

Leading the Way

BEING a Series of Brief Sketches of Quaker Inventions and Discoveries, and of Friends who have Led the Way in various Directions.

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JAMES CLARK (1811-1906) "made up skins unsuited for rugs into warm-lined slippers. He cut them out himself after business hours. The first slippers so made were sold for him by his cousin and school-fellow, Charles Gilpin (afterwards M.P. for Northampton), who was then serving his apprenticeship to his father, a woollen draper in Bristol. . . . Other classes of slippers were gradually added—lambs' wool socks (of which James Clark believed himself to be the first maker), and in time hand-welted boots and shoes of fine quality." (*One Hundred Years' History of Shoes and Sheep-skin Rugs at Street, Somerset. C. & J. Clark, Ltd., 1925.*)

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EDMUND NAISH (1772-1827) "came to Bristol from Dursley when a lad and ultimately started in business in Castle Green as a cotton manufacturer. He made a fortune by an invention for making cotton thread (then supplanting linen thread, supplied in skeins) into balls, before reels were invented" (ms. Naish Family Records, in possession of C. Ernest Naish, of Charlbury, Oxon, 1926).

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THOMAS STORY (1662-1742). "Thomas Story, in 1738, sent to James Logan, from the Yorkshire coast, a forecast of the discovery of stratified geology, one hundred years

before its time " (Rowntree, *Social Service*, 1913 Swarthmore Lecture, p. 17).

Logan-Story Correspondence, 1927; *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 45 (1872), pp. 323ff; *The Friend* (Lond.), 1911, pp. 504, 522, 545; etc.

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C. FRANCIS JENKINS (vols. xix. xx. xxii.). " Our friend, the Inventor, C. Francis Jenkins, of Washington, D.C., has apparently shifted the activity of his inventive genius from the field of the cinema to that of the air plane. In connection with the latter, he has recently announced two inventions which, taken together, he considers will remove the present problem of expensive and inaccessible air ports. The first provides for a brake apparatus for air planes, while the companion device is designed to launch a plane almost instantly and on one hundred feet of runway " (*American Friend*, July 28, 1927).

To be continued

New Bedford and Nantucket

There are several notices of New Bedford and Nantucket in *The Maritime History of Massachusetts*, written by Samuel Eliot Morison and published in Boston and New York by the Houghton Mifflin Company in 1921, a book of 400 pages with many illustrations. " The New Bedford Quaker shipowners who had made fortunes by neutral trading before 1812 perceived that the palmy days of the carrying trade were past, refitted their merchantmen as whalers, and went out after oil with a spirit and perseverance that made their town within six years the first whaling port of North America " (p. 315). " As Nelson's fleet lay licking its wounds after Trafalgar, who should heave in sight but the ship *Ann Alexander*,¹ of New Bedford, captain Loum Snow, with a cargo of lumber, flour, and apples—just what the fleet needed! " (p. 180). " New Bedford, not only Federalist but Quaker, declared in town meeting on July 21, 1814: ' We have scrupulously abstained from all interest and concern in sending out private armed vessels ' and resolved to quarantine for forty days any American privateer that polluted her harbor "

¹ Ann Alexander, an English Minister, was visiting the States about this time. She was the daughter of William Dillwyn, of U.S. and Eng.