

Fed by Pigeons

In the *Journal of Hannah Chapman Backhouse* (1787-1850), we read, under date 3 ii. 1834, while the author was on a religious visit to Canada :

“ Took tea at John Hill’s and heard his wife relate an interesting story of the preservation of herself and her father’s family in the midst of a very severe famine in winter time. When their stock of provisions was almost exhausted, and a poor little half-starved pig, which was their only remaining means of support, had been killed, all hope of relief seemed to be lost. Then occurred a most remarkable circumstance :

“ Every morning a pigeon came and settled upon the paling in front of the house ; this they shot, and it formed their only provision for the whole day. For fourteen days their wants were supplied in the same manner by the daily arrival of another pigeon, always perching on the same spot. She touchingly described her father’s visits as he went round every night after they were in bed, and kissed each of his children, expecting nothing but death.”

Quakers and Knickerbockers

Extract from B. Seebohm Rowntree’s *Travel Journal*, relating to Madeira : “ Knickerbockers in the island are called ‘ Quecas.’ Apparently some worthy Quakers in olden times, clothed in these garments, visited the island and, on enquiry ‘ What are these ? ’ the reply given— ‘ They are Quakers ’—was thought to apply to their apparel, and not to their persons, and the name has lasted through the centuries.”

1757. “ Lately died at Huntwell, Mr. Joshua Watson, one of the people called Quakers, who lived to see children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to the number of ninety-seven, many of whom attended his funeral. And though he had arrived at a good old age, being that of 85 years, his death is greatly regretted. . . . He was from his youth a great lover and encourager of planting, the fruits of which accompanied even to his grave, for his corpse was buried in a coffin made out of a tree of his own raising.”—*Newcastle Journal*, 2nd July, 1757, quoted in a pamphlet *Pedigree of the Family of Watson, of the Parish of Allendale and of Newcastle-on-tyne*. See life of Robert Spence Watson by Percy Corder, 1914.