

The Earl of Winchilsea to Sir John Finch

1665, Oct. 20. Pera.—“ To divert your more serious thoughts with a little pastime, I send you inclosed a letter of an English Quaker come to this city, not to convert the Great Turke to Christianitie as most of the wandering apostles of that sect pretend, but to move him to commence an other warre against Germanie. How slight soever this matter might seeme in proceeding from a braine so wholly phrensicall, it might yet have cost deare and proved of ill consequence to our nation here, had I not timely taken this mad fellow out of the Turkes handes into my owne custody, and happily intercepted his letters as they were carrying to the Vizier, the coppies of which I send you herewith enclosed under his owne hand. I trouble you the rather with this story because I found about this Quaker a passe or certificate given this person by Mr. Clutterbuck of Ligorne, which though it were not much significant farther then to testify he was an Englishman and in that respect to treat him with that kindnesse as is due to all subjects of his Majestie from those in peace and amitie with him, yet it may well be interpreted a countenance and encouragement to that sort of sactaries, who are ready to beleive that the least civilitie towards them is an immediate motion from God in favour and confirmation of their profession. And therefore pray represent to Mr. Clutterbuck his errour herein, and give warning to all other merchants at Livorne to be carefull for the future how they encourage these enthusiarrs, especially to divert them from their intentions for Turkey, in regard that their madnesse may probably be paid for at the charge of the publick.”

From the Report on the Manuscripts of Allan George Finch, Esq., 1913, vol. i, p. 400. Livorne=Leghorn.

The Earl of Winchilsea was British Ambassador to the Porte, 1660-1668. He had had previous experience of trouble with wandering Quakers. See *Beginnings of Quakerism*, p. 430, with reference to Richard Scosthrop and Daniel Baker. We do not know the Friend referred to in the letter.

Lukens, Quaker Clock-makers

In the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the Historical Magazine published by William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, April, 1922, there is an article on "Christ Church, Norfolk, Bell & Clock," in which we read: "Henry [?Isaiah] Lukens, of Philadelphia, was in his day perhaps the best known of the American clock-makers. Messrs. Riggs & Co. are his successors. To the Lukens firm was entrusted the order for the Christ Church clock. The cost was \$863.63. After long service the clock was removed to the College and continues to mark time. When the clock was taken down, the following inscription was found upon a plate attached to the main frame: 'Isaiah Lukens/Fecit. No. 14./Philadelphia Nov. 12,/1820.'"

By the kindness of Charles F. Jenkins we can present some information respecting this Quaker clock-maker:

"The Lukens were descendant from Jan Luken, who came over as one of the body of Germans from Crefelt, reaching Germantown in 1683.

"Isaiah Lukens was the son of Seneca Lukens and Sarah (Quinby) Lukens, who were married 10th mo. 6, 1777. Isaiah made the clock in the tower of the State House, Philadelphia, in 1839 for \$5000.00. It was later removed to the Town Hall in Germantown and is still in use, keeping good time. He made a visit to Europe and was a founder and vice-president of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, and died 11th mo. 12, 1841. His father was a clockmaker before him. Both were members of the Society of Friends. Isaiah's mother died in 1843 and was buried at Horsham Friends Burial Ground. She left, surviving her, five children, thirty-seven grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren."