

and editor of "The P.L.A. Monthly" takes his reader along the course of old Father Thames for some seventy miles from the sea, a trip of surprising novelty and absorbing interest, with a multitude of scenes made real by fifty reproductions of the author's beautiful photographs. "The Port of London encloses 700 acres of dock water; the tonnage of vessels coming and going reaches in a year the enormous total of more than fifty-five million tons; a port where the value of incoming and outgoing goods in a year surpasses seven hundred million pounds."

Recent Accessions to D

IN addition to the unstarred literature introduced under the heading "Friends and Current Literature," the following items have been added to D during the last few months:

Francis S. Hare, of Darlington, has presented a hand-drawn "Plan of Jordans Meeting House and Burial Ground, 1798," also an accompanying sheet headed: "Memorandums of the late R. Anderson of Penn," obtained from "my old Schoolfellow Ady Bellamy." The watermark dates the sheet 1825. Adey Bellamy died in 1810.

A typed copy of the *Roake Family* has been received from Charles Edgar Roake, of Fleischmann Laboratory, Charles Point, Peekskill, N.Y. The family has been traced back to Horsell, co. Surrey, at the close of the sixteenth century. In 1774, Joseph and Mary Roake crossed the sea to the island of St. John (now named Prince Edward Island), and in about 1789 the family settled in New York State.

[More respecting Quakerism on Prince Edward Island and the Roake Family may be read in "Bulletin of F.H.A." xii. 75 (1923).]

In 1892 there appeared in the "Pennsylvania Magazine" a sketch of Owen Biddle (1737-1799), of Philadelphia, and this was reprinted with additions in 1892 and again, with much fresh material, in 1927, under the care of James Garrett Biddle, of Wallingford, Pa.¹

Owen was a birthright Friend. At 23 he married Sarah Parke (1742-1794), of Pa. With his brother Clement (1740-1814), who entered the army at the time of the Revolution, he engaged in military pursuits and was disowned by Friends in 1775. About 1783 "he became melancholy and despondent" (writes his biographer). "He viewed his past conduct as blameworthy and culpable, and offered a paper of 'acknowledgement' to the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia. For the remainder of his life he was in close unanimity with Friends."

¹ *A Sketch of Owen Biddle, to which is added a Short Account of the Parke Family, together with a List of his Descendants*, second edition, privately printed in Philadelphia, 1927, with portrait.

From the seven children have come a fine race of men and women. John Biddle (1763-1815) had a drug-store in Philadelphia, next door to Philip Garrett's watchmaking shop, resulting in a marriage-connection between Biddles and Garretts. Clement Biddle (1778-1856) was active in founding the Friends' Asylum at Frankford. Henry Drinker Biddle (1831-1898) was the genealogist of the family. William Biddle (1806-1887) was a prominent Philadelphian. Robert Biddle (1814-1902) was actively helpful in the founding and maintenance of Swarthmore College, as was also his brother, William Canby Biddle (1816-1887). Another brother, Clement Biddle (of Chadd's Ford, 1819-1895), was a Minister among Friends. Philip Cope Garrett (1834-1905) was a prominent Friend, followed by his son, Alfred Cope Garrett (1867—) now well-known. John Biddle Garrett (1836-1924) was a prominent Minister. Lastly, we come to Clement Miller Biddle (1838-1902)—"a man four-square—of home, of business, of religion, and of the community, and a tower of strength in the Society of Friends," and his son of the same name (1876—), who has recently presented a building to house the Friends' Library at Swarthmore College, in memory of his father. The families of Griscom, Rhoads, and Wood also appear in the Biddle book, a copy of which was presented by James G. Biddle, of Wallingford, Pa.

Mrs. Dora Harvey Develin, of Bala, Pa, has presented a copy of her book *Historic Lower Merion and Blockley*, 1927, 146 pp. many illustrations and four maps. There is much of Friendly interest in this attractive book relating to a portion of the "Welsh Tract" in Pennsylvania. Lower Merion Friends' Meeting House is "the oldest house of worship in Pennsylvania," built 1695.

Two letters of Margaret Fox have been presented by the children of Joshua Wheeler Robson, *per* Julia R. Glaisyer:

M. F. to Rachel Abraham, from London, 7 xii. 1684¹/₅, with p.s. and address by Sarah Meade, not in the handwriting of M. Fox.

M. F. to William III, 25 iv. 1698, copy by Sarah Meade. (See *Jnl.* vi. 79-81.)

Photostat copy of agreement between John Borton and certain Indians, *circa* 1680, with Indian signatures. Presented by C. Walter Borton, Moorestown, N.J., owner of the original.

Letter of Daniel Wheeler to Thomas Shillitoe, 28 ii. 1826, referring to the death of the Emperor Alexander I, presented in the name of Mary Ann Warner, of Brighton, and the other great grandchildren of Thomas Shillitoe, *per* J. Edmund Whiting, and printed in this issue.

An edition de luxe of the *Travels of Richard Davies* (1635-1708) has been printed by the Gregynog Press, Newtown, Montgomeryshire (8¹/₄ by 5³/₄, pp. xxi + 162, 42s. net). The text is that of the second edition, printed in 1765, and follows it in spelling, punctuation and use of italics. The

book is beautifully printed on hand-made paper and bound in dark blue canvas. We are informed that the edition (175 copies) has been taken up. The printer, Robert A. Maynard, writes: "You will be interested to know that a fair number of my friends, having bought the book as collectors, have been very delighted with the reading of it. This is rather interesting in view of the fact that the majority of private press books are never read." The book is dated 7 February, 1928.

In a double number of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, April-July, 1926, is printed the "Autobiography of Abel Mills," of McNabb, Illinois (1829-1919), occupying nearly 150 pages and with portraits and illustrations. Abel was a pioneer of Illinois, and his writing is replete with the history of his early settlement in a new country, including what may be termed technical details. The natal home was in Washington County, Pa.; the family went west in 1840 and settled in Putnam County, Ills. Abel Mills was three times married. He was a prominent worker in local affairs. He attended the first session of Illinois Y.M., 13 ix. 1875. Copy received *per* R. W. Kelsey.

A longer review of this autobiography may be read in "Bulletin of F.H.A." Autumn, 1928.

Photostat copy of order of release for those in Cumberland who refused the oath of allegiance, if they or their parents or nearest relations had been sufferers in the late Rebellion. 27 February, 1684/5. Presented by Reginald L. Hine, F.S.A., of Hitchin.

An Atlas for the Use of Schools, designed for the Younger Students in Geography. By Isaac Payne, London, 1808. Presented by Ellen M. Dawes, of London and Bournemouth. Isaac Payne (d. 1845) was a schoolmaster, of Epping, Essex. There are geographical Exercises and Questions, and twenty maps—a very interesting addition to D.

Marian Ellis, of West Walk, Leicester, has presented a copy of *Letters and Memorials of Eliza Ellis* (499 pages, printed for private circulation in 1883), compiled by Margaret Ellis, sister of the author. Eliza Ellis (1825-1879) was the second daughter of John and Priscilla Ellis, of Beaumont Leys, near Leicester. The letters refer mainly to subjects of family interest, but here and there we have gleaned information respecting Friends of note. We read regarding William Tanner, of Somerset: "It does me good to see and listen to a man so cultivated and devoid of sectarian narrowness, confessing his entire and heartfelt belief in the 'glad tidings of the Gospel,'" and respecting Edward Brewin (d. 1870): "The influence of his self-denying example, and of his cheerful, happy godliness was felt by us all."

Sarah Pennock Sellers, of 60 South State Road, Upper Darby, Pa., has presented a copy of her book—*David Sellers, Mary Pennock Sellers*. We hope to refer to this volume again.