

Middleton=Molleson Wedding Certificate

THROUGH the kindness of J. Ernest Grubb, we have been able to examine the marriage certificate of Joshua Middleton, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, son of John Middleton, of Darlington, and Jane, daughter of Gilbert Molleson, of London, late of Aberdeen. The wedding took place at Devonshire House on 9th September, 1697.

The Certificate is printed on Vellum, the inserted particulars being in the hand-writing of the Recording Clerk of the period, Benjamin Bealing.

The words used by the contracting parties being somewhat unusual we here print them :

The Bridegroom : " My ffriends and all you y^t are here present You are my Witnesses this day That I doe solemnly and in the ffear of God take this my ffriend Jane Molleson to be my Wife, In which I doe promise by his Grace to be to her a loving and ffaithfull Husband till Death separates us."

The Bride : " ffriends and people whom I desire to be my Witnesses that in the ffear of God I take this my ffriend Joshua Middleton to be my Husband and doe promise by the Lords assistance to be to him a ffaithfull Dutifull & submissive wife till it shall please the Lord by Death to separate Us."

The marriage is witnessed by ninety-eight Friends, including under " relations " the names of Molleson, Barclay and Tyzack. William Penn, Thomas Story, Thomas Lower and his daughter Margery, Daniel Quare and his wife Mary, Benjamin Bealing, and Mariabella Farnborough are among notable Friends who were present.

This interesting certificate is now the property of Leonard Southall, of Birmingham.

Advice to Servants

4 x. 1670. It was alsoe agreed that W^m Kinge and John Goodwin should speak to Dorothy Teate & Eliz: True to Signifye ffriends disunitye wth their not complyinge to the place of a Servant, to such a one as ffriends Judge would not oppress them.

ix. 1674. It is Concluded by friends that Anne Hall & Sarah Buddery should speake to Elizabeth Sheltram that she may be faithfull to the truth where she have to doe, because she is a Comer Amongst friends & also to satisfie her Master & dame where she is to goe If she doe goe Concerning her.

Minute Book of Norwich M.M.