

“Llyfr y tri Aderyn”

The first reference to Quakers in Welsh appeared in Morgan Llwyd's classic: *Llyfr y tri Aderyn* (the Book of the Three Birds), which was published in 1653—The Three Birds, a mystery for some to understand, and others to deride, being a discourse between the Eagle, the Dove, and the Raven. According to popular opinion in Wales, the Eagle represented Cromwell; the Dove, the Puritans; and the Raven, the Cavaliers. The Dove, in our opinion, expounds the religious views of Llwyd himself. The Raven, after flying abroad, reports that he had seen the Pope, the other day, in Rome, “quaking in his chair.” The Eagle asked: “Is he among the Quakers? Why does he quake?” The Raven answered: “Certain prophecies are terrifying him.”

Morgan Llwyd [(c. 1619-1659, Lloyd, Floyd)], the most spiritual Welshman of his age, was, up to a certain point, a Quaker. His preaching prepared the soil for the seed of Truth, as proclaimed by Fox and his followers. When “priest” at Wrexham church he refused to accept tithes. He advocated free communion, outward baptism was not vital. . . . “The Baptism of Christ is the one great Baptism, and that is the heavenly water in the second birth,” he wrote. The mysticism of George Fox appealed powerfully to Llwyd, the greatest of Welsh mystics; consequently we are not surprised that he sent two “triers” from his Church to George Fox at Swarthmoor, to test his doctrine.

The above has been taken from *The Quakers in Wales*, by T. Mardy Rees, 1925, pp. 8, 9. For Lloyd see *Camb. Jnl.* i. 422; Norris, *John ap John*, 1907; etc.

Sir Daniel Fleming and Friends

In April, 1925, there was a sale in London of documents from Rydal Hall, belonging to the Fleming family. Three lots refer to Daniel Fleming's dealings with Friends; no. 252 is a letter from the Earl of Rochester, first Lord of the Treasury, on 9 November, 1686, informing Fleming that it was the King's pleasure “not to have these poore People so troubled upon the account of their being Quakers only.”

See *Transactions of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archæological Society*, 1925, p. 377.