

Friends in Germantown, Pa.

A BRIEF history of the two Friends' Meeting Houses in Germantown, Pa., has been written by Horace Mather Lippincott, of Philadelphia—*An Account of the People called Quakers in Germantown, Philadelphia* (Burlington, N.J.: Enterprise Publishing Company, 9 by 6½, pp. 43, with seven illustrations).¹ The Coulter Street premises of Orthodox Friends (meeting house, school, and library) are first introduced and then those of the Hicksite branch in School House Lane. Many interested Friends of both branches receive notice.

Among School House Friends was Abraham Deaves, of whose sister, Priscilla, the following is narrated :

“ In 1802, Priscilla became so absorbed in a case which came before the Meeting for discipline and took a long time for settling, that her mind became unbalanced when it was decided contrary to her judgment. She conceived it her duty to preach upon all occasions upon the text ‘ The Innocent Suffer while the Guilty go Free.’ Friends continually remonstrated with her but to no avail, until positive action became necessary. When she arose as usual upon the succeeding First-Day and commenced her address, some of the women Elders gave the signal and two lusty men walked gravely to her side and cautioned her to desist, upon penalty of removal if she refused. As was expected, she took no notice of them but continued her sermon. Whereupon they quickly picked her up and bore her down the aisle to the door. During her progress she startled the congregation by exclaiming, ‘ I am more honored than our Lord. He was carried on the back of one ass, while I am borne on the backs of two.’ It is needless to say that Priscilla was never allowed in the meeting again.”

The Coulter Street School (established in 1845) was re-opened under Friends' management in 1858, originally for Friends' children, others being later admitted. “ It has grown rapidly under Principals Susanna S. Kite, Samuel Alsop, Davis H. Forsythe, and Stanley R. Yarnall and it is reputed to be the largest private day school in the U.S., having in 1921, five hundred and seventy-four pupils with a faculty of forty-two. The Library had 35,163 visitors in 1920-21, and circulated 28,577 of its 33,201 books.

Prize-money Restored

The case of Dr. Edward Long Fox and his desire to return his share of the captures from the French by a vessel in which he had an interest, which sailed as a privateer, is well-known, but it is not generally known that there was a somewhat similar case in the life of Peter Yarnall, a Friend, by birth, of Philadelphia (c. 1753-1798).

Yarnall was a surgeon on board a privateer, early in 1779, and went on a cruising voyage to the West Indies. “ He received a part of the prize-money obtained in this excursion and with the money he purchased a tract of land in New Jersey, yet [later] having experienced a thorough change of heart, he entirely relinquished this property and made an acknowledgement to the Monthly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia which was accepted ” (Comly, *Friends' Miscellany*, vol. ii. (1836), pp. 217, 221, 229).

¹ Copy presented to D by the Author.