

Extracts from the A.R.G. MSS.

Continued from vol. xxvii. p. 24

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."

XIV

ELIZABETH HOOTON TO GEORGE FOX. "from
Yorke Castle, June 11, 1653.

"divers freinds as the[y] were goeing to a meeting at Crake y^e last first day y^e Preest haveing intellegence, raised y^e towne with staves & clubs & resisted them. . . . one Capt Weddall had his horse stricken downe under him."

(Endorsed by George Fox)

A facsimile of the letter appears in *Elizabeth Hooton*, by Emily Manners, 1914.

Weddell becomes Siddall in Letter xvii., the latter being probably the correct name, see Besse's *Sufferings*, Index under Yorkshire.

XV

THOMAS ALDAM TO CAPTAIN STODDARD from *York Castle, 19 Feb. 1652.*

"Deare ffrend Captaine Stothards"—The writer rejoices that several of the military profession have become convinced, and continues: "deare ffrend I doe not Looke at thee nor any as to put my Confidence in the Arme of flesh,

but my reioyceinge is in that Christ hath made himselfe manifest in flesh in you.

“ I desire thee to send mee the discoverie of the false Temple and the true Temple, if it be printed wth the other of the Priests of the world. Samuell Buttivant did write to my brother Benjamin [Nicholson] that they would bee printed the 3: day of ffebruarie & I desire thee to send them imediately as thou Canst. Send me 200 of them or 300 as Samuell Buttivant doth declare would bee printed. Send mee word in thy Letter what thou didst pay for the Printeing of them & I shall use some meanes to send the money. Doe not fail me. Fellow prisoners salute you.”

In 1653 appeared *A Brief Discovery of a threefold Estate of Antichrist now extant in the World:—Viz., a Description of (1) The True and False Temple, etc.* This was written by Thomas Aldam, Benjamin Nicholson, John Harwood and Thomas Lawson, and to it Buttivant wrote a preface “ To the Reader.”

XVI

THOMAS ALDAM AND ELIZABETH HOOTON TO
GEORGE FOX. *From Prison in York.* ? 1654.

T.A.'s portion :

“ There was two of Judge ffell daughters came to vs to prison & did stay wth us a prettie while wth us They was verye solidd & loveinge; wee was moved to speake some words to them to w^{ch} there was noe gaine sayeing.” On a previous First-day Friends were present from “ Balby, Selby & Mauton [? Mawton, that is Malton].” Some of his “ Carnall frends ” urged him to confess that he disturbed the peace of the people, a statement which would satisfy the magistrates and obtain his release, but he refused. “ I did speake nothinge but the truth.” He refers to his wife who is “ kept mightie ffree to give mee up to my inward freedome.”

E.H.'s portion :

Jane Vallance supplied their necessities. “ Timothie Westobie Brunt wife was this 7th of July with us ” and sends love. She cannot write much as “ a rume is come into my eyes.” “ My husband seeks to have my outward libertie w^{ch} is my bondage.”

(Endorsed by George Fox)

XVII

THOMAS ALDAM TO CAPTAIN STODDARD. *From York Castle, 21 June, 1653.*

The arrival of Friends to hold a meeting at Krake, eight miles from York, was announced by the tolling of the church-bell; priest and people "met ffriends at the townend with great clubbs." Captain Webb's horse was felled and his wife and himself thrown off. Captain Siddal (? Weddall, see Letter xiv] and his wife were among the injured. Friends withdrew and went elsewhere.

In York John Coale preached in the streets. The mob broke open the doors of Cornet Denham's house where Coale lodged and threatened "to poole his wife in peeces for harbouringe such A fellow there." Coale, who had come from London, was taken out of the house and ill-used.

"Here is A letter w^{ch} came from my deare Brother George ffox w^{ch} hee did desire mee to sent it to thee & to deliver it to the Generall & Heades of the people to Let them have copies of it. There was one other w^{ch} he sent Before. If thou had freedome to have got them printed together: & that of mine w^{ch} came to thee to bee sent to General Cromwell wth that of Richard ffarnsworths to get them All printed in Booke; or gett these Two of Georges Printed together & let mee Receive some of them shortly." Love sent to John Hodgson, Richard Hatten and wife.

[addressed]

ffor Captaine Stoddard in Long Alley in Moreffieldes in London this wth Care.

Hatten appears as Hatter in a letter from Elizabeth Hooton to Amor Stoddard (D. Portfolio 35. 4; life of Hooton by Emily Manners.)

XVIII

FRANCIS HOWGILL TO GEORGE FOX. *From Appleby (1652).*

James Nayler is with him. "James Naylers wife is come over to apelby with two Brethrene but the Jayler would not sufer them to come in the house but his wife is kind to us and tender and was made to fetch them in to the house and growes

in love & truth. We sent thee a Copy of the Examination & also of all the pasesges of the prest as neare as we could."

(Endorsed by George Fox)

The " Examination " was probably a copy of the document now preserved among Spence MSS. and printed in *Camb. Jnl.* i. 63. The priest was probably Dr. William Marshall, of Lancaster.

XIX

FRANCIS HOWGILL TO GEORGE FOX. "*apelby I know nether day nor moneth.*"

" My dear Brother James is bould in our god and the Cause of his Impresonment is that he denied two words of god and witesed Christ in him undevided I am acused for witesing agayn all the prest of England that taught for hire . . . & for thouing a Justis of peace & for Keping my hat on. Col Benson came this day to Apelby & would have taken us away with an other Justis to be at liberty to the sesions but nether James nor I was fre till all the prests and country might be brought in."

XX

JOHN CAMM AND FRANCIS HOWGILL TO MARGARET FELL. *March the 27, 1654.*

" . . . Affter longe waitinge in greatt ffeare lest we should not have spokken vnto the great man O: P: yet the 12 day affter we Cam in to London the Lord maid way that we Cam into him into his Chamber when ther wasse none but him sself & his 2 men. it was about six a Clocke at night we had most parte of an hower time with him wher we delivered thy Letter unto his own hand & he seemed to Receive it thanckfully he is plaussable in his words & said thou wear a good womman he had hard much good of the but he is to wise in Comprehension & to highe in notion to Receive truth in plainnes & demonstration of the spiritt he gathered the substance of all words we spack vnto him & Judged them in his Reasson & what he Could Comprehend out of them so he toke them & he went about to question whether they weare the word of the Lord, or not by his

Carnall Reassoon but he argues strongly for the preists & for the popeish law to vp hould them & pleads for every mans Liberty & none to disterbe an other & soe he would keep vp him selfe by getting or keepeing fflaue with all & soe sin must be vphoulden by a Law he is ffull of subtility & Can stand on every one It wase tould vs he vused to weare Rich aparrell but he had a grey Rugh Cotte on wass not worth three shilings a yeard when we Cam to him he had hard we weare plain men & he Condesended vnto vs he offered vs money or any thinge we needed but we denyed to tak any thinge ffrom him soe he desired vs to leave him he wase tyered with bussynes & we should Com to him within a day or tow again soe we shall discharge our Consseinces to him in the sight of God & leav it vpon his Consseince whether he will heare or fforbeare.

“ After we had waited about ffive dayes we wear moved to write a Letter vnto him & maid vse of Captain Howward to gett it to him or else we should not have gatten admittance to him, but Really he is in great danger to be lost ffor he hath gott the fform of truth but ffeights against the power of truth ffor he houlds that all the worships of this nation is the worship of God but the blind Cannot Judge of truth. I shall say noe more.”

To be continued

The Family of Thomas and Margaret Fell

Reading through the recent life of George Fox, written by Rufus M. Jones, we met the statement that Margaret Fell “ became the mother of nine children, of whom seven daughters and one son were living at the time of Judge Fell’s death in 1658.”

Search among the several pedigrees of the family—*British Friend*, iii ; Barber, *Furness and Cartmel Notes* ; Crosfield, *Margaret Fox* ; etc., revealed no intimation of a family of more than eight children.

But the mother herself is the authority for the statement that there were *nine* children :

“ We liv’d together twenty-six Years, in which time we had *nine* Children ” (auto. Relation in *Works*, 1710, p. 2).

The succession of the seven daughters seems to have been established (*Jnl. F.H.S.* vi. 162). There are various spaces between the births of several of them which might have been occupied by a child that died young. The son George may have been the third or fourth in the family—born *c.* 1639.