

By the kindness of Mr. T. S. Penny we have made the acquaintance (by correspondence) of Major F. Kennedy, "a descendant of Francis Moulton, who lived in Hatton Garden, and whose daughter married my Huguenot ancestor, Charles Portalés. Portalés was closely associated with Elias Marion, Nicholas Faccio, John Lacy, and others." Major Kennedy is in possession of many papers and articles of interest connected with his Huguenot ancestors. One, which has been in our hands, is a quarto manuscript of 56 pages, dealing with the "operations" in the Cevennes and in "the Kingdom of England" (begun in June, 1706). Several Friends (or ex-Friends) are named and there are records of visits of bands of Prophets to Quakers' meetings in Colchester, Chichester, and elsewhere in 1708.

A Memento of Margaret Fox?

A recent addition to the collection of objects of Quaker interest in D is a piece of velvet measuring 11 inches by 13 inches, said to have belonged to Margaret Fox, of Swarthmoor Hall. It was presented by Mrs. Vere O'Brien, of Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, who received it from her aunt, Mary Forster, a sister of William Forster, of Tottenham. There is a slip of paper attached which reads :

"This piece of velvet is said to be Part of a Cloak or Robe, once belonging to Margaret Fell (afterwards Fox), of truly valuable and respectable Memory, given to me by my cousin Benjamin Birkbeck when I was at Settle in about 10th Mo : 1801."

We find that Benjamin Birkbeck (1757-1819) married Jane, daughter of Nathaniel English, of Leeds, in 1784. They lived in Leeds and then at Settle. Jane Birkbeck was the great-great-great-grand-daughter of Margaret Fell, through the line of her eldest daughter, Margaret Rous.

The velvet was sent for examination to the Keeper of the Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, who replied on 9th June :

"Dear Madam. Your letter relating to the piece of velvet alleged to be part of a cloak worn by Margaret Fox, has been handed to me for reply.

"We have carefully examined the velvet & hardly think it is probable that its date is earlier than the end of the 18th century. It may quite well be of English manufacture, since the velvet industry had then been established in this country for over a century."