

The Ussher Family of County Waterford

[The story of the Quaker Haigs of Bemersyde which appeared in volume xvii. was described as "a curious little Quaker episode in the long history of the Lairds of Bemersyde," and the fulness of biographical detail during the Quaker period was noted.

There are other examples of Quaker incursions into family history, as, for instance, in the families of Ashby, Barnardiston, Hewetson; Paul, Pennyman and Ussher. The following article deals with Hewetson, Paul and Ussher.]

IN the South of Ireland, in the County of Waterford, there lived "two ancient and honourable families," named Ussher and Paul. In 1770 these two families were united by the marriage of John Ussher, of Cappagh, with Elizabeth Paul, of Waterford City.

The Rev. William Ball Wright, M.A., in his *Ussher Memoirs; or Genealogical Memoirs of the Ussher Families in Ireland*, published in 1889,¹ has traced that family back to Arland Ussher, who was Mayor of Dublin in 1469. Among his descendants were two Archbishops of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland—Henry Ussher (c. 1550-1613), and James Ussher (1580/81-1656), noted for his piety and learning—and also Henry Ussher (1741-1790), first Astronomer Royal of Ireland.

Our concern is with that branch of the family which settled in the County Waterford, headed by Lt.-Col. Beverley Ussher (1649-1683), whose youngest son was Arthur Ussher (1683-1768), "of Camphire and Cappagh, Co. Waterford." The third and youngest son of Arthur Ussher was John Ussher (1743-1789), who succeeded to the

¹ A copy of this volume of 306 pages was most kindly lent me by Mrs. Beverley Ussher (née Jebb), of Cappagh House, Cappagh, Co. Waterford, a sister of Mrs. Charles Roden Buxton. On its return journey the book was "recovered from raided post" and reached its destination in safety.

family property on the death of his elder brothers and married, as his second wife, Elizabeth Paul, 26th August, 1770.

Of the family of Paul I have not been able to obtain much information, but it appears that it came into prominence at the time of the Commonwealth, and has taken high rank among the families of South Ireland. Jeffery Paul was M.P. for Waterford and married in 1708. His son, William Paul (-1797), a prominent and opulent Alderman of the City of Waterford, married Mary, daughter of Alexander Boyd, of Crook, Co. Waterford, and had one daughter, Elizabeth (c. 1749-1817), who married John Ussher, of Cappagh. William's brother, Christmas Paul, was father of Joshua Paul, the first Baronet (created 1794). The second Baronet was Joshua Christmas (1773-1842), the third was Robert Joshua (1820-1898), the fourth William Joshua (1851-1912), who married Richenda Juliet Gurney, daughter of Henry Edmund Gurney, of Nutwood, Reigate. The fifth and present Baronet is Robert Joshua (b. 1883), who lives on the family estate at Ballyglan, Co. Waterford.

John Ussher (1743-1789), of Cappagh, married, firstly, in 1761, Elizabeth Musgrave and had five children, the eldest and only surviving son being Arthur Ussher (1764-1820), of Camphire, who married Margaret Hewetson in 1788 and had issue. John Ussher married, secondly, in 1770, Elizabeth, daughter of William Paul, who added twelve children to his family. He lived at Camphire till his second marriage, when he removed to Cappagh. Cappagh lies between Dungarvan and Cappoquin on the direct railway from Waterford to Cork.

[Prior to obtaining information from outside sources, I had prepared an article based on *The Ussher Letters*, a small volume first published in 1812, reprinted in 1815 and re-issued with a Memoir of Elizabeth Ussher in 1845; also on letters and manuscripts in **D**.

I propose to leave the article as originally drafted and add or correct in footnotes, where necessary.

My thanks for help received are tendered to Mrs. Ussher, of Cappagh House for the loan of the *Ussher Memoirs*;

to J. Ernest Grubb, for the loan of *Memoirs of the House of Hewetson*, first edition, and for other valuable assistance; and to Juliet, Lady Paul, and her brother, Henry Gurney, for particulars of the Paul family. I have also consulted the volumes of Burke's *Peerage*, etc.]

The daughters of John and Elizabeth (Paul) Ussher who were the writers of *The Ussher Letters* were Elizabeth (1772-1796), Lucy (1776-1797), Judith (1779-1798) and Susanna (1783-1798)². The letters cover the period 1794-1798.

The position occupied by these two families introduced their members into fashionable and gay society. The children of J. and E. (P.) Ussher were educated in the tenets of the Church of England but the daughters, not finding therein the soul-satisfaction they desired, began to attend Dissenting places of worship. Their spiritual exercise may have resulted, in part, from the death in 1789, of the father to whom they were closely attached and perhaps also from their own delicate health. It is said of the eldest daughter, Elizabeth, that "as soon as her heart was convinced that her former dress was contrary to Gospel simplicity, she put away all the vain and superfluous parts of it." She was inclined to the Baptist way, but she formed an objection to water-baptism, as well as to gay clothing, before she had heard of the Quakers. She wrote in 1795 :

I am *not* prejudiced against any sect, indeed I am not. . . .
All that love the Lord Jesus must have been first loved by Him, and shall I not love those whom Jesus loves—brethren and sisters for whom Christ died ?

Some years after the father's death the mother and daughters spent a winter in Bath and during this period Elizabeth visited an aunt in Bristol, "who was a religious person and had withdrawn from gay life and a conspicuous rank in which she was placed," and attended Dissenting places of worship with her, remaining at The Wells when the others returned to Ireland. Her letters to her mother and sisters show how deep were the impressions made.

But the bonds of sisterhood were soon to be broken—"a neglected cold fell on her lungs," and Elizabeth's life

² There were two other daughters—Mary (1773-1784) and Anna (1784-1784).

soon came to an end ; she died in Bristol in the summer of 1796 aged about twenty years. Her mother and Lucy were with her at the close. Although, apparently, she had not come into personal contact with Friends, she wrote in 1795 :

Tell ——, if you have no objection, that (from my soul) I wish she was what they call a Quaker, but that, most of all, I wish her to be a Christian.

The brief notice of Elizabeth Ussher, Senior, added to the *Letters*, states that soon after her eldest daughter's death, she became acquainted with some members of the Society of Friends, but the contact with Friends must have been made earlier, as is evident from the extract just given and other extracts from the *Letters*. Lucy wrote to Judith from Bristol, "8th Month 11th, 1796" :

We go to meetings when our attendance on Eliza will admit of it. Hannah Stephenson, a minister, sat with us and spoke comfortably to us.

Judith, who was from home, wrote her mother, "Feb. 12th, 1796" :

I have studied the chapters dear mother particularly mentioned, and though personally unknown, think your new acquaintance a happy set of people.

The sisters also became acquainted with several members of the Society and wrote letters—Lucy to Mary Dudley and Judith to Mary Watson in 1796 and the latter to William Crotch in the following year. A copy of Judith's letter to William Crotch is in **D**, dated "Waterford 30. i., 1797" ; it contains the following self-depreciatory lines :

All nature seems to frown and the creatures yield no consolation. My bed seems to be made in the deep waters where the floods have overflowed my soul and the weeds are wrapped about my head.

The Memoir of Elizabeth Ussher, before mentioned, states that she and her daughters Lucy, Judith and Susanna "were received into the Society of Friends in the year 1797."³ But the privileges of membership were not to be enjoyed by the daughters for long. Lucy Ussher, as her elder sister, was dissatisfied from her early days "with the forms and repetitions of the established worship," and becoming acquainted with several Friends, she accompanied

³ The *Ussher Memoirs* recording this fact state that Friends "carried on an intense religious movement in the South of Ireland, the Church being then in a very dead state" (p. 243).

them to meetings and was convinced. She was much helped by the ministry of Mary Ridgway and much encouraged by attendance at a meeting for Discipline—the only one at which she was present. “She was taken ill of a consumption and died the latter part of 1797, aged about twenty-one years.”

Judith Ussher's convictions became much those of her sisters though “she had by nature somewhat more to subdue than her sisters.” Elizabeth wrote to Judith in 1795 :

You have found a precious Saviour, the Pearl of great price. The Saviour loves you with an everlasting love.

Judith appears to have spent some time away from home at Youghal, and her sisters were apprehensive lest her surroundings should hinder her spiritual life.

In the early days of 1798, the third daughter was called away, leaving Susanna only—but not for long. The bereaved mother wrote to her friend, Mary Watson, 3 ii. 1798 :

Well, my friend, art thou prepared for the sad recital? Then know that in seven weeks after my beloved Lucy was laid in her grave, my precious Judith was placed at her side. Our valued Friends, Deborah Darby & Rebecca Young & William Savery, have had living testimonies to bear of her happiness.

At the time my Judith was taken my ever honored Father⁴ was seized with a Paralytick stroke that in a few days ended his life.

But the writer did not feel so full of hope in her father's death as she did in that of her “sweet three girls.”

Among the last words spoken by Judith were: “Oh, John, all is peace, sweet peace.”

Of Susanna Ussher less is known. She is referred to in affectionate terms in her sisters' letters. A leaf of her memorandum book is preserved in **D**, written when she was about thirteen :

Deborah Darby & Rebeka Young came here last 5th day y^e 29 of 12 M^o. 1797 came to see us next evening. both appeared remarkably in the Ministry. had 3 publick Meetings.

When fifteen only, the call which had been answered by all her sisters came to her and she was released from her acute bodily sufferings.

⁴ Under date of April 20, 1795, Lucy wrote to Elizabeth: “My grandfather and grandmother are reconciled to our going to meeting and leaving the public worship, and appear as affectionate as ever.”

The stricken mother thus refers to her losses in her diary :

11th month, 21st, 1797. My beloved Lucy departed this life between four and five o'clock in the evening, and her sweet, meak spirit, fitted for her beloved Lord by deep and purifying baptisms, was released to be for ever with Him whom her soul loved. . . .

1st month, 9th, 1798. At half-past seven this evening, my beloved Judith was taken to glory nearly seven weeks after her dear sister. . . .

3rd month, 8th. At a quarter past two o'clock in the afternoon, it pleased my dear Lord to take my precious Susan, the last of all my daughters, to himself. . . . I have great cause to say that all anguish was lost in the brightness of divine goodness.

The following extracts of a letter from Mary Dudley are taken from a manuscript in **D** :

Elizabeth Usher of Waterford has lost her only surviving daughter. By advice she had taken her a land journey to Clonmel, as a trial how she would bear crossing to the hot wells, the precious child (about 15 yrs old) seemed fully aware of the impending stroke said she felt for her mother in her intended journey to England, as she would be left destitute after, when she was removed. After getting here she said " she knew before she left home she should be soon with her God, at which she was not grieved as she might not be able to overcome the evil that might attend." As she died within these borders, her mother was easy to have the remains inter'd in our burying ground, which was done between the morning and afternoon meetings. The afflicted mother attended the two meetings tho' in much weakness and in the first appeared in a few sentences (having moved in this line several months). She has been wonderfully supported under these heart rending seperations from truly desirable connections. I know not of two more lovely plants than the elder ones, Lucy and Judith, nor for the time scarcely such a maturity in religious groth, which ripened fast for a glorious soil ; and rapidly decreased as to the body, only 7 weeks between the two first, and about 8 to dear Susans close ; the peace which preciousy covered their closing scenes some will long (I hope) remember. For my part, I never felt a more sensible evidence near approaching death than when I took my leave of dear Lucy a few days before she departed, I thought it was like a song of triumph uttered in the secret of my heart beyond the reach or expression of words ; she sweetly call'd me back after I just said, "*All is well all sealed with everlasting peace,*" and raising her dear head from the pillow to kiss me she sweetly said twice "*Farewell.*" The lovely Judith was then like a faded flower and soon drop'd, I never after beheld her nor was I so circumstanced as to attend either of them to the grave.

I must now sum up the remainder of the life of the much-trying Elizabeth Ussher. It is probable that on her husband's death in 1789, she removed into Waterford City ;

ten years later she wrote from Dunmore to Mary Watson, of Waterford, of her removal to a smaller residence :

There is something peculiarly sweet in the simplicity of a cottage, that is difficult to come at in a more splendid habitation.

E. Ussher was recorded a Minister in 1806 and travelled with a certificate visiting the Meetings of Friends in London and elsewhere in England.

There are notices of Elizabeth Ussher in the Journals of Friends visiting the South of Ireland. David Sands acknowledges the kindness of E. U. in supplying him with a comfortable carriage (Waterford, 1798). William Savery has a larger reference to her in his *Journal* (pages 270, 272, 299) :

1798. 1st month.

8th ; went to see the place intended for a boarding-school, which is a fine, healthy spot ; from thence we visited the widow Usher, a valuable woman of excellent understanding, who has been received among Friends within a year past, since which, she has lost two excellent daughters in consumption, a third is now near her end, and a fourth evidently going the same way. She has been supported in her affliction marvellously, and her daughters have made a precious end, as the one now going will also soon do. She was sensible, and looked on us with a sweet countenance—all felt like peace around her bed, and I was comforted in being with the family.

1st month 1798.

12th ; visited Elizabeth Usher, and found her in much Christian resignation to the will of the Lord, though her third lovely daughter was to be buried to-day ; having lost two others in a consumption, and a son in another way, within a twelvemonth ; her father at this time lying a corpse, and her fourth and last daughter likely very soon to follow her sisters in the same disease. Her state of mind, as well as that of her dear remaining daughter, was truly instructive to me. Her son [John], who had not professed with Friends, came a few hours before Judith's death, to take leave of her ; she looked at him with much serenity of countenance, bade him farewell, and said with a voice louder than she had for some time : " All is peace, sweet peace," and so departed, praising God in joyful hope of a blessed change approaching. Her corpse was carried to the meeting-house, but not brought in where the meeting was held, but left in the women's meeting-room, which is their custom ; for as they are surrounded by Roman Catholics, they might take up the opinion that Friends brought the corpse into the meeting, with the idea that it would be profitable to the departed spirit to pray over it. Through the renewed mercy of our heavenly Father, it was a precious parting meeting ; many of the dear youth were much affected as also others. The corpse being put in a plain oak coffin, and placed upon a hearse, was led slowly through the streets to the burying-ground ; friends, relations, &c., following

promiscuously :—all business seemed to cease as we passed along, and much stillness appeared among the people, many of whom knew the family, they being of high rank ; the grandfather who lay a corpse, was the eldest alderman of the city. At the graveyard, a multitude were collected, both Friends and others, high and low ; and I believed it my duty to say a few words, and rehearse the comforting expressions of the deceased ; after which there was a further communication from another Friend, and many not of our Society were much broken. The Lord be praised for his goodness.

6th month, 1798.

18th. Attended the usual morning meeting preceding the yearly meeting [London]. Thomas Scattergood appeared in prayer, and also Elizabeth Usher from Ireland ; Friends kept their seats a considerable time after she knelt, not knowing her, for which I was sorry. I stood up, and Friends followed my example ; much solemnity appeared to cover the meeting ; and it so ended.

There are a few slight references in the sisters' letters to the sons of John and Elizabeth Ussher, and other mention, probably, in places where that objectionable method has been employed of substituting a — for a name. We gather that the eldest died abroad about 1796⁵ and that another son⁶ had died shortly before, both in a foreign land. Elizabeth and Lucy wrote of their brother William who had passed through Bristol on his way to Gibraltar in September, 1795. The former wrote under date, 1795 :

I look forward with pleasure to seeing my dear William after so long an absence, though I am sure I do not think he will be so pleased with me. However, the Lord is on my side. I will not fear. His coming here may be for the better.

Richard and John⁷ were younger sons, John being a great favorite with his sisters. During E. Ussher's illness in Bristol in 1798, brought on by close attendance upon her daughter Lucy, she wrote that these two boys, then

⁵ This was William, born in 1771. He was Captain in the 64th Regiment and was killed in a duel at Gibraltar, in March, 1796.

⁶ Thomas Paul Ussher, born in 1775, was Ensign in the 64th Regiment, and died of yellow fever at Martinique in April, 1794.

⁷ Richard Keily and John were the only surviving children of Elizabeth Ussher. For Richard see *post*. John was born in 1786 and entered Ballitore School in 1796. He lived in mature life at Landscape, near New Ross, Co. Wexford, married and had a family. He died in 1844. Despite his upbringing he did not attach himself to Friends.

with her, were "both very sweet;" and in 1797, she wrote from Dunmore to Mary Watson:

I have my dear John here for a short time. He is very sweet, but very thin & not much polished but very innocent & stedfast in his little way to bear his cross.

At the close of 1799, E. Ussher wrote of the need for a boarding school for John "for about two years, as Richard Rowe's school seems withering away," adding:

I cannot think rusticity of manners and too confined an education is by any means essential to a Religious one. My John has lost much time. He looks delicate but seems healthy. His preservation every way is truly interesting to me.

Son John is again mentioned in a letter of 1804.

Before this time Judith had written to her mother, "July 23rd, 1796":

Respecting our beloved John, my grandfather is perfectly satisfied that you should have him to do as you please with him and bring him up in any religious society most agreeable to you: as to the nomination he seems quite indifferent, so that he leads an honest life. He also wishes to have him brought up to any employment most approved of by you; he says he will not interfere, and desires me to say what I could to ease your mind.

Between her marriage and her death, Elizabeth Ussher had suffered the loss of two step-children (Susanna, in 1781 and John in 1782—one of her husband's daughters, Lucy, had died the year before the marriage), and of her own children she lost ten, Paul in 1781, John in 1783, Mary and Anna in 1784, Thomas Paul in 1794, William and Elizabeth in 1796, Lucy in 1797, Judith and Susanna in 1798.

Of John Ussher's seventeen children by his two Elizabeths only four lived to adult age—Arthur (1764–1820) succeeded his father in the Camphire estate and had descendants; Sarah (b. 1767) married Ussher Boate; and Richard and John before mentioned.

Richard Keily Ussher, the third son of Elizabeth Ussher, was born in 1778. He entered the navy at the age of twelve and when only sixteen while going out to the West Indies such storms were encountered that his senior officers were all incapacitated by overwork, and he had to take command and work the ship. While in the West Indies he nearly

died of yellow fever. On his brother William's death in 1796 he succeeded to the estate and left the Navy. He married Martha Hewetson, daughter of the Rev. John Hewetson, of Suirville, Co. Kilkenny, and in 1836 he married again and had issue.

[The Hewetson (or by its earlier form, Hewson) family was settled in Ireland before the middle of the sixteenth century. The father of Martha (Hewetson) Ussher was a man of some importance in his district. In 1764 he was appointed a J.P. for his county. He was known as "Whiteboy Hewetson" by reason of his energetic suppression of the Whiteboy Insurrection in 1767. There is an interesting account of the Rev. John and his family at Suirville in the *Memoirs of the House of Hewetson of Ireland*.]

The *Ussher Memoirs* state :

Richard Ussher, tho he did not conform to the Society of Friends, imbibed their conscientious objections to take or administer oaths and accordingly ceased to be a Magistrate. By a letter to his brother John we find that for these reasons he declined the office of High Sheriff, which was several times pressed on him.

But he was very active in upholding law and order. His brother-in-law, George Hewetson, and he were "the only magistrates in Co. Waterford who could be got to execute the laws," which needed some courage when the district was "abandoned to lawlessness." He greatly improved his property at Cappagh. He died in 1854. Martha (Hewetson) Ussher, following the example of her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law, joined the Society of Friends.

Mrs. Ussher was a herbalist and in the absence of medical charities she effected innumerable cures among the peasantry and carried on various household arts, such as weaving and spinning, candle-making, etc. Amongst her intellectual accomplishments the art of poetry was conspicuous.

Childless herself, she adopted her niece, Martha Ussher, daughter of her sister Margaret and Arthur Ussher, of Camphire. The said niece married Edward Roberts, of Weston, Co. Waterford, uncle of Field Marshal Earl Roberts.

Another daughter of Arthur Ussher was Wilhelmina (Mina), who is referred to in the following letter (original in **D**):

Cappagh

6. iii. [1825]

Dear friend Mary Watson,

I feel clear of being in any way responsible for the union of T. Greer & M. Ussher.

When he proposed marriage she consulted her Uncle, as guardian. He approved, as Thomas Greer was "not a Member of Society" & M. Ussher being religious was more likely to help than hinder him. Richard read thy letter to Mina Ussher; she said she had declared she would try to get T. Greer to rejoin F^{is}.

I do not know how long T. G. is in this country. I am glad thy health is better & hope thou mayest continue long amongst us.

Richard unites with me in love to thee & thy daughter,
thy friend,

M. USSHER

[Martha Ussher]

address :—Mary Watson
Bridge Street
Waterford

Mina Ussher married Thomas Greer, J.P., of Tullylagan, Co. Tyrone, 17th April, 1825, and had issue. There was evidently a close connection with Friends as the names Greer, Strangman, Goff (of Horetown), etc., among her descendants indicate.

Martha (Hewetson) Ussher died in 1827.

NORMAN PENNEY.

ADDENDUM

Mrs. Ussher, of Cappagh, has lent me a typed copy of "The Diary of Martha Ussher of Cappagh" and has allowed me to print extracts therefrom. The original is at Cappagh House.

There is a legend in the family that Richard Ussher married Martha Hewetson to get away from the Quakers, and then her mother-in-law converted her and she never rested from trying to convert him! It will be seen how far the husband was "gained by the manner of life" of the wife. There is no indication in the Diary of any interest in the things mentioned on page 11 or of a poetic turn of mind.

On reading over some of the conflicts that has been the experience of my mind which I have from time to time committed to writing, it appeared to me that I should not destroy them, that they may yet be of use to the Individual who witnessed many of them.

At this time my only knowledge of the Society of Friends was that they were a people that did not use baptism so calld or the bread and wine, and I had always considered them not Christians. To their particular mode of worship I was an utter stranger and lamented that my dear and valued Mother and Sister in laws had been lost to the World by joining that Society. . . . On my return from England 1808 I first visited my dear Mother who was then engagd with Thomas Shillitoe visiting Friends' families. . . . I one day opened a book at my Mother's whilst waiting for breakfast, not with any hope of instruction, but thought, what can they say in defence of their way of worship and absurd peculiarities, when my attention was arrested by the recital of feelings exactly similar to my own. It was a convincement of [blank in copy] who, also, was brought up in the Established worship. I was then made willing to take up the cross and follow the great Captain of our Salvation even to Mount Calvary. Now began my outward trials to prove and strengthen my faith and love. My dear Husband was the Instrument unerring Wisdom chose. His opposition was firm against my changing my mode of worship—every change of appearance I felt required of me he resisted, until at length he determined on our final separation. In consequence of his opposition to my wearing handkerchiefs, I lost the sweet hope of being a mother.

[A message from Thomas Shillitoe gave much comfort to her] T. Shillitoe was in Dublin at the yearly meeting, and I received this message the very day that the tempter had nearly prevailed against me—he could not have commund with flesh and blood ; we were sepperated more than 70 miles.

The words spoken to me by Sarah Grubb and John Wigham, when favord to be remembered by them in a family visit now return to mind.

5th M^o 30th, 1813. Clifton Road, Hopes Square.

With fear and trembling have I left my own peaceful and quiet home, dreading the weakness of the flesh and the snares of the enemy again uniting me with a World that had such power over me.

No words can express my agony of soul when my dear husband in a more affectionate manner than I have [been] long used to, wanted me in a shop where bonnets were sold [and] wanted me to get one. Nothing short of the terrors of the Lord could have kept me from being unfaithful to what I felt required of me, on seeing my dear husbands unfeigned sorrow for what he termd my hypocrisy.

Cheltenham. 1st day 27th 6th M^o.

Went to Meeting. Mary Cash from Liverpool, and her daughter were at Meeting—the former spoke beautifully.

29th of 9th M^o 1813. Returnd to my home. Many and deep have been the conflicts of my tried mind since I left it.

2nd M^o 4th, 1814. Thou hast promisd to keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayd on thee. Oh, why is it thus with me ? Why am I torn as between Heavn and Earth, my duty to Thee and my duty to my husband in direct opposition. Surely I may say, after the

conversation I had with my dear husband this morning the bitterness of death is past—he told me to consider myself as parted from him, which he was determined to do as soon as he could arrange his affairs he would not again see me. It is marvellous I am able to write it. He has left his room a long time. He has not spoken to me until this fatal morning a long time. My heart cannot hold life and the feeling it has at present. Should it be so? Perhaps he may read this and may feel his heart was hardened even as Pharaohs against me.

½ past 8 at night.

I have written a letter and laid it on his table. How can I endure this?

5 of 2nd M^o 1st day.

My dear husband has condescended a little, he consented to let me go to Meeting this day. Dear Margaret Hoyland was favored to supplicate for those under deep and bitter baptisms.

3rd M^o.

Still does my dear H^d oppose my seeing or going to Friends, even my dear Mother. Oh! what must be her conflicts to know her child is opposing the Power that in unutterable love led his dear sisters to the Mansions of bliss.

4th M^o. A letter to my dear Mother denying the Ministry of friends, calling them self-made Ministers. Where will this end?

9th M^o 1814.

Thro Mercy, undeservd Mercy, am I enabled again to note the marvellous dealings of the Lord with my dear husband and myself—since writing the above He has been pleased to take in a most remarkable manner, as in a moment, the delight of our eyes from us, and that in such a way and with evidences that even the unbelieving dare not doubt the Hand that did it. He that smote the first born in Pharaoh's House has smote my dear dear boy. For our sakes was he smitten. Oh, may it not have been in vain.

2nd M^o 26th, 1st day.

This day in Meeting, G. Blain expressed her earnest desire that all present should go down to the depths of their own hearts, there to learn what was their Master's will.

1st day, 12th of 3rd M^o.

George Sanders and Susanna Horn[e] from England and Elizabeth Cogshell [Coggeshall] from America were at Meeting. They spoke to many states present, but so particularly to mine that to those who will not believe in the source of their Ministry they would suppose they had been informd of it.

3rd M^o 1817.

The 19th of the last M^o my dear brother George Hewetson was taken . . . to everlasting peace and rest. For the first days of his illness he used to say: "Oh! Martha, He is a God of terror." For the last 3 days he used to say: "He is a God of love."

Mary Owen whose affectionate kindness was unremitting was

with me at the time. We sat by the bedside for near an hour and such was the covering of peace that was over us, and could not shed a tear.

3rd M^o 27th, 1817.

My dear valuable Mother, Elizabeth Ussher, was taken from works to rewards. I now feel as if a covering was taken from my head now that I was exposed to every danger. My dear husband's spirit seems much tendered by the last two awful events.

23rd 1st M^o 1818.

21st returned from Cork where I was favored to attend the Monthly Meeting. John and Sarah Grubb were there. Awful was the warning Sarah G. had to proclaim—that were there then present that would be cut off, if they did not return unto the Lord and forsake the evil of their ways.

23rd of 2nd M^o.

My dear sister Drew went with me to Waterford. Stayed with our valued friends William and Elizabeth Blain. Sarah and J. Grubb were visiting friends families, They sat with us same evening warned me of the dreadful pit of indifference. Next day they returned to Clonmel to attend the interment of our dear and valued friend Samuel Davis. He was a solid weighty elder.

18th of 4th M^o.

My dear husband attended the Q.M. held in Clonmel. He appears fully convinced and deeply to feel the difference between a Ministry proceeding from the Minister of Ministers, and that which only proceeds from Man. Anna Fo[r]ster and Priscilla Gurney from England were there.

5th M^o 9th.

Went to Waterford to meet Anna Foster and P. G. . . . I am favored to return to my home and to find my dear husband and niece in usual health. My soul troubled within me. I went to Waterford expecting help and direction vouchsafed me thro' the two dear Ministering Friends A. F. and P. G., they have expressed a wish to see me, but sorrow and disappointment being my lot I returned in heaviness.

5th M^o 28th, 1819.

This year I have been favored to attend the Q. Meeting held in Cork, the Q.M. held in Clonmel and the Yearly Meeting in Dublin. At the two last we were favored with the company of B. White from America and John Pim from London.

7th M^o 18th.

Attended the Q.M. held at Youghal. J. Kirkham from England was there—a greatly gifted Minister.

3rd M^o 21st.

My dear husband returned from attending the Assizes. From the uneasiness he seemed to suffer before going, it would appear to me the convictions of his mind are against it.

14th of 5th M^o 1820. 1st day evening.

Last 5th day. I was favored to return to my home from Dublin where I went to attend the Yearly M. accompanied by my dear

husband and sister Drew. We were favored with the company of our dear and valued friend Stephen Grellet, William Allen and his daughter, Mary Allen, Ann Jones and Elizabeth Robson with Mary John Cook and many other friends from England.

1820. 6th of 8th M^o.

My dear brother-in-law Arthur Ussher departed this life. The 4th. E. Robson and M. Hoyland came from Waterford and held a meeting for friends in the morning and one for the towns people in the evening, which was largely attended by people of the first-class, many of whom bore testimony to the power of Truth then spoken to them. The dear friends called in to see my husband and me, when we had a very favored opportunity. Great encouragement was handed to my dear husband to be faithful unto Him who had called him with a high and holy calling.

The 4th of 12th M^o. I was visited by the Overseers not having attended Meetings as to them appeared I might. Unto the Teacher of hearts I submit my cause. He knoweth all things and will in His own time make way for me.

The 20th of 1st M^o 1821.

My dear husband and I attended the Q.M. at Cork. Hulda Press [should be Sears] from Virginia, America, and Ann Enaroild [Ecroyd] was there.

27th of 9th M^o.

Left my home at 4 in the morn, got to W. just as friends were going into Meeting. May I be thankful for having way made for me . . . without being too anxious about the how and the where and the when.

1822.

This year has commenced with a renewed mercy in preserving my husband's Life and mine, when in imminent danger from a horse running away with us.

Dublin, 28th 4th M^o.

Accompanied by my dear husband I have come here to attend the Y.M. [Visiting Friends present were "Anna Braithwaite, Ellen Cogshell and her husband, an Elder^s, Rebecca Bird and her husband, William Allen from London" and others.]

10th of 7th M^o. Favored to have Robert Fowler a valuable Minister from England under our roof; a favored opportunity after breakfast.

28th 9th M^o.

My dear R^d attended the Assizes. I went with him to Waterford in sorrow and heaviness, feeling that he is not in his place. He narrowly escaped being High Sheriff.

Dublin. 7th of 11th M^o 1822.

26th of last M^o my dear R^d brought me home [? here] to get the advice of Physicians.

^s Should be Ellen Cockin, see *Jnl.* xv. 59. Her husband was Richard Cockin.

16th of 12th M^o 1822.

We have been favord to return to our home and to find our dear Niece, her husband and sweet children well.

1823. 1st M^o 20.

Attended Cork Q.M. with my dear R^d, Margaret Hoyland, Rebecca Ridgway, Hannah Kilham [present]. Hannah Kilham is an English Friend come over for the benevolent purpose of trying to do something for the poor and too long neglected females of the lowest class in this land. I esteemd it a great favor to have her to lodge at my house. She spoke encouragingly to me in respect to my dear husband.

4th M^o 21st.

Attended Q.M. at Clonmel with my dear R^d, Robert Fowler and his wife, Silvanus Fox and his wife from Wellington, Somerset, were there. Silvanus Fox began with those words: "He that is ashamed of me and of my testimony before Men of him will I be ashamed before my Heavenly Father and His Angels." At the time of his standing up, the very words he expressd passd thro my mind and that they were for my dearest Richard. Oh, may they not be spoken in vain!

1st M^o 23, 1824.

Attended Cork Q.M. Mary Watson, R. Ridgway, Sarah Tennet and R^d Allen all large in Testimony. R. Ridgway on 3rd day was very awful. She said it appeard to her there were some present that woud not be with the assembling of the people again. She calld on them to prepare and seek for acceptance.

22nd 4th M^o attended the Yearly Meeting alone. Oh! solitary. My feelings are favord to lodge in the same room with dear Rebecca Ridgway, Sarah Grubb desird me to tell R^d U. with her dear love to be careful that all his stepings were in the Light for that if he did not he woud be led into confusion. This she said in an awful and impressive manner.

Liverpool.

My dear husband and I were favord to get safe home [? here] in a Steam Packet from Dublin. Attended Meeting.

5th day. Got to Buxton. Met with kind friends, Thomas and Lucy Hayle from Manchester. James Cropper and his wife and daughter, Eliza—a valuable family, attended Meeting at Moneyash twice. Ebenezer Boman and his wife who live near very kind to us.

Ann Allexander from York, held a publick Meeting at Buxton, tho' not fully attended it was a time of renew^d strength I do believe to some there.

1825. 1st M^o 14th.

Attended the Q.M. held at Cork. Mary Watson and Rebecca Ridgway were as clouds filld with the dew of Heaven for the replenishing of our drooping vineyard.

25th of 5th M^o.

R^d and I went to Youghal, attended Meeting next day, Marg Thugg [Bragg] from Newcastle on the Tyne was there—a greatly gifted and powerful Instrument.

[After a visit to Youghal where was John Shipley.]

Returnd to my home accompanied by dear E. Blain and T. and Mary Watson, and one John Pim from London, and Joseph Pike came here in the evening. J. Pim and E. B. sat with my dear husband and me when the language of encouragement was mercifully handed to me and to my dear R^d, tho' I fear the language of reproof was what I might have expected, John Shipley sat with us in Youghal and nearly expressd the same.

Our friends left us in much love. Margaret Hoyland, Jane Ridgway and a young woman came here to breakfast on their way. My desire is to be thankful for having such friends under our roof. Oh! that my lot was cast where I could have the company of such and no other.

25th of 12th M^o.

A day of hope that the Lord is gaining the victory over the world in my dear husbands soul.

22nd of 12th M^o.

This day my dear husband left me for Dublin, uncertain of returning to me or his home. He has been appointed High Sheriff, he cannot take the oaths. The Lord has now made him willing to submit to any penalty.

24th.

My dear R^d returned to me having written to Government assigning his reasons.

7th of 1st M^o 1826.

A second time have I had to give up my dearest husband now doubly near and dear to me in that bond of union that surpasses all earthly ties. His reasons would not be taken and he this day left me to go to Dublin, not knowing what awaited him.

[There is nothing further respecting the shrievalty. The last entry is]

13th 1st M^o.

My soul sufferd this day in my solitary sitting agony, even to cry out—" Oh! forsake me not utterly."

BAPTISM.—Wiggington, Co. Oxford. Extract from Transcripts of Parish Registers, now at Bodleian, Oxford:

" JOHN COATS of riper years (having been bred up a Quaker) the son of James Coats of the parish of South Newington, deceased, & Martha his Wife was baptised in this Church on Friday y^e 25th Day of January 1782. n.b. It appears by a copy of the Quaker Register at South Newington, signed James Marshall, that the said John Coats was born the 9th of the 4th Month called April, 1764."