

Bleanings from Some Old Account Books

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LOANS to poor Friends were sometimes made out of the Meeting funds. In Eleventh Month, 1698, "The mitting hath lent Robert Ciningham being in nidsesity the soum of four pound Scots he promising to returne it again." In Eighth Month, 1700, £3 Sterling was lent to one Andrew Taget, a Cordiner, "goeing for Irland." This loan, at any rate, was duly repaid, as appears from the following entry: "The formentioned money was payed by andrew taget the first of the Eighth month 1709 J say received it by me William Miller being three Pound ten shillings." Was the extra ten shillings for interest? Some years before this, in 1691, we learn that

Daniel Hamilton haveing desired y^t friends would seympathiz w^t him in what he lent to Robt barnes in his distrese jts agreed y^t if Robt barnes be not found in a capacity to pay him before next yearly meeting friends in general will be Concerned proportionably w^t Daniel to ease him.

Another item of expenditure was that for the clothing of boys apprenticed by the Meeting. Thus in Fourth Month, 1701, we learn: "Lickewise there is sent to thomas dunlop james haliday his prentice for to buy him cloaths the soum of ten shillings and tenpence sterling."

The charges for the care of the horses of "Publick Friends" and for "Guides" were considerable and constantly recurrent items. For many years Bartholomew Gibson, "the Kings Smith and farrier," in the Canongate, Edinburgh, was employed in this business. Thus in Tenth Month, 1698, it was reported that the meeting was owing this Friend £8.10.9 "wherof there was paid to him £30 Scots (anvelrent of money ['nin hundred merks'] in John Kenidys hands) & this day £18.15 scots, so there is still due to him £4.9.6 sterl. frinds in this mitting is thought it fitt that there may be ane colection made among frinds in this place for clearing of that mony that is dew to bartholemew gibson." The collection

was made and evidently proved sufficient as in the Monthly Meeting Minutes for First Month, 1699, the satisfactory entry occurs: "All Counts being Cleared with bartholemew gibson proceeding the first of the 10 month 1698 he hath given his discharg of the sam."

In Fifth Month, 1701, it was decided by Edinburgh Monthly Mg. that Georg Moor, son to the deceased Andrew Moor, should stay with Patrick Robison, a Ministering Friend, at Linlithgow, "to be kept at scool to learne to read and writt," and that ten pounds Scots p^r quarter should be paid for the said "georg moor his bed and burding": "it allwise being payed befor hand." Second month, 1702,

Lickwise there was ten shillings and thrupens given out to a publick frind out of the books to be payed in to it again when the anvelrent of that mony of Elizabeth dickson cometh to be payed it being apoynted for that use according to hir dead of donation.

In Ninth Month, 1720, Edinburgh Quarterly Meeting, finding that one John Cook, servant to a Friend at Linlithgow, had been "cast out of his ffather's favour upon acc^t of his owning Truth's Testimoney and being in want of Cloaths and oy^r necessaries," directed that £12 Scots should be sent him.

This meeting [Edinburgh Quarterly Meeting, Sixth Month, 1728] being under some apprehensions of John Jamison's poverty have desired [a Friend of Linlithgow] to acquaint him that we entreate he will acquaint us whensoever his circumstance wants supply and it will be granted to him.

He seems to have been relieved pretty regularly every quarter, and in Sixth Month, 1730, special mention is made of the receipt of "a Letter from John Jameson Signifieing his Gratefull Sence of Friends Kindness and Representing that an years Rent of the Meeting house was due at the term of Whitt: last being Eight pounds Scotts which William Miller J^r [the meeting Treasurer] hath given Jmmediately."

At Edinburgh Monthly Meeting, Eighth Month, 1739, ten shillings was given to George Miller, linen draper, "to Buy three shifts to Widow Kier" and four shillings more "to give her for Subsistance" apparently for one month. In First Month, 1741, Widow Kier received her usual four shillings and a certain "indigent person two shill: and on Shill to help to Buy her a wheel to Spinn on."

To be continued