

American Notes

WILLIAM CAMERON SPROUL, Governor of Pennsylvania, is a member of Race Street Meeting, Philadelphia, and graduate of Swarthmore College, of the class of 1891. He is the first Quaker governor since the time of the withdrawal of Friends from politics.

A. Mitchell Palmer, the newly-appointed U.S. Attorney General, was elected to Congress in 1908, since which time he has held various public offices. He declined to accept President Wilson's appointment as judge of U.S. Court of Claims, and likewise refused the War Portfolio in Wilson's first Cabinet, because of being a Quaker. He has recently been alien property custodian of \$700,000,000 worth of property. He is forty-seven years old and was graduated from Swarthmore in 1891. He has been called the handsomest man who ever sat in Congress.

"A Thin Day," in *The Atlantic Monthly* for July, 1918, Claudia Cranston tells us is a true story and "grandfather" is a Quaker.

"Having no preachers in his Church, and so being unable to shuffle off the responsibility of being high and pure of thought on to the shoulders of someone paid for that purpose; grandfather has undertaken the task himself. It is very simple, he says, and I dare say myself that if all Churches distributed responsibility of being good among the laymen, and made each member feel that at any moment the Spirit of the Lord might demand of them that they stand up and give an account of their own souls, instead of leaving it to the curate or his assistant, it would sharpen the spiritual senses of us all."

In answer to the editor the writer says :

"All Quakers know each other; on Sunday they still go home with each other to dinner after Meeting, and it was a few Sundays ago that the story 'A Thin Day' was recounted at our house, having been told in Meeting that morning at the old Gramercy Park Meeting House [New York City], so in essentials the story is quite true."

The leading article in *The Atlantic Monthly* for March, 1919, "Commonplaces in Buzuluk," is by Dr. John Rickman, of Dorking, England.

John Wethered Bell, of "The Manor," Hudson, N.Y., son of James C. and Harriet (Thomas) Bell, and grandson of Philip E. Thomas, died Second Month 21, 1919, in his 72nd year.

The Manor (The Livingston Manor) is one of the historic homes on the Hudson. It was built in the form of a double Greek cross, with a surrounding marble terrace and marble balustrade. It is described in *Rutledge*, a novel by Miriam Coles Harris.

On the walls of the Bell homestead hung the framed messages first sent over the Morse telegraph wires from Washington to Baltimore¹—the words "What hath God wrought," and the first real message: "Mrs. Madison sends her love to Mrs. Wethered," *i.e.*, Mary Thomas Wethered, daughter of Philip E. Thomas, and wife of John Wethered, their M.C. from Baltimore. The Wethereds had no children.

Dr. James Tyson, one of Philadelphia's best known physicians, died Feb. 21st, 1919, aged 77 years.

Dr. Tyson was one of the oldest professors at the University of Pennsylvania, having been connected with that institution since 1868, five years after his graduation there. In 1874, he was appointed lecturer on pathological anatomy and histology. From 1877-1888 he was secretary of the faculty of medicine. From 1888-1892 he was dean. He was a manager of the University Hospital, and closely associated with the management of the Rush Hospital for Consumptives and one of its incorporators. He was a prolific medical writer, was assistant editor of the *Philadelphia Medical Times*, prominent in many Medical Societies, and, at the organisation of the Pennsylvania Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis in 1910, was chosen its president.

ELLA KENT BARNARD

West Grove, Pa.

¹ See *Dorothy Payne, Quakeress*, by Ella K. Barnard, 1909, p. 122.