

Charles Francis Saunders has presented a copy of his latest book—*Useful Wild Plants of the United States and Canada*. (New York: McBride, 8½ by 5¾, pp. 12 + 276, illustrated by photographs and numerous line engravings.) C. F. Saunders, of Pennsylvania and California, is a Quaker botanist of wide knowledge. He was also the editor of "The United Friend," during the three years of its course (1894-1897), and author of "With the Flowers and Trees in California," "The Indians of the Terraced House," and other books. The object of this work is "to describe the wild plants that are useful as foods, beverages, soap, etc.," Much Indian lore regarding them has been added.

A Service of Love in War Time, by Rufus M. Jones (New York: The Macmillan Company, 8½ by 5½, pp. xvi. + 284, \$2.50, illustrated), records the course of the American Friends' Relief work in Europe, 1917-1919. There is an appendix containing a list of American Reconstruction Workers in France.

*Among *Victorian Worthies*, Sixteen Biographies, by G. H. Blore (Oxford University Press, pp. viii. + 376, 7s. 6d. net) are John Bright, tribune, and Lord Lister, surgeon.

"My Ancestors"¹

IT was a saying of the late John Edward Ellis that no man could claim to be a genealogist unless he knew the maiden names of his four great-grandmothers. Judged by this test Norman Penney shows himself to be a genealogist of a high power, setting out as he does, in many family tables, forty surnames of his direct ancestors, comprising among them more than a hundred and fifty individuals. It will be obvious that this feat cannot be accomplished without going back on some lines at least seven generations. Infinitesimally small as this number is in the immeasurable sum of a man's ancestors, it is nevertheless, in itself sufficient to make him contemplate himself with awe as he thinks of all that has gone to the shaping of his life, and, particularly, of the men and women who have brought him to this day.

"Born into life!—man grows
Forth from his parents' stem,
And blends their bloods, as those
Of theirs are blent in them;
So each new man strikes root into a far fore-time,"²

On the line of his Penney ancestors our author, going back five generations, begins with George Penney, born in 1680, at Berry Pomeroy in North Devon. Of him and his wife, Joan Hanover, little is known

¹ *My Ancestors*, by Norman Penney (printed for private circulation by Headley Brothers, of Ashford, Kent, 8¾ by 6¾, pp. xvi. + 236, with genealogical tables, coats of arms, illustrations, facsimiles, etc., one guinea, from the author, 136, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.)

² Matthew Arnold, *Empedocles on Etna*.

beyond the fact that at some time they moved to Poole. Here his son George, the second, found a wife, Joanna Norman, and at some time unknown they became members of the Society of Friends, to which Joanna's family had once belonged. After tracing back the ancestry, so far as known, of Joanna's parents and grandparents, the story takes up the ancestry of the wife of her son, George Penney the third (1748-1805), Katherine Harrison. She was the great-grandmother of Norman Penney, and her Harrison ancestry is traced back to her great-great-great-grandfather, John Harrison, whose dates are unknown, but who was the father of William, born in 1606. We are then told what little is known of the families of the *wives* of these Harrison ancestors. And so passing from one table to another (a difficult passage which cross references would have made more easy) we trace the direct ancestry by means of the small capitals in which the names are printed, and further read the names of the brothers and sisters of these direct ancestors and of *their* wives and descendants. It will be clear that this process takes us over a wide field, and before we have finished traversing it, we have come on the names of many ancient Quaker families, Backhouse, Binyon, Lucas, Glaisyer, Kemp, Grover, Neave, Dixon, Horne, Ianson, Rickman, Collinson and others, the majority being of the south country.

The men and women who are brought before us were little known to the world—one of the Dixon family helped to fix the Mason and Dixon line in America, and another was responsible for Cleopatra's Needle being brought to England—they were, for the most part in business life, free alike from poverty and riches, deservedly enjoying the confidence of their townfolk, serviceable in their day and generation, winning if not converts to Quakerism, certainly respect for it. “ Few,” says the writer, “ have been of note even among the followers of George Fox.” But some of those who lived when it was hard to be a follower of Fox bore their testimony by fine and imprisonment and even by death. The sturdiness of character which they passed on to their descendants is seen in an anecdote told of Mary (Grover) Horne, who, being a tenant of the Duke of Norfolk, on one occasion wished to speak to the Duchess. On her way she had called upon the housekeeper, and to the invitation of the Duchess to stay to tea, she replied that she had already promised the housekeeper to take tea with her. Elizabeth Glaisyer, who tells the story in her “ *Autobiography of the Old Rocking Horse*,” observes, “ I did not see anything in this refusal, though some persons seemed to do so. Perhaps it was my wooden head, I thought engagements ought to be kept.” Of the father of Mary (Grover) Horne, John Grover, the *Lewes Journal* of October 2, 1752, contained an obituary notice saying that “ without any assistance of a Schoolmaster, he became an eminent one himself . . . he attained also a considerable knowledge of the Law, in which capacity he was highly useful, as he practised with uncommon honesty and great Moderation in his demands.”

On every page a wonderful industry and capacity for minute research is manifest, and future generations, looking back to their goodly heritage, will be grateful for the knowledge of their ancestors here made available.

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