

## Extracts from the A.R.B. MSS.

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Early this century, in a dark corner of a fireproof room at Devonshire House, London, was discovered a bundle marked "Early Manuscripts." From evidence then apparent but now lost, these manuscripts were worked over by Abram Rawlinson Barclay when he was preparing his *Letters, etc., of Early Friends*, published in 1841—hence the name—and were lost to sight and knowledge for more than half a century. They number two hundred and fifty and are dated from 1654 to 1688.

The extracts have been taken from a copy made by Charlotte Fell Smith in 1915-16 and have been checked with the originals, now bound in two volumes in D.

*Notes are only supplied to Friends respecting whom no notes appear in the Cambridge edition of "The Journal of George Fox," or the Supplement to "The Journal."*

### I

#### ROBERT FOWLER'S VOYAGE IN THE WOODHOUSE, 1657

Friends boarded the vessel on the first day of 4 mo. (June), and were visited by William Dewsbury and Michael Thomson, at the Downs. After twice touching shore—at Plymouth and South Yarmouth—they lost sight of land, and on the last day of 5 mo. they made land at Long Island. Richard Dowdney, Robert Hodgson, Sarah Gibbons and Mary Wetherhead landed at New Amsterdam, also Dorothy Waugh.

Humphry Norton is mentioned and Christopher Holder.  
(Endorsed by George Fox)

ROBERT FOWLER was a ship-builder of Burlington (Bridlington), East Yorkshire. When no sea-captain could be found who would receive a Friend as a passenger to America, he offered the vessel he was building, the *Woodhouse*, which accomplished a remarkable voyage.

*A Quaker's Sea Journal*, 1659; *Collectitia*, 1824; etc.; MSS. in D.

ROBERT HODGSON was a Friend, of County Durham. He remained some time in America, returning to England in 1669, but visiting the New World again.

Bowden, *Hist. of Friends in America*, 1850, i. 333; *F.P.T.*

## II

WILLIAM AMES TO MARGARET FELL. *From Frankfort on the Oder in Brandenburg, 18 ii. 1661*

After a warm salutation he writes that he has come from the Palatinate "where I was som time with oure dear friends there, and was with the prince who shewed more friendship then ever," but leaves William Caton to enlarge. He has been through Bohemia where "the people are generally slaves within and without," and has been three weeks in Frankfort. He proposes going by water to "Dantzic and that side of Poland." "I have an honest man with me, a friend of palatine, who could not be Cleare to let me pass alone."

In a postscript, signed W. C., and dated from Amsterdam, 26 ii. 1661, Caton reports receipt of a letter for M. F. from some writer "farre Remote in a strang Land."

(Endorsed by George Fox)

The prince was probably CHARLES LOUIS, son of Frederick V; died 1680.

## III

WILLIAM AMES TO MARGARET FELL. *From Bristol, 2 vii. 1656*

Gives particulars of proceedings in Holland. Reported at Rotterdam to be a Jesuit. Was at Middelburg, Flushing, and Amsterdam. At the last place he was well received at the "meeting place of y<sup>e</sup> English," but was cast out of a meeting of English Brownists. Visited also Haarlem and Vlaeden<sup>1</sup> and returned to Rotterdam, "wheare the Contenders were so made manifest that a separation began to be made betwixt those that owned the truth and the Contenders and a silent meeting was determined."

His proposed return to England was stopped by receipt of a letter from M. Fell, announcing the arrival of John Stubbs, "which meeting by me will never be forgotten." The two visited places already mentioned, also Zaandam, Alkmaar, and Utrecht. At Flushing they had "a meeting Consisting of severall sorts of people but all Chayned by

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps, Vlaardingen, near Rotterdam.

the eternall power, that although the meeting was very large yet not one word objected." They were accompanied to the boat by several Friends "great in the outward."

"We have ben with george and we are to pass into Ireland and from thence through Scotland and into fflanders and through holland and into Jermamy and much I see of passing into denmark."

(Endorsed by George Fox)

IV

WILLIAM AMES TO MARGARET FELL. *From Amstelveen near Amsterdam, 13 vi. 1658*

"Thou knowest I love thee, and great Cause I have toe love thee above all others that ever I yet saw, because such an overflowing of wisdom and love which is in thee I never yet in such a measure Could be sensibel of in any other."

He complains of the non-receipt of letters during his eight or nine weeks' tarrience in Holland—"truly if it were not that the mighty powerfull presence of the lord was with me . . . friends might think I was not owned of friends in england because not one letter have I received since I Came over, except one from William Caton." "I doe greatly desire toe heare from thee."

[Addressed] ffor my dear sister margeret ffell at Swarthmore in Lancashire. Leave this with George Tailor at his Shop in Kendall in Westmore-land.

(Endorsed by George Fox)

V

WILLIAM AMES TO WILLIAM CATON. *Near Amsterdam, 22 v. 1658*

"Here is more apearance of truth then ever I saw before, and more desires toe speak with me then yet I am free toe answee."

He wishes to pass into Friesland and Germany but cannot leave, so urges Caton to come. "This day or yesterday B. ff [Benjamin Furly] received a letter from J. S. [John Stubbs] and S. ff [Samuel Fisher] from Venice

w<sup>ch</sup> signified there intents toe pass towards rooame where they mention that John parrot and his Companion is in the inquisition.”

(Endorsed by George Fox)

## VI

WILLIAM AMES TO GEORGE FOX. *From Harlingen in Vriesland*, 14 viii. 1658

Refers to G. Fox's request to have his book to the Jews translated into Hebrew and printed. “ I have been diligent and have gotten it translated into dutch because he who is toe translate it into hebrew Cannot understand english, and I have spoken with one who hath been a Jew toe translate it intoe hebrew, but since I have understood that the Common people of the Jewes Can not speak hebrew but the greatest part Can speak high dutch and therefore I with som others according toe oure knowledge of the thing doe Iudge it would be of farr more service in high dutch then in hebrew, because it then would not only be of service for the Jewes but likewise to others . . . for if it be in hebrew they who can read it will not, and they who would Cannot.”

John Higgins is reported to be in Holland, “ who is farr more fitt for that place because of his blamles Conversation then many others who have a greater name.”

(Endorsed by George Fox)

## VII

WILLIAM AMES TO GEORGE FOX. *From Amsterdam*, 3 vii. 1661

As desired in a letter from G. Fox to William Caton, the writer sends a full account of his work and suffering in the Palatinate, Gelderland and Cleveland. At Heidelberg he visited the Prince and presented him with books. The Prince questioned him regarding “ that report concerning friends riseinge against the king. I told him I knew it was a false report, he shewing me the diurnall printed in english, for it was Just about that time, but I could not see that he was very ready to beleeve any such thinge of us, and alsoe

the Captaine of his guard said that he had written (to witt the Cap<sup>t</sup>) to a good friend and had received answere that we were innocent in it." Further conversation followed about the priests and Friends' sufferings. " I also manifested the love of friends towards him and told him his name was mentioned in one of those books for his devotion, &c."

After " good service with a Countis (so called in english)," he passed with a Palatine Friend as companion, towards Bohemia and Poland, where " people were living in all wickedness and especialy drunckennes, adultery and murder," and finally returned to Holland.

(Endorsed by George Fox)

## VIII

WILLIAM AMES TO GEORGE FOX. *Dantzic, 1st day 4th mo. 1661*

Brief account of work in Baptist assemblies and further note of the behaviour of the " prince of palatine."

Prospect of travel through Poland.

(Endorsed by George Fox)

## IX

WILLIAM AMES TO MARGARET FELL. *Amsterdam, 13 vii. 1658*

Expresses a desire to hear from her. " We have a pretty large meeting of ffriends. I have had much opposion Since I came over by professors and philosophers and such like."

Dear love to Elizabeth Stubbs and the rest.

(Endorsed by George Fox)

## X

WILLIAM AMES TO GEORGE FOX. " *Written at sonderlen neere the sea,*" 26 ii. 1656

After much adulatory expression, he writes : " I passed to sonderling upon the fift day wheare I was kindly received by our friends, and John Richardson past with me and

spake to Roger harper concerning provision for my journey ”  
to Holland.

(Endorsed by George Fox)

ROGER HARPER lived in County Durham, probably at Sunderland. He paid nineteen shillings from the Swarthmoor Fund towards the expenses of Ames's journey. (*Jnl. F.H.S.* vi. 128, ix. 56.)

## XI

WILLIAM AMES TO MARGARET FELL. *From Bristol,*  
18 viii. 1659

Reports “ passing for Ireland about some outward occasions.” Is desirous of having a letter from M. F.

## XII

JOHN STUBBS

A long account of the “ passages ” of John Stubbs and William Caton into Holland, 3 mo. 1655, shewing the difficulty of securing a passage from Dover and at last obtaining one from Newcastle—landed at Flushing. They were invited, on conditions, to attend the English church and then warned not to come, but, going, “ after all was ended the one of us begun to speake, but the priest said: ‘ Sirrah! you should have put off y<sup>r</sup> hatt’ and came running hastily downe without his hatt or gloves to p<sup>r</sup>vent us.” His example was followed by his people who fell violently upon them, and they were hurried out of the town, just escaping arrest. Middelburg was next visited and they were entertained by a Scotchman. Attending the church with their host, they were haled forth and “ sore p<sup>r</sup>secuted in the streets with their fists ” and were not allowed to enter the house they had left. Another resting place was found, and after a conference with the priest and his Elders, whom they left in great heat and rage, they journeyed to Rotterdam where they were received by an Englishman, and closely questioned by a priest, and “ many dangerous snares layd for us ”

This is a very full account occupying nearly three folio pages in a small and clear handwriting.

## XIII

THOMAS THURSTON, JOSIAH COALE AND THOMAS CHAPMAN. *Account of their passage by land and water from Virginia to New England*

“ When wee went from verginia 2. 6th month 1658 after about 100 Miles travell wee Cam amongst the Indians [in the margin is the name Susquehanna] who Courtiously Receved us and Entertayned us in theyr hutts with much Respect, and from that place after two or three dayse being ther with Diet free, severall of them acompanied us abut 200 miles farther through y<sup>e</sup> wildernes or woods.”

A very full account of the kind help of the Indians—  
“ Whilst T. Thurston was sick the Indians would goe forth some hours in to the Woods to seek for Wild Turkyes to make broth for him. When wee Cam amongst the dutch they presently put us in prison and kept us ther some howers tell towards Evening, and then Cam with Souldiers and Caried my frend who was not well, and pulled mee along to ABoate, and Banished us over to A serten Island,” from which they were taken by some Indians in a boat and landed on Long Island. “ The dutch sayd they Marvelled how wee Cam through amongst them, for If they should goe but a Litle way from theyr plantations, the Indians would kill them. Wee found more favor and Christian Like Carage amongst them who Releevd us in our nessesity then we did amongst y<sup>e</sup> dutch (Caled Christians) ”

Thurston not being well enough to go further, Coale visited about on Long Island, crossed to the mainland, and travelled on to Rhode Island and then to “ Martens vinyard ” to visit some Indians there, and also “ a nother place Neare plimouth Coloney.” After imprisonment at Plymouth and liberation, he came to “ y<sup>e</sup> Indian Sagamores hous, which is theyre king, who sayd that the English men did not Love quakers, But sayd quakers are honest men, and doe noe harme, and this is noe English mans sea nor land, and quakers shall Com here and welcom ”

[addressed] Thes ffor

Georg Bishopp

To Bee d d d

Portions of this letter, headed "Josiah Cole to George Bishop," appeared in Bowden's *History*, i. 123, also in Janney's *History of Friends*, 1859, i. 432. (The "word indistinct" in the former is "diet free.")

THOMAS CHAPMAN was of Virginia. See *Early Friends in Maryland*, by J. Saurin Norris, 1862.

The island of MARTIN'S (MARTHA'S) VINEYARD lies about five miles from the shore of New England. In later years Martha's Vineyard was visited by David Sands and Hugh Judge, there being Friends there named Coffin. Hannah C. Backhouse, still later, paid a visit to the Indians on the island.

Agnes Harrison (Lady Macdonell) wrote a story, "Martin's Vineyard," in 1872. Various references in D.

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## Friends Historical Society

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### The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held at Friends House, on the 1st of May. Mabel Richmond Brailsford, president, was in the chair and read her presidential address on "May Drummond." Norman Penney was appointed president and Arthur Rowntree vice-president. There was a good attendance of Friends and others. The presidential address is appearing in *Friends Quarterly Examiner*.

### Statement of Accounts in connection with Volume xxvi of the Journal, 1929 and Supplements

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1928 .. ..	22	7	11	Insurance .. ..	5	2	
Subscriptions, 1929 ..	83	18	9	Postage .. ..	11	0	0
Sales .. ..	12	1	6	Stationery .. ..	5	7	1
Supplement 14 ("Cornish Sufferings") ..	8	4	0	Meeting for Sufferings, 6 copies of State Papers .. ..	1	10	0
Supplement 15 ("Quaker Language") ..	9	0	3	Printing of Journal, Vol. xxvi. .. ..	62	19	9
				Supplement 15 ("Quaker Language") ..	7	7	10
				Allocated to "Pen Pictures," Part II ..	30	0	0
				Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1929 .. ..	17	2	7
	<u>£135</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>£135</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>

Examined with books and vouchers and found correct,  
24 iii. 1930.

AUGUSTUS DIAMOND.