

### J. J. Gurney and E. Fry in Ireland

Joseph Gurney, to Jonathan Hutchinson, of Gedney, Lincs., 29 iii. 1827 :

“ J. J. G. travels in admiration [i.e. wonder] from day to day of his dear sister's powers & self-possession. Their introductions & their views have been peculiar—from Friends to the Secretary of State, and from him to the Vice Regent—from both assured of their utmost protection and giving them facilities to visit all prisons & public Institutions. Marquis Wellesley appointed a private interview with them and his Lady (deem'd very high & a *Roman Catholic*, had Betsy to console her in her sick room, who found her most quiet & humble. . . . They have had their conference with Catholic priests & *Bishops* (if I am right) with the Archbishop of Dublin, *Maghee*, (the writer on the atonement) and many other Divines—with the Judges of the Land on Capital punishment . . . & so countenanc'd altogether that E. Fry was plac'd by the side of the Judge of Assize at his desire when the prisoners were tried. . . . Their way has been studded with many anecdotes [for one see G. K. Lewis's *Elizabeth Fry*, 1909] but one of the most curious is from Londonderry. They arrived at the Hotel there before they were expected, but as soon as known, the Bells of the Cathedral began to ring, & when they went forward to visit the Jail, the Mayor & Corporation huddled on their gowns & follow'd them in all haste. They afterwards dined at the *Bishops*, and the next morning when they were to have a public meeting, the Bishop & his Wife were the persons personally to inspect the preparations for it. The Bishop then advis'd a Meeting in the Dissenters Meetinghouse. It was held in the evening, & the Bishop, his Lady & many others from the palace were perceiv'd by J. J. G. & E. F., seated just before them—seated in a *Dissenters* Mt. house & heard the *Quakers* preach, & two of those *Quakers females*. Some symptom of toleration ! ” (*The Gurneys of Lakenham Grove*, sect. 17, p. 66.) A different view of this visit to Ireland appears in Mrs. Greer's *Quakerism*, 1851, pp. 165 ff.

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### Dr. Arnold on Quakerism

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Dr. Arnold wrote to Rev. F. C. Blackstone, in 1835 :—

“ I have always thought that the Quakers stand nobly distinguished from the multitude of fanatics, by seizing the true point of Christian advancement,—the development of the principles of the Gospel in the improvement of mankind. It is a grievous pity that some foolishnesses should have so marred their efficiency, or their efforts against wars and oaths would surely ere this, have been more successful.”

*From Dean Stanley's biography of Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, 3rd ed., 1890, p. 264.*

*Forwarded by J. Ernest Grubb.*