

owing to the discontinuance of the School on the part of our Friend Selfe Smith. The contiguity of the boys and girls schools recently established at York . . . induce us greatly to doubt whether any occupant will be found for the premises in union with the original design in their erection [so it was decided to dispose of them] [signed] Joseph Pease, William Backhouse, James Backhouse, John Ianson, John Backhouse, John Pease, Joseph Pease, Jr.

Persecutors as "Friends"

The following anecdote of Miles Halhead is culled from Sewel's *History of Quakers* :

" Being brought before the magistrates it was asked him what business he (who dwelt in Westmoreland) had in Devonshire ? to which he answered that he came there to see his old friends whom, formerly, about ten years ago [*circa* 1658] he had acquaintance with. One of the magistrates asked him what were the names of those friends he meant. To which he returned : ' One sir John Coplestone, who was then high-sheriff of Devonshire ; John Page, who was Mayor of Plymouth ; one Justice Howel, who was then the judge of the sessions of Exeter ; and one colonel Buffet, who was also a justice at that time.' One of the magistrates then said to the others : ' Truly, gentlemen, though this man calls these men his friends, yet they have been his persecutors.' Another of the magistrates then gave him an account into what pitiful condition those men were fallen, and how they lost their estates ; nay, Buffet had been committed to prison for high treason, and was escaped out of gaol and not to be seen in his own country. He further said to Halhead : ' Thus I have given you a true account of your old friends ; if these men were your persecutors, you may be sure they will trouble you no more : for if they that trouble you and persecute you have no better fortune than these men, I wish that neither I, nor any of my friends, may have any hand in persecuting of you.' Thus these discreet magistrates suffered him to go his ways without meddling with him."

For these men see Besse, *Sufferings*, under Devonshire.

A Quaker who married out of the Society asked the officiating clergyman why his fee was five shillings. " Prove it to be Scripture and I'll pay." " Very well," said the minister, " What of this verse in Proverbs ' A good wife is a *crown* to her husband.' " " Excellent, friend, here's ten shillings for your fee."