I hereby appoint that the children of my sister Mason¹¹ shall be payd what is due to them from my said son Fettesplace Bellers as also what is due from him to my friend John Askew¹² by and out of the rents issues and profits of my estate As for my books instruments mapps draughts and letters both those that are at London as well as those which are at Cowne Allins in the county of Gloucester I appoint that they shall be kept in one place for the use of all my children and their posterity under the following rules First that every one that shall claim any use of the said Books instruments mapps draughts and letters shall pay their part towards the rent of the room in which they shall be kept except they can procure such room rent free secondly that my three children shall appoint the keeping of them where and by whom as they or the major part of them shall agree upon And as they dye by their children thirdly no one shall take out above five books at a time and those to be returned again in twelve months at furthest Fourthly none that shall receive any books out shall have any more new books out but as

¹¹ Mary, sister of John Bellers, married Cornelius Mason, of London, in 1690.

¹² His name figures frequently in the Upperside Minutes (Bucks.). At the Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, 5 mo. 1, 1695, he is described as "heretofore servant to John Bellers, having formerly lived sometime in this County . . . did some tyme since transport himself into Pensilvania" (Minutes in D.). The Meeting issued a certificate on his behalf.

they shall return any or all the books which they had borrowed before And I hereby constitute and appoint my said two cozens Jacob Harvey and John Mucklow to be the Executors of this my last will and testament And I give to each of them twenty pounds And I revoak and make void all former wills by me made and declare this to be my last will and testament but in case any one or more of my children shall endeavour to break in upon this my will in whole or in part or upon the settlements which I have made on my daughters Ingram and Eliott or either of them that then I hereby disannull and make void what I have given them in this my last will except only on shilling In witness whereof to this my last will and testament conteining with this sheet three sheets of paper I have subscribed my name to each sheet and affixed my seal to the first and last sheet thereof the third day of March in the eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God King of Great Britain &c. Annoq Dui 1724/5 — John Bellers — Signed sealed published and declared by the said testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have subscribed our names in the presence and at the request of the said testator after the interlineation of these words (and the heirs of their bodyes and in default of such issue to them) between the fourth and fifth lines of the third and last sheet—Hen : Cock (?Cook) Servt to Mr. Bellers—John Bellamy—Nath Bellamy.

I add this as a codicill to my

will lately made I give all my plate to my two daughters Mary Ingram and Theophila Eliot and what bedds or bedding I have at either of their houses I give to them at whose house they are at Witness my hand this fifth of March 1724/5—John Bellers Witness Henrietta Cook I don't give none of the things given to my cozen Tho: Church in my will to either of my daughters—John Bellers.

16th Aug^t 1725.

Which day Appeared personally Fettyplace Bellers of the Inner Temple London Esquire and by virtue of his corporal Oath deposed that he is the natural and lawful son of John Bellers late of Coln St. Alwins in the county of Gloucester deceased who dyed in the month of April last past and that he is very well acquainted with the manner and character of his hand writing having often seen him write and having now seen and perused the paper writing hereto annexed beginning thus I ad this as a codicill to my will and ending thus I don't give none of my things given to my cozⁿ Tho: Church in my Will to either of my daughters and signed John Bellers does verily believe the same to be totally wrote and subscribed by and with the proper hand of the said deceased

FETTIPLACE BELLERS

Die praed Dictus Fettyplace Bellers juratus fuit super Veritate Praemissorum coram me Gul: Strahan Surr. Prsen Ever: Sayer Norio Pubco.

Proved 27th August 1725.
and Proved 23rd September 1742.

THE JOURNAL OF JOHN WOOLMAN.—It is due to English Friends, whose assistance has been very fully appreciated, that some statement should be made as to the progress of the new edition of John Woolman's Journal.

The recent decision to incorporate Woolman's Essays in this volume has doubled the labour, and will involve a certain amount of delay in publication. It is wiser, nevertheless, to endeavour to make the work as complete as possible, since the accuracy which is essential must not be sacrificed by going forward too rapidly. It is fully expected, however, that the work will be ready not later than the coming Autumn.

Unfortunately *no* copies of John Woolman's "A.B.C." Book for Children have been found in America, the statement in *Friends' Intelligencer* of October 17th to the contrary notwithstanding. Reference was probably intended to several photographs then recently received, of the unique copy preserved in Devonshire House Library, which, however, is the *third* edition. The search is still going on, with the feeling that some attic in Burlington County or Philadelphia must contain the tiny book among its lumber.

The Editor desires to thank those Friends in England who have most kindly furnished valuable notes and information, and will be very glad to have anything further bearing on the life of John Woolman, however apparently unimportant. — AMELIA MOTT GUMMERE, *Haverford, Pennsylvania.*