

Two Eighteenth Century Pocket-Books

WE have received from Mrs. W. H. Gripper, of Tunbridge Wells, on loan, a little parcel of books, once in the possession of the Fox family, of Nottingham.

1. *The/Minor's/Pocket Book/for the/Youth of Both Sexes,/1821./*
London./Printed for Harvey and Darton/Suttaby, Evance & Fox/
J. Poole & W. Darton.

This little leather-bound tuck volume appears to have had a Quaker origin. The first article is the oft-reprinted "I am a Christian and cannot fight." There are ten pages of poetry, including "The Ivy," by Bernard Barton. The Diary portion is headed, "Jan. 31 days, First Month, 1821," etc. At the close appears a collection of Enigmas, Charades and Rebuses, preceded by the solutions of riddles given in the volume for 1820, also some marketing tables and coach fares. Communications were to be sent to Suttaby, Evance and Fox, Stationers' Court. The owner's name was "Sarah Fox."

Among entries are the following: "July 31, Sam^l Smith died." "Aug. 5, S. S. interred, a large funeral." "Jan 5, S. F. poorly." "Jan. 7, S. F. very ill." "Jan. 12, Dear S. F. went to the shop again." Visits to jails are recorded, also to Ackworth, Doncaster, Nottingham, Draycott, and numerous other places.

2. A plain skin-bound metal-clasped pocket book, with about a quarter only of the leaves written on, containing records of the Gospel travels of John Storer, of Nottingham (1725/6-1795), and miscellaneous writings.

Of the travels we give the following:

"An account of our journey from York, 12 mo. 28, 1751.

"Pickering & went y^t night to our Worthy Fr'd Jn^o Richingson Whose Company & Conversation was very Entertaining & Edifieing to us. . . . Darlington Lodg'd at Jonⁿ headleys. . . . alandale & Lodg'd at Anthony Wadson. . . . went on y^e 1st day Morning to Parshaw Cragg Meet'g, which was there 6 Weeks Meet'g & a great Concourse of Fr'ds. . . . Sedberg. . . . Aysgarth. . . . Bradford. . . . Nottingham."

"On y^e 10th of y^e 5 mo. 1752: I set out a Journey into y^e West . . . Skegby . . . Poulsworth . . . Birmingham . . . at Dudley & Lodg'd at Ann Paytons . . . Cheltenham . . . Thornberry & lodg'd at Jn^o Gayners . . . Bristol & Lodg'd at Henry Martains . . . Addington . . . Easington . . . Warwick . . . Leicester . . . came home was out this Journey 9 weeks all but 2 days."

"4 of y^e 11 mo. 1752. Set out from home to Oakam . . . Luton Lodg'd at John Freeth's . . . Tottenham . . . London

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. . . Bardfield at Joseph Smiths . . . Stebing & at Humphry Smiths . . . Needham at Dykey Alexanders . . . Norwich . . . Fakenham at Joseph Peckovers . . . Swafham Lodg'd at Travel Fullers . . . & so thro' Northamptonshire & Leicestershire home."

"9 m^o 10th 1753. Set out from home came to Stapleford & Lodg'd at Jn^o Jallands . . . York . . . Yarm Lodg'd y^t night at Barbery Flunder's . . . Borrowbridge Lodg'd at Boswell Middleton's . . . Sheffield . . . came home being y^e 13th of 11 m^o was out this Journey 9 week's & 1 day."

"25 of the 6th m^o 1754. Set out from home . . . Edw^d Gulson's at Leicester . . . went to London . . . & so to y^e Yearly M'gs at Colchester, Bury, Woodbridge & Norwich & so homeward."

Then follows a tabulated record of a visit to Ireland in 1755. The first column gives the date, then follows "Places," and "Lodg'd at," and then in three columns the number of meetings held, the number of miles travelled, and the days of the week. *En route* to Ireland, Friend Storer took in 17 meetings—"at Sandyacree (Thomas Gregory's), Haregate (Joshua Toft's), Warrington (Samuel Fothergill's)," etc. On the 22nd of Fourth Month he left Liverpool, and on the 27th arrived at Dublin. He remained here 10 days, lodging at Peter Judd's. Throughout Sixth and Seventh Months he travelled diligently, and on Eighth Month 6, he was again at Peter Judd's. "from thence took Shiping for Whitehaven & so homeward takeing m'gs in my way thro' Yorkshire."

The number of places visited in Ireland was sixty, the number of meetings held eighty-two, and the tale of miles travelled 870. In none of the above is there, unfortunately, any record of the condition of Meetings visited or of the proceedings in meetings held.

At the other end of this little book are numerous pages containing recipes for sore eyes, scurvy, strain in a horse, vertigo, to take an earwig out of the ear, for lost speech, etc. Here is a curious entry:

"For stopping y^e most violent Effusion of blood take y^e moss y^t grows at y^e Root of y^e North side of a black or red Ash tree. Apply it to y^e wound it will im̄diately stop bleeding, also a Toad kill'd & Dry'd in y^e sun & put into a little close box & hold y^e belly part toward y^e wound."¹

And here is another:

"For Stopping of the Breath Take the gum of a Cherry Tree and Dissolve it in old wine and let the Sick drink thereof & it will open his pipes gallantly."

¹ For the frequency in which the ash tree and the toad appear in vulgar specifics, see Index to Lean's *Collection of Proverbs*, etc. 1903.