

Thomas Wells (1799-1879)

A BRIEF statement of this ministering Friend, still remembered in this generation, may be placed on record.

He was born at Tewkesbury, Glos., and belonged to the Wesleyan Society before joining Friends. In 1827 he emigrated to the United States. His introduction to Friends is described in a letter from William Procter from Baltimore in Fifth Month, 1828 (ms. in D, sht. 4, p. 3; see *Jnl.* xix. 1) :

“ In the evening a young English man I think named Thomas Wells, called to see Geo. & A. Jones who quarter at I. Pauls but were gone to New York. I. P. tells me he brought his Certificate from England addressed to Washington where he went, but became so dissatisfied with the public communications of Thomas Weatherald & Edward Stabler that he would not give in his Certificate, but returned to Phila. I.P. also informed that this was the individual who appeared at considerable length a short time before the close of the last sitting of the Y.M. [Philadelphia, 1828].”

T. Wells was employed for several years in some industrial schools for the Indians and coloured people under the care of Friends; this was relinquished in the Spring of 1844.

“ In 1863, soon after the death of his wife, he returned to this country, since which time he visited every Monthly Meeting and almost every Preparative Meeting in Great Britain and Ireland ” (Testimony). He died at Great Ayton, Yorkshire—“ an acknowledged Minister forty-five years.”

In the *Historical Sketch of Kansas Y.M.*, 1921, p. 47, we read :

“ In 1881 Thomas Wells of England bequeathed \$1,000 to Kansas Y.M. to be invested and conserved by Trustees with the direction ‘ that the annual proceeds of said fund be applied towards the education of younger members of the Y.M. in limited circumstances, at a school under the charge of said Y.M.’ ”

Jn^o Shaw School Master at Brookside in Yorkshire having been prison^r wth his Bro^r near 2 years for their Testimony ags^t Tythes by w^{ch} meanes his school came to be broken up, But now writes to B Bealing y^t he has a ffriend to supply his place in his school y^t can write better than himselfe and can Teach both Lattin Greek & Arithmitick—If any ffri^{is} are minded to send their Childⁿ to his school his Bro^r is willing to Table y^m & he hopes they will be suff^{ly} Taught—

[ffrom the 2 weeks meet. y^e 28 ^{6.}/_{mo} 1699. to y^e Mo Meet at Horslydowne Sent p s^d meet^s ord^r by B. BEALING.

Southwark MSS. in D, vol. i.