

B. Kaye's Journal to and at y^e Yearly Meeting, London, 1787

1787

5 mo. 19. being 7th day, I left home on horse back & went to Sheffield that night, having left my Horse at the house of my Friend PHILIP MADIN,¹ whose intention is to go with me. On the First-day I staid both their meetings at y^t place, it was but a low time here. I was pleased to find my son William well.

On the First-day evening we set off & went to Chesterfield and lodged at the Falcon Inn, having called in at the house of our Friend JOSEPH STORRS,² who was set off for London. From this place, rising early, went to Mansfield to breakfast & to Nottingham to dine where we called to see many Friends. After went to Loughborough to tea & reached Leicester that night being 51 miles.

Setting off from Leicester in the morning not so early, we went to Kibworth to breakfast and dined at Kettering and reached Wellingborough to tea where I found my cousin B. MIDDLETON,³ his wife and the two children well. At his house I met with many Friends, who coming from distant parts, had called here, about 17 in number, amongst whom were seven from Ireland, R. SHACKLETON, BENJ. GRUBB & others--W[illiam] & E[sther] TUKE & some of their family, &c., &c. Here I staid the next day, being 3rd of the week.

Next morning set off with my cousin, BENJ. MIDDLETON and MORDECAI CASSON,⁴ of Thorne, who we had come up with upon Nottingham Forest.

Passing through Olney where 40 houses or upwards had been consumed by fire, through Newport Pagnal, Dunstable & Albans, we reached Mims, having travelled 54 miles y^t day, w^{ch} was rainy. We were agreeably entertained at the White Hart, a house that Friends frequent at a General Meeting held there once a year.

Setting off next morning I reached Islington to breakfast from whence I took coach and went to y^e George in Aldermanbury & dined. After went to y^e Meeting for Sufferings, at the close of which I went with my Friend

SIMON BAILEY,⁵ who had reserved me lodging. He was not willing I should go to lodge at an Inn, so I took up my lodgings at his house.

On 7th day I attended the Meeting of Ministers & Elders & y^e Committee of Elders. First-day forenoon I attended the meeting at Horsley down which was satisfactory till the conclusion when it was much hurt by an imprudent appearance, made in too much of the heat and zeal of the Creature. I, with some others, could not think myself excused but to speak to the party, which having done & being well received, had satisfaction in. I attended the meeting at Gracious Street, w^{ch} was rather a heavy meeting. After meeting I went home with WILSON BIRKBECK,⁶ & after tea walked to Friends Workhouse School near Islington, w^{ch} I had satisfaction in seeing the children & all in good order

2nd day morning, I attended the adjourned Meeting of Ministers and Elders, where Elders gave in their reports. In the afternoon at — began the Yearly Meeting.

3rd day. Attended the meetings. Breakfasted at Jos^h Rows,⁷ dined at my lodgings, supped with Jos^h SMITH.

4th day. Went to Westminster meeting which was a solid satisfactory meeting, present MARY RIDGWAY, JANE WATSON from Ireland⁸ and sundry other Friends. Dined with GEO. STACEY⁹ & then walked to the adjourned Yearly Meeting. Then home to my lodgings.

5th day. Breakfasted with Jos^h Row & attended the Com^{tee} upon drawing up certificates for our American Friends about to return home, when PATIENCE BRAYTON,¹⁰ with much deliberation, opened her mind expressing that she was under a cloud and could not see her way quite clear to leave this land & that a further service seemed required of her, which claimed much of my sympathy. At length the endorsment was agreed to be made that she might be at liberty to return. At 10 began the adjourned Meeting of Ministers and Elders, when things were a little opened & many excellent advices given, none of which struck my mind with greater attention than an observation of EDMUND GURNEY¹¹ to this effect—"There is a saying that Charity begins at home. I am afraid there is too much a disposition to be scattering to others what we ought to reserve to ourselves to feed upon & by that means we are left in a more poor & destitute

condition than it is intended. I remember what I have heard an experienced minister say respecting what occurred betwixt himself and one he travelled with, who seemed to have great openness in most meetings he came to & was much drawn to the people, & complained of great leanness and poverty attending him when out of meetings. 'Well,' said the Friend, 'I don't wonder at it, if the Master give thee a few silver pence for thy own support, thou seemest always ready to throw them about thee.' I wish Friends may take the hint." I dined with ROBT HOWARD & went to the adjourned Yearly Meeting at 4. After this broke up was held the Gen^l Meeting for Ackworth. Went to my cousin ANNA KAYE & supped.

6th day morning. Breakfasted with ELIZth FOSTER, after which I attended the committee upon the Epistles, which being large, met in the great meeting house. Several things that were referred to us coming under consideration were deliberated upon; a proposition from the Women's Meeting was laid before us by a number of Women Friends by deputation from their Meeting, requiring a revision of their Queries, having a tendency to bring the youth of that sex under the care of the Women Friends. It was agreed to propose that they answer the same Query as the men respecting Overseers & have a Query also respecting providing for the poor, same as us. Went to dine with JN^o SANDERSON.¹²

6th day afternoon. Attended the adjournment to the Yearly Meeting. After a time of solemn silence, EDMUND GURNEY stood up and said a little matter had spread over his mind & wished we might all of us come under an exercise to get out of the cumber, and said that he had thought about Martha whom I believe our Saviour loved much. She was careful and much cumbered about many things, but Martha [should be Mary] abode in the house ready and attentive to hear the Masters voice. He exhorted Friends like Mary to abide in the house, attentively waiting upon their gifts ready to hear the Masters voice.

Drank tea at THO^s COMPTONS¹³ who married JN^o TOWNSENDS daughter, with many Friends. Then went to JOSEPH GURNEY BEVANS to sup, where I met with JN^o HUSTLER & his wife, REBECCA JONES & many other Friends. [T] CLARKSON¹⁴ supped with us & sat at the table just by me & PHILIP MADIN. He is the author of the Treatise on

Slavery which had the prize given him at Cambridge for writing so well on the subject. PHILIP MADIN being near, & he being informed that he had been in the West India Islands, made much enquiry respecting the treatment of the Slaves in those Islands where he had been, the information he received, he expressed was satisfactory, & from many instances he had been authentically informed of before, confirmed him in the sentiment that if the Slaves were kindly treated and as they ought to be, there would arise from them such a numerous offspring that there would be no need of importing any from Africa. Philip informed him, at the plantation where he lodged their numbers had increased & they had not purchased a slave for 40 years, & that their offspring thus born upon the Islands became more naturalised & seasoned for labour in that clime. He was very free in Conversation & is much devoted to serve this oppressed People, having, as I am informed, declined some advantageous offers of promotion in the Church that he may properly attend to this Business. Friends here have formed themselves into a Committee & a Contribution is begun to support him, about 150 Guineas being raised. I heard him say 2000 Guineas would not be enough to go to Parliament to get through with an affair of such magnitude. He said he had had conversation with the Bishop of Bangor whom he considered as the most skilled in the Law of any one in the House of Lords, & had a general idea that the House might be likely to adopt, & he told him he should not doubt, should it be brought forward, in time it will have the full consent of their House. In the House of Commons there seemed little danger could he gain over Pitt and Wilberforce to his interest, there is little doubt it would attain the Royal assent.

Clarkson intends to be providing himself every proof that may be necessary to advance well authenticated for which purpose he is intending to go and remain a few weeks at Bristol and Liverpool. I could not but congratulate him upon having espoused so good a cause and invited him to my house should he come to Leeds. He is a plain sort of man and seems very agreeable in the company of Friends, I think. He seems mostly to be at Friends' houses. G. DILLWYN told me he said to him, "I would have thee keep thine eye upon thy duty in this business" & no doubt he would receive the penny.

7th Day morning. Breakfasted with Dr. GILBERT THOMPSON.¹⁵ Dined at JN^o SANDERSONS. Attended the adjournment of Yearly Meeting. Supped with my cousin ANNA KAYE.

First day morning. Took coach to Tottenham in company with ISAAC COOK & MARGARET COOK¹⁶ from Manchester. ELIZABETH NORTH attended their meeting in the morning. Went to dine with THO^s. PHILLIPS at the House where ROB^t. WALKER¹⁷ died. A very agreeable family of Friends. Went to Tottenham evening meeting which began at 4. Went to the Widow FORSTERS¹⁸ where I lodged & was very kindly entertained as heretofore many times.

2nd day morning. Went to the Com^{tee} of Elders which began at 8, when report was given of the meetings in the course of the week. . . . At 3 met the Committee upon the Epistles and at five the adjournment of the Yearly Meeting when the Epistles were gone through & 12000 of the General Epistle to be printed. When the business was gone through we had a solemn pause in Silence—a solemn pause it was indeed in which my mind was bowed in humble thanksgiving to the Almighty for his unmerited favours dispense to us.

The meeting ended at about halfpast 8 o'clock. After went to bid farewell to sundry of my Friends amongst whom was REBECCA JONES of Philadelphia.

3rd morning. I called to see JN^o PEMBERTON, WILLIAM MATTHEWS, ZACHARIAH DICKS, PATIENCE BRAYTON, REBECCA WRIGHT, all from America. The 5 last I took my solemn leave of, never expecting to see them more.

I took horse at Islington, 3rd day at 11 Forenoon. . . . By way of Uxbridge reached Amersham, having met with my Friend ROB^t EELES at Uxbridge he would not readily excuse JAMES FAWCETT & me lodging with him at Amersham, where I called to see JA^s. TATHAM, my brother JN^o. TATHAM's son, who lives with an Apothecary there. [Passing by the house of ISAAC PENINGTON & Jordans, and accompanied with ROBERT EELES's son JOHN for five miles] we came to Stoken Church where we refreshed ourselves with a dish of coffee & soon after left intending for Oxford, 17½ miles.

Reached Oxford before two and dined at The Bear. I admire* the number of students sent here to study School Divinity. Am informed there are about 1500. They crowd the streets (being noon) with their Black Gowns, Powdered Wigs & 4 square flat black Caps on their heads with a corner before. I could see a scornful sneering look from many of them towards me as I passed along the street. I was just for saying to one who flouted much at me on the road ; had he spoke, I should have told him to read his Bible & he would find it was the son of the Bond woman was a scoffer.

[On the further journey our Friend visited THOMAS HUNTLEY, at Burford, schoolmaster ; WILLIAM ATKINS, a watchmaker, at Chipping Norton ; SUSAN & HANNAH GAYLARD at Warwick ; and here the story closes abruptly.]

From a sm. 8vo. vol. of ms. with an endorsement on one page : " Jos^a Kaye's Book 2^{mo} 10th 1790." Later in possession of George Tatham of Leeds and now belonging to Charles J. Holdsworth, of Cheshire. The book also contains copies of letters which passed between JOSEPH MILTHORPE, of Painthorp and THOMAS WORTHINGTON, " Priest of Middleton," 1751 ; and also a printed Leeds Directory of 1799. In this Directory appear :

Kaye, James, William and Joshua, flax dressers and sacking manufacturers, Lowerhead Row.

Kaye, Benjamin, mercer and woollen draper, Cross-Parish. Also the following, resident in Quakers Meeting House Yard : David Jepson, dealer ; Gervas Storr ; Mary Tatham, schoolmistress. Other Tathams are James, surgeon and apothecary, Briggate ; Joseph, schoolmaster, Water-Lane ; George and Thomas, mercers, woollen-drapers, and taylors, Briggate. Among public buildings is " The Quakers' Meeting-house, Water-Lane. Meetings on Sundays at ten in the forenoon, and half-past two in the afternoon ; also at ten on Thursday forenoon."

NOTES

¹ Philip Madin (c. 1733-1804) was a Sheffield Friend and a Minister. He was in Scotland in 1777. He travelled in the West Indies in 1779 with Thomas Colley (1742-1812), and later, with the same Friend, in Scotland. He left by his will £100, the interest from which was to be given to poor Friends of Sheffield.

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* *Admire* is here used with its old meaning of *wonder*.

² Joseph Storrs (1742-1824), of Chesterfield, who was the clerk of Y.M. this year (*London Y.M. during 250 Years*, 1919).

³ Benjamin Middleton (1746-1814) married Tabitha Hoyland (c. 1750-1809). In 1794 they "had just lost an only son, a very promising youth who died at school" (iii. 141, 142). Their daughter Maria (1793-1844) married Samuel Fox, of Wellington, Som. (*Maria Fox*, 1846). The son John and daughter Hannah (d. 1835) would be the children mentioned.

vi.

⁴ Mordecai Casson (1745-1822), of Thorne, was educated in the principles of the Anglican Church. As he approached manhood he was brought under a religious exercise of mind and for a time attended the Methodist gatherings. About 1776 he joined with Friends (Testimony).

⁵ Simon Bailey lived in Spitalfields and was a hospitable entertainer of Friends from the country. Martha Routh lodged at his house at Y.M., 1817, and died there. The Registers record the death, at Tottenham, of Simon Bailey in 1827, aged sixty. If this was the same Friend as above, he was but about twenty at the time of Benjamin Kaye's visit in 1787.

⁶ Wilson Birkbeck (1754-1812) was an ironfounder of London, with residence on Stamford Hill. His second wife and widow, Grizell, became the third wife of William Allen.

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⁷ Joseph Row (1722-1792) was a weaver in Spitalfields. John Jenkins was with him for a short time, who writes of him in his *Records and Recollections*. In connection with the solar eclipse of 1 iv. 1764, an alteration of the time for the holding of the morning meetings of that First-day was proposed, "Joseph Row objected, adding: 'Suppose it should not happen.' Doctor Fothergill replied: 'Joseph, as sure as the day happens to come, that will happen.' This was just like J. Row, who, although of exemplary life and conversation, was always deemed a weak man." Sarah Row, his wife, was a Minister (d. 1803). They were great entertainers at Y.M. time.

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⁸ Mary Ridgway (1728-1804) and Jane Watson (? 1739-? 1812) travelled much together in the ministry in Europe and America.

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⁹ George Stacey (-1816), Senr., appears to have been in the employ of Thomas Corbyn, apothecary, of Holborn. He married Mary, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wilson, of Kendal, in 1781. He was Y.M. clerk in 1799. Their son, George Stacey (1786-1857), was Y.M. clerk from 1838 to 1849.

Mary Stacey was a valuable Minister, of Tottenham. She died in 1836.

Isaac and Rachel Wilson, 1924.

¹⁰ Patience Brayton (c. 1733/4-1794) was of Swansea in the State of Massachusetts. She came over to Britain in the Rebecca Jones band of visiting Ministers, and was in this country 1783-1787. Her maiden name was Greene. In 1758 she married Preserved Brayton. She paid religious visits in her own country, on one occasion feeling it in the line of duty to leave a weakly husband and infant family on religious service, during the course of which one child died, followed, soon after her return, by the death of another. There is a long account of her European visit in her *Life*, New York, 1801.

xiii. xv.

¹¹ Edmund Gurney (1723-1796) was a prominent Minister who had experienced a remarkable change of heart and life in younger days. With regard to the financial troubles which clouded his last days, his nephew, Joseph Gurney Bevan, wrote wishing that some written memorial of him might be preserved, adding: "Why not to some advantage seeing we read that King Asa, who, saith the text, 'did that which was good and right . . . yet in his old age was diseased in his feet and sought not to the Lord but unto physicians.' . . . Surely his life, taken all together, proclaims forcibly this caution: 'Let those who think they stand take heed'" (*The Gurneys of Lakenham Grove*, by Sir Alfred E. Pease, 1907, in MS.).

xvii. xviii. xx.

¹² John Sanderson (1781-1841) was a prominent London Friend, living in Old Jewry. His daughter Mary married Sylvanus Fox and Elizabeth married Cornelius Hanbury. There were other children.

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¹³ Thomas Compton (1749-1817) was a pewterer, of London. John Townsend (1725-1801) was apprenticed to Samuel Jefferys, pewterer, of Holborn, London.

vi. x. xii.-xv. xvi. xvii.; Compton, *Recollections of Spitalfields*, 1908.

¹⁴ Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) wrote on Slavery, Quakerism and William Penn. Sarah Cockfield, later Dimsdale, acted as his secretary (Fox, *Dr. John Fothergill*, 1919, p. 82). His home was Playford Hall, Co. Suffolk.

iii.-vi. ix. x. xv.

¹⁵ Dr. Gilbert Thompson (1726-1803) was a grandson of the Friend of the same name, founder of a school at Penketh in 1687, ancestor of the Friends' school there. He was secretary to the Medical Society (of physicians) and wrote the *Memoirs of Dr. John Fothergill*, who said of Thompson: "He will be either a man or a mouse; never any man hid his talents more under a bushel" (Fox, *Dr. John Fothergill and his Friends*, 1919). He resided in Salters Hall Court, Cannon Street. Jean de Marsillac sends a message to "Doctor Thompson" in one of his letters (xv. 56).

¹⁶ The Burial Registers of Lancashire record the death of Isaac Cooke, in 1804, aged 56, Liverpool, broker; of Margaret Cooke, in 1821, aged 78, at Everton, Lancashire; and of Sarah Cooke, in 1826, aged 79½, widow of Isaac Cooke of Liverpool, broker; all buried at Hunter Street, Liverpool.

Isaac Cooke, of Liverpool (c. 1780-1862), cotton-broker (xiv. 24), was probably a son.

¹⁷ Robert Walker (c. 1717-1785) lived at Gildersome, near Leeds. He visited America in 1773.

Thomas Phillips lived at Tottenham. He is mentioned also in connection with the Y.M. of 1794.

x. xv.

¹⁸ Widow Forster would be Jane, *née* Birkbeck, second wife and widow of Josiah Forster. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* we read: "1797. Died 13th Sept. At her house at Tottenham High Cross, aged 88, Jane Forster, one of the people called Quakers," etc. She was the mother of William Forster (1747-1824), schoolmaster, and others.

Isaac and Rachel Wilson, 1924.