

Some Early Sufferings in Scotland

1656. 6 mo.

William Stockdaill¹ and John bourane² with some other freinds of truth journeying through a merkat towne called strathaven and declareing the word of the Lord in the streets were by the inhabitants of the towne and some others crwelly beat with stones and abused with mire of the street [&] shamefully driven out of the towne.

10 mo.

William stockdaill and John gill³ with severall other freinds in and about Glasfoord [being mett at Strathaven] and keeping a meetting in the graveyard [6 x. 1656] wer by the rude and crwel multitud from thence expelled and stoned and some of their blood shedd.

About this tyme George Wilson⁴ and the said John Gill moved to goe to the steepl-hous of Glasfoord where George Wilson⁴ did aske the preist a qwestione three tymes, but he uowld not ansswer, then Claud mershell (called a constable) did lay hands on him and the rude multitud did assist him in stakeing and persecuting of them till some of George Wilson his blood was shedd and the preists servant was very active in persecuting them.

¹ William Stockdale (-1693) was of Scotland and later of Ireland (whence, in 1683, he wrote an account of Friends suffering in that land). In 1687 he removed to Pa., where he died (*The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 27, p. 294; *Bulletin F.H.S. Phila.* iv. 142).

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² John Bowron (1627-1704) was born at Cotherstone, N.W. Yorkshire. He travelled in many parts of the world and died in the house in which he was born (*Camb. Jnl.* ii. 476). Stockdale and Bowron received a pound from the Swarthmoor Fund for their journey into Scotland, in 1655.

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³ John Gill lived at Greysouthen, near Cockermouth. He was in Carlisle Jail in 1654. He visited Scotland in 1656 and Ireland in the next year (*Camb. Jnl.*).

xii.

⁴ George Wilson (died 1661) is mentioned in *Camb. Jnl.* He died in chains in Virginia. His Journal is extant in **D**, written microscopically small. He was a Cumberland Friend.

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1657. 3 mo.

About this tyme the presbiteriane preists held a synod at Glasgow and perceaveing that their former excumunicationes and declarationes against freinds of truth proved not so terrible to and effectwall amongst the common people as they expected did therwpon instantly ordeane and decree. That throwghout the Westland presbiteries belonging to that synod it should be procleamed in their steeplehouses by the preists that non of their hearers or societie should either bwy or sell w^t any of thes persones called qwakers nor give them any intertainment in meet drinke or lodging under the hazard of incurring their displeasure.

1657. 4 mo.

Christopher Fell⁵ George Wilsons and John hart⁶ being entred into a commone jnnes in the towne of Newmilnes were refused lodging and were violently drawn out of the house and stoned out of the towne into the open fields about the tenth houre at night. This was done (be vertew of the preists order above exprest) about the fowth moneth [1657] Richard pinder⁷ being moved to goe to the steeplehouse of kilbrid and when he came ther the peopl were sitting and no preist with them after a while he was moved to speake (when ther was none speaking) and foorthwithe the constabls came and carried him to a justice called James Stewart tutor of Castltowne who gave order that he should

⁵ Christopher Fell was probably one of the sons of John Fell, of Langlands (*F.P.T.*). He had been in Scotland in 1653 and 1655. See *Camb. Jnl.* His brother (?) had emigrated to and married in Pa. (Justice, *Clarke-Dungan*, quoted xx. 134.)

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⁶ There is a considerable record of the life and sufferings of John Hart, of Heids of Glasfoord, in William F. Miller's *Dictionary of Scottish Friends* (ms. in D). He was "clerk of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, who, besides chronicling births, deaths and marriages and the proceedings of the Monthly Meeting, was wont from time to time to make pithy comments on the course of public events" (xiv. 3, 6), as here seen. In 1656 he was threatened with "clubb-law" and imprisoned by the Presbyterian Priest of Hamilton. He was a witness at several marriages and held various official positions. John Hart, son of John and Barbara Hart, was born in 1670 and died in 1686, buried at Shawtonhill.

⁷ Richard Pinder (d. 1695) was of Wath, Westmorland. He visited the West Indies and "sevrall other plantations" (*F.P.T.*). Richard Pinder and Bridget his wife were excommunicated 'at Kirkby Stephen in 1673 (vii. 20). See *Camb. Jnl.* and *Supp.* He wrote several religious pieces and Testimonies to Francis Howgill and William Dewsbury.

xii. xix.

be imprisoned at Ruglane wher he cowld scarcely get any stroe to lye upon wher he continued three dayes and then was brought foorth and upon the nixt first day of the weeke being the [20 iv. 1657] he was put in the stockes at kilbrid steephous the space of five howres and afterwards by ane order from the said James Stewart it was ordeaned that he showld be carried from constable to constable furth of Scotland into ingland.

6 mo.

John hart elder in heids of Glassfoord and Janet Hamiltone widow in Westmaines were cited by a constable to compeare before the justices of peace at Lanerk [4 vi. 1657] at which tyme and place personally compeared William Hamiltone preist of Glasfoord and gave in acomplaint against them for entertaining thes peopll called qwakers in their houses and mor particularly for intertaining George Wilson whom the justices (so called) judged to be a Lawbreaker and condemned him upon that account being absent and never cited to appeare And did condemne the said John hart and Janet hamiltone as transgressoures and ressetters of Lawbreakers and did ordeane them to pay twentie shillings a piece of fine and upon their refusall to pay they were comitted to prisone wher they continued eight days.

1661

In this yeare the civill magistrats by pwblicke edict erected episcopall government and annihilated and abolished presbiteriane government by which dispensatione and sudden alteratione of church government (so called) ther fell a grivious divisione and confusione of Langwages amongst the presbiteriane preists for because that some conformed to episcopacy and some dissented wherby the common people were redacted to a miserable distractione in their formal traditionall religione and professione through the unconstancie of their teachers who formerly concwrrred to gainsay the truth.

1662.

Episcopacy being now erected and presbiterie abolished (as said is) the presbiteriane preists confounded some of them for their (as swposed) misdeameanowes to authoritie banished others imprisond and the oath of aligiance and

supremacie tendered to them others for nonconformitie to Episcopacy suspended from their profitable traffique and merchandice in their steepshouses (At what rate would they now valve a day of toleratione or libertie of conscience which they formerly exclaimed against many a yeare and abridged others off) And many of them conformed to Episcopacy, which conformists (being not yet sensible of the dispensatione of the tymes nor of their owne conditione) actively concurred w^t the episcopal teachers (so called) in reproaching and gainsaying the truth and reviling the witnesses thereof in their pwblicke sermones to the peopple.

1665.

In this yeare the prelatieall teachers (so called) did mightily inveighe and excleame in their pwblicke assemblies against truth and the witnesses therof threatening and menaceing becaus of nonconformitie to their way and worshipe & discipline but they being much retarded in their perswit and resolutiōne against truth, partly by the interventione of the more opacious [?] bodie of nonconforming presbiters (so called) and partly by the prudencie of the civill magistrats being by this tyme sensible (in some measure) that persecutiōne for conscience sake was a worke nether sutable nor proper to a civill magistrat professing Christianitie wer in the end frustrated of their hopes And within short tyme their persecwting hornes were in some measure broken and their hand disabled so that they could not performe their interprise and they made mor sensible of there conditione and capacitie wher into they stood.

1669.

In this yeare the Civill magistrats began to indulge severall of the old presbiteriane preists with a libertie (yet with some restriciones) to preach, wherby they both gratified some unsatisfied and unconformed peopl And allayed and softened the fierie edge of ane insulting episcopall partie, keeping both presbiterie and episcopacy (as it were) in ane æqwilibris, and both in subjectione to themselves. Nevertheles thes indulged preists (being mor insensible of there afflictione by a divine hand, then Nebuchadnezer was after his despositiōne from his kingly throne) began againe to renew their qwarrell and old warre against the truth

by reproaching contradicting and railing against the truth and the witnesses therofe, for their cheife force and power did now reside in their towngues, this being all that they could doe because their hornes were broken wherewith they formerly we wont to push.

Above manuscript was referred to our late Friend and contributor, William F. Miller, who replied, under date 8th May, 1914: "The extracts are taken in all probability from one of the old record books of the Edinburgh Y.M. entitled: 'A Remembrance or Record of the Sufferings of some friends of truth in Scotland.' The book was apparently commenced about 1670, but the first entry is under date 6 mo. 1656."

Doctor and Mary Knowles

Wm. Forster, of Tottenham, to his sister Elizabeth, at Birmingham, 7 x. 1773 :

"Our Cousins Knowles honord us with a visit, which was very acceptable. . . . She far exceeds my Expectations in a chearful easy Behaviour, and in her many great Qualifications which made her Company truly agreeable. . . . Mother desires thou'lt see her and little George as often as thou canst, his Mother will take it very kind : we think him an extra fine Boy : They purpose taking a House here early in the Spring, for Nancy Morris & themselves."

Mary Knowles (d. 1807), née Morris, was wife and widow of Thomas Knowles, M.D., of London. She is principally known in connection with her friend, Dr. Samuel Johnson. See Smith, *Cata.* ; *Jnl.* iv. x. xv.

From original letter in possession of Mrs. Vere O'Brien, Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 1924.

FRIENDS' HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION. We learn that Lucy B. Roberts has been compelled to resign the post of president, and that George Vaux, Junr., takes her place. Rayner W. Kelsey, Haverford, Pa., is editor of the *Bulletin*, and I. Thomas Steere, Haverford, Pa., is treasurer. The editor of *The Journal F.H.S.* has been elected an honorary member of the Association. The subscription price *p.a.* is one dollar. The office of the Association is located at 142 North Sixteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.