

Abolition Rhymes, 1840

BY the courtesy of Ella Kent Barnard, West Grove, Pa., we have received a typed copy of *Abolitioneries or Remarks on some of the Members of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, most of whom were present at the Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia and New York in May, 1840*. The author of these rhymes was Benjamin S. Jones. Most of the eighty persons introduced were Friends.

Of James Sloan Gibbons, first Editor of *Friends' Intelligencer* (1838), for whom see THE JOURNAL, xiv. 45, we read :

“ When others had strayed
And their trust had betrayed,
Thy ‘Protest’ sprang forth into light :
And tried hearts and true
Quickly rallied thereto,
For justice, for truth, and for right,
Jim Gibbons,
For justice, for truth, and for right.”

Joshua Coffin was the schoolmaster visitor at the Whittier home-
stead who presented young Greenleaf with a volume of the poems of
Robert Burns, which gave him his first insight into true poetry. Whittier
wrote an inscription for Joshua’s tombstone.

“ Come, Joshua, come,
Make thy self quite at home :
What musty old book hast thou got ?
‘ A very rare work
By Sid Harnest, a Turk
At a book-stand I met with and bought
Tother day,
At a book-stand I met with and bought.’ ”

The sisters, Angelina Emily and Sarah M. Grimké, were “ from the
South [South Carolina], Episcopalians and wealthy. They acknowledged
their brother Henry’s natural sons (colored mother), who were at Lincoln
University and later at Columbus College, and were able brilliant men.
The Grimké sisters joined the Orthodox Friends’ Meeting [Philadelphia]
because of their strong feelings against slavery, thinking the Meeting on
principle was opposed to it, and they either left the Meeting because they
were disappointed in that, or were disowned by the Meeting because
they treated as an equal a colored woman the Meeting had admitted to
membership, but made sit by herself back under the gallery—they went
and sat by her.”¹

¹ From notes taken by Josephine Pennock of statements of her
aunt, Edith Pennock, “ the last of the Longwood Friends,” 1916.

A. E. Grimké married Theodore Dwight Weld, on the day of the riot over the Pennsylvania Hall, 1838, see *Elizabeth Buffum Chase*, 1914. In 1824 Sarah M. took notes of sermons by various Friends and these appeared in *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 86 (1912). The copy of *The Death Bed of a young Quaker* (Springett Penn, 1675-1696), Boston, 1833, now in D., was presented to "Elizabeth Robson, Junr., with the love of Sarah M. Grimké, Philad., 8th Mo. 12, 1834." There was a Thomas Smith Grimké, of Charlestown, S.C. (c. 1787-1834), who issued an edition of Dymond's *Inquiry into War*, dedicated to Sunday Schools and containing extracts from his own writing on peace, 1834. His address at a Sunday School jubilee in 1831, is in D.

"The Grimkés I sought,
But alas! they were not:
Has the light from their spirits departed?
Rise, gird ye anew
To dare, suffer, and do!
Waver not! but be firm and true-hearted,
Once again!
Waver not! but be firm and true-hearted."

Among other abolitionists who appear are Lucretia Mott, J. G. Whittier, Joseph Janney, Abby Kelly, W. L. Garrison. Of James Rhoads we read:

"Hast thou ever, James Rhoads,
Heard of half-living toads,
That for hundreds of years slept in stone?
Will the simile fit,
Or at fault is my wit?
Has thy share of the labor been done,
James Rhoads?
Has thy share of the labor been done?"

Recd # 5m. of 22. 1718 of Rich Partridge. five pounds of
consideration money with John Stet whom I have taken
apprentice & two pounds for cloathing him -

£ 5 5 -
2 -
7 5 0 -

J. H. Chalkley

From Minutes of Southwark M.M. in D.