

Town Thoughts on the Country, 1792

WHAT beauties deck the rural scene,
Its golden fields, its meadows green ;
Slow floods that thro' the meadows glide ;
Fair herds that throng the river's side,

Bathing at noontide's sultry gleam,
Their feet within the cooling stream ;
The distant landscapes misty blue,
The nearer prospect's graver hue !
Here the pale willows shade the meads,
There bend the wind-obeying reeds ;
And there tall elms in long array
Their straight unwedded trunks display.

Such objects please in distant sight
And beauties more minute invite
Inspection close—the insect train,
And flowers that paint the summer plain.
Industrious bees, with busy care,
Wing provident the peopled air ;
Whilst humbler pismires, gathering food,
Track o'er the ground their public road.
The gay papillios lightly range
From flow'r to flow'r, with grateful change.
Libellulas, in airy rings,
Play o'er the brooks on azure wings ;
Where purple loosestrife's spikes ascend,
And vetches tufted blossoms bend.

But stop :—botanick lore, too long,
May, from its scope, detain the song.

Though these the charms which, to the heart,
May joy, in rural shades, impart ;
Still let me not their want bemoan ;
Bliss dwells not in those shades alone.
If mine the lot in crowds to dwell,
Grace every sorrow can dispel ;
And purer joys, in towns, dispense
Than nature can confer on sense.

But if, permitted by the Power
 Who form'd, and guards us every hour,
 His wisdom seen in Nature's page,
 May our observing eyes engage,
 From works of men who would not part,
 And with his works refresh the heart?

JOSEPH GURNEY BEVAN
 (1753-1814)

Kelpius and Quakerism

The following is taken from *Portraits of the Founders*, Boston, Mass., 1919, p. 261. It is interesting in connection with the early spread of the knowledge of Quakerism on the Continent of Europe.

Johannes Kelpius (1673-1708), Pietist, was born in Hungary. He graduated at the university of Altorf in Bavaria, and became interested in Jacob Behmen. In 1694, he and a company of his followers settled on the banks of the Wissahickon Creek, Pa.

Whittier writes :

“ Painful Kelpius from his hermet den
 By Wissahickon, maddest of good men,
 Dreamed o'er the Chiliast dreams of Petersen.”

In a letter to Fabricius, his tutor, Kelpius wrote in 1705 :

“ I have not become a Quaker. Such an idea hath never come into my mind, albeit I love them from my inmost soul, even as I do all other sects that approach and call themselves Christ's.”

In Fear of Suffering

8 ix. 1671.—It was brought in that John Hart & Jno Alen had been wth Jno Sloames and spoaken to him aboute his paying tithes and his Answer was If they could show him a waye that he & his ffamilly might not be Ruin'd he would not pay them : And Could git but little Answ^r but to that Efect.

Minute Book of Norwich M.M.

A Practical Note-Book of the Geography of China has been written by Ernest W. Sawdon, B.Sc., and Tsang Tao To'ung, of Friends' High School, Chungking, and published by the Christian Literature Society, of Shanghai, 1919.