

London Yearly Meeting, 1753

1st-day 6 mo. 3 Meetings at Gracious Street and Devonshire House, present Mary Peisley, Susanna Morrice and Phebe Dodge.

6mo. 6. At Gracious Street, Mercy Bell, Mary Ellington and Susanna Morrice preached.

6mo. 8. At meeting John Churchman, Samuel Fothergill, Uncle Darby, Mary Peisley, &c. Later at a sitting of the Meeting for Sufferings, informed by Thomas Whitehead of Mercy Bell's getting admittance by Lord Anson's means (solicited by Sophia Hume) to the Bar of the House of Lords, while the King and Commons were there, and that after the business was done and the King and Commons and some of the Lords were departed that she had an opportunity of speaking some words—that they behaved civilly; also a Committee was appointed to consider Mercy Bell's proposal to get an opportunity with the King's.

6mo. 10. First-day was at Gracious St. Meeting both forenoon and afternoon, was a great number of People, especially the forenoon when there was almost as many as the room and gallery would hold, sitting and standing very hot. Alexander Hoskins, Saml. Fothergill, John Bell, Mercy Bell, etc., preached and Kitty Paton prayed.

6mo. 11. In the afternoon at 4 began the first meeting for business, which proceeded as follows—first by reading the preamble; then the Meeting was acquainted that it fell to the northern District to choose a Clerk, which counties was called over and their representatives names put down. Then these County Representatives were ordered into the Chamber to pitch upon a Clerk. While we were doing so the old Clerk went on in calling the remainder of the Counties over. We returned William Dilworth for Clerk, who was accepted. Then the Committee of Appeals was appointed and ordered that no appeals be received after the finishing of the meeting tomorrow afternoon. The Committee for auditing the Yearly Meeting's Accounts was appointed. Then the Sufferings was called for, and it was proposed to print a number of A. Pearson's "Great Case of Tythes," with the

Appendix ; and some Friends appointed to consider the number and charge. A Committee was appointed to draw the Yearly Meeting Epistle and consider the Sufferings and inspect them.

6mo. 12. Meeting for worship at Gracious Street—Edmund Peckover and Isaac Sharpless preached. At 3 the Meeting for Business began ; the state of the Country was called for and read, also some testimonies for public friends.

Two closed packets were offered and referred to some friends who brought an account they were not proper to be laid before the Meeting. Afterwards Samuel Fothergill made a pathetic exhortation arising from the considerations of the public friends deceased, and William Pitt prayed. Meeting arose between 7 and 8, adjourned till tomorrow at 4.

6mo. 13. Was at the meeting for worship at Gracious Street, begun at 9, ended past 12. Alexander Hoskins preached excellently. Mercy Bell also preached and prayed. In the afternoon the foreign epistles were read—one from Ireland, 2 from Scotland, one from Amesterdam, Several from America. William Brown informed the meeting that a large parcel of frds' Books was lying unbound in the Chamber at Amsterdam, and proposing that this Meeting should be at the charge of binding some of them in order for their distribution ; it was referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to get an Account and act accordingly. The Committee on account of Ant. Pearson's " Case of Tythe " bring an account that they think 5,000 should be printed at 6d. each. Agreed to. The Committee for auditing the Accounts bring word they have done it and find them right (the balance remaining, am informed, is upwards of £600). The Meeting called over to see what business : proposed from Yorkshire to have a Meeting yearly for Women established at London ; proposed by Saml. Fothergill to have a Select Meeting for Ministers and Elders established, and referred to next adjournment. Two proposals from Bristol and Lincoln in regard to settlements and arbitrations referred to the Committee for the Epistle, &c.

6mo. 12. The Meeting went on the Yorkshire proposal, which was seconded by Lancashire—occasioned a good deal of debate—but nothing concluded. Afternoon William Brown, John Churchman, &c., spoke for it, a proposal to the same effect from the Women's Meeting in London and signed

by several was introduced by Susannah Morris, Sophia Hume, Kitty Payton, Phebe Dodge, Molly Peasley, and Molly Weston, and one more, which proposal with another recommendary of the same subject was referred to some friends to consider whether proper to be laid before the Meeting, the Women friends in the meantime remaining in our Meeting. In the interim of report of the Committee in the Lincoln, Bristol and Norwich affairs, the first on Arbitrations and the two last on settlements was received and agreed to ; also the report of some friends appointed by last Yearly Meeting to inspect the state of Colchester two weeks Meeting. The friends appointed to examine the Women friends papers returned and reported that they had agreed that one of them be laid before the Meeting, but had not agreed unanimously with regard to the other, accordingly one of them was read (those two papers were presented by Sophia Hume accompanied by the rest). Susannah Morris and Kitty Payton spoke in support of the proposition. The Women retired and the Meeting on the Yorkshire proposition, after some little debate, agreed and a minute made expressing that it had been considered and that it might remain on friends minds, &c., to next year. I should have observed that in the intervals part of the Correspondent Book was called over.

6mo. 15. The Meeting met at ten. The Correspondence book finished. The proceedings of the Meeting for Sufferings laid before the meeting, with an account they had proceeded on the sollicitation to Parliament, that the Quarterly Meeting of York had taken upon them to advise against it, which the Meeting rather censured. Broke up between 12 and 1. Samuel Fothergills proposal is referred to the Committee for the Yearly Meeting Epistle for them to prepare it to be laid before this Meeting. Met at 4. A minute brought in by the friends in regard to the proceedings of the Meeting for Sufferings and rather censuring the interference of Yorkshire friends, &c., which after some debate and alteration passed the house. Ordered that no further proceedings in the sollicitation go on at present. The Friends appointed to consider Samuel Fothergill's proposition brought in their report expressing their concurrence with the establishing a Yearly Meeting of Ministers and others to begin on the Seventh day at 10 preceding the Yearly Meeting and to adjourn during that Meeting occasionally, to have power to

appoint Inspectors during the Yearly Meeting to attend the meetings for worship and to report to the new Meeting—debated between 7 and 8. The Meeting adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

6mo. 16. Proceeded on Samuel Fothergill's proposition which, after a long debate, is referred to the consideration of the next Yearly Meeting. The Committee for the Yearly Meeting and Sufferings brought in their report, being several remarks on the Sufferings brought in, which are left to the Meeting for Sufferings to make use of and send down to the Counties concerned and give suitable advice on. Ordered that the surplus of the "Sufferings" in 2 Vols. be left to the Meeting for Sufferings to dispose of: ordered that the Representatives for the future give in their names to Benj. Bourne as soon as possible in order to enter and forward the business. A new Query ordered to be added for the next year, viz. "How are the advices from the Meeting recommended, and how are they coming in?" The remainder of the minute of last year read: proposed by Dr. Fothergill that after the close of the afternoon meeting of business, the meeting retire, directly, instead of a formal parting meeting. Agreed to, broke up between 12 and 1. Adjourned till 4, then the Yearly Meeting Epistle and select Epistles read, debated and agreed on, 7,000 of the former ordered to be printed, left to friends to publish the written one as they see occasion. It being proposed in the forenoon that there should be no formal parting meeting, but that in the afternoon after the business was over, the Meeting should retire—accordingly when all was done, they did so without going out, when Samuel Fothergill preached and lashed the opposers pretty smartly. Wm. Pitt, John Scott, Jno. Churchman also preached; and Mercy Bell who had got into the Gallery nigh the conclusion of the meeting also preached.

From a copy, written by William G. Norris, c. 1903, contained in Norris MSS., vol. xiii, in D.

There is not any intimation of the writer, but we have particulars of clothing taken up with him.

"For London in *Box*: 10 shirts, 6 Neck-Cloths, 8 Stocks, 2 Night-Caps, 4 Silk Handkerchiefs, 4 pr. of stockings.

"In *Baggs*: 4 shirts and 1 on, 1 Neckcloth, 2 Nightcaps, 2 pair Stockings, 2 pair Snuggs, 6 Handkerchiefs, 3 pair gloves, Belt, Straps, Hatt band."