

Letters of William Forster of Tottenham

Continued from vol. xxvi, p. 26

HENTON BROWN

Wm. Forster, to his sister, Elizabeth Forster, at Samuel Galton & Son, Merchants, Birmingham, dated 7 mo. 6th, 1775 :

“ The Yearly Meeting was thought to be as large as usual, many of the younger Rank attended it, and most of the eminent Ministering Friends in England. On the first sitting our ancient Friend Hinton Brown came in, supported by two, being indeed very infirm and feeble. After sitting a few minutes, he expressed his Thankfulness in broken Expressions that he was supported till then by that Power and Arm which had been the Stay of his Youth, and which he then renewedly felt ; advising all to adhere to its divine admonitions. This was explained to the Meeting by Dr. Fothergill, which had a very solemn effect on the whole Meeting.

“ On the sixth, Afternoon, he also came in & again expressed the Satisfaction he felt on seeing his Friends once more, and advised all to be willing to give up everything to the requirings of the most High, which wou'd undoubtedly procure them that peace of which he was then a Sharer, and support them thro many Trials ; this was also explained by Jno. Fry. It appears as if this was his final Adieu, tho' he has continued much longer than was expected. He has been favor'd in this long Illness to see Things in a very different Light to what he formerly did ; I well remr. our worthy Sophia [Hume] some time before her Decease giving an acceptable acct. of a Visit to him, in which he expressed the great Concern he then felt for his too far deviating from the Principles he professed and once publicly owned and supported.”

Henton Brown (1698-1775) was a banker, of Lombard Street.

Elizabeth Forster (1745-1841) lived in the Galton family. She is frequently mentioned as “ Lizzie Forster ” in the autobiography of Mary Anne SchimmelPenninck, née Galton, see pp. 45ff, 51, 117, 180f.

MINISTRY AT TOTTENHAM

William Forster to his sister Tabitha, 18 ii. 1778, referring to a meeting at Tottenham :

“ I never heard anyone so powerful and so weighty in his doctrine as ROBERT WALKER, or any who appear'd to keep more to the Spring & to its movings alone, if I had any sense of the same.

“ Honest THOMAS CARRINGTON in his several Remarks was very short and very expressive ; also RICHARD BAKER very feelingly indeed, and H. WILKINS treated on the several Subjects like a Scholar & Philosopher, yet not without their due weight.”

Robert Walker and Thomas Carrington were from North America ; Richard Baker was a Dover Friend ; Henry Wilkins lived at Cirencester.

FANNY DODSHON

William Forster, 11 i. 1775 :

“ Fanny Dodshon is now in the City—how much longer will stay I know not. She is a Minister I esteem much and shou’d with pleasure attend her company, but unluckily for me she is surrounded by so great a Circle that we lesser have no chance of entering it.”

The Minister and His Boots

Journal of James Bellangee (1788-1853), of Ohio, when the writer was at Indiana Yearly Meeting, 1837 :

“ Went to see our friend George Hatton before meeting, and he soon began to find fault with me, saying : ‘ James, have you no Elders at Stillwater Quarterly Meeting ? ’ I said, ‘ Yes, plenty of them.’ ‘ Then,’ said George, ‘ I think they are good for nothing, for I see thee has square-toed boots on, which are not fit for a preacher to wear in the gallery.’ I then asked him if he had no superfluous things about him. He looked at himself and said, ‘ Not that I know of ; does thee see any ? ’ I told him it was not my place to judge him ; he must be his own judge about his dress, and I would be about mine—for my boots did not hurt me.”

WORTHY WIVES.—Letter from Thomas Shillitoe to Dykes Alexander, dated Tottenham Midx : 9th of 11 Mo. 1790 :

“ P.S. My Dear love to thy Wife in which my Dear Wife Unites. I sent p Jo^s. Head one of my hearty Shakes for thee & Wife but doubt of his delivering it to the full as he complain’d of it him self. I was favoured to Reach home well and found all in Good order as if I had been at home, agreeable to my Great Masters Promise, and my dear Wife Gladly Received me, not as poor Luke Cocks did him with the Joint-Stool. What a mercy, my Dear Dykes, that we are favor’d with Such Partners in Life as I am and I believe thou art. may we Walk worthy of it”

From the original letter in D.

Annals of Southport and District. A Chronological History of North Meols, A.D. 1086 to 1886, by E. Bland :

“ 1857. Nov. 29th. A lady 102 years old preached at the Meeting House, Lord Street ” (page 124).

“ 1865. April 9th. Friends’ Meeting House, Portland St. Opened ” (page 151).

Information from R. Muschamp.