

An Eventful Y.M. Sunday, 1846

AN envelope containing "Notes of the Yearly Meeting, in letters to his mother, by Joseph John Dymond, 1846," was some time ago sent for deposit at Devonshire House. The following is an extract. The writer was then about 20½ years of age.¹

"Now comes yesterday [24 v. 1846]—a day which I shall long remember with a pleasant remembrance. We went to Croydon and got there in good time for meeting. The principal weight of the meeting seemed to rest upon John Pease, who addressed us in a long & very powerful manner, first enlarging on the peaceable nature of the Christian religion & then addressed himself in a very reaching manner severally to the parents, school-keepers, ministers, & young persons present. A very solemn covering was over the meeting. It concluded with the appearance of a woman friend in supplication.

"We dined with John Squire & company, which was a tolerably agreeable opportunity to me, & drank tea at cousin Henry's. In the evening we had another very nice meeting in which a woman friend first appeared & then John Pease again much in the same way as in the morning.

"We proceeded directly after meeting to the station, where we had to wait a long time before we could get into the train. When we got in, the train would not hold all that were to go. We had however good seats in a 1st class carriage, the other three seats being occupied by a worthy friend & his wife & the youngest brother of John Pease² as it afterwards proved. We had however a scramble for it, & after we were comfortably seated, we saw 2 young women friends whose party had got into a carriage & then the train being full they were left in the lurch.

"In my exceeding gallantry!! I proposed to young Pease that we should accommodate them by sitting on the elbows of the seats & giving them our places, which we did. They proved to be Anna Mary Trusted (a Worcester girl) & her friend.

"After a long time we set off & after another long space of slow travelling & stoppages we completed the distance (12 miles) in just one hour and twenty minutes. Our impressions of the atmospheric principle were not much to its advantage, but we had an immense train & in one place we stopped for 20 minutes on the line for some reason or other. All the stations we stopped at were crowded with persons anxious to go on & of course disappointed. Some however got on the roofs of the carriages & so were conveyed, but at one station I am satisfied we left behind more than 150 persons—all crying out upon the 'Quakers,' with whom they said the train was filled. However we got home safe & so this ended our 1st-day's doings."

¹ Joseph John Dymond (1825-1907) was the second son of John and Sarah Dymond, of Exeter. He spent some years at the school of William Lean, of Birmingham. In 1852 he married Hester Maria Grace, of Bristol. He was engaged in a bank in Exeter, until, in 1857, he became Secretary of the Friends' Provident Institution in Bradford, being connected therewith until 1904. He travelled considerable distances in the ministry.

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² "The youngest brother of John Pease," Henry Pease, was then approaching forty years of age. The "young Pease" was, perhaps, the nephew of John Pease, afterwards Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, then about nineteen.

"Stand Plumb for the Truth"

"R. Valentine was very intent indeed stirring up Friends to the right exercise of the discipline and not to Slubber and daub things over in a deceitful [manner] but to come to the bottom of things and stand Plumb for the Truth on earth and for its precious Testimonies w^{ch} were to a remnant precious indeed, more so than gold or anything this world can afford."

From a MS. account of London Y.M., 1783, in possession of Charles J. Holdsworth, 1924. Robert Valentine (c. 1717-1786) was a native of Carlow, Ireland, he emigrated to Pa. at the age of ten and travelled much as a Minister in his adopted country. He visited Europe in 1781.

Comly, *Misc.* vii. 270, 273; viii. 81, ix. 116; *Jnl. F.H.S.* xv.; *Bulletin F.H.S. Phila.* ix. 103.