

The Martha Spriggs Collection

By the kindness of Gulielma Binyon, Henwick Grove, Worcester, we have been able to give a month's study to the volume of Quaker manuscripts which she has inherited from her grandmother, Martha Spriggs.

We have been granted leave to copy items from the volume and readers may expect to find a number of these excerpts in the pages of *The Journal*. There are letters from James Nayler, Thomas Loe, Charles Marshall, Francis Howgill, William Dewsbury, Jean de Marcillac, Anthony Benezet, May Drummond and many other early, medieval and modern Friends.

Here are a few of the short items :

THE CONVERSION OF JOHN BEAUFOY

Letter from John Beaufoy to Elizabeth Webb, from Evesham, 1711—giving details of his conversion under the ministry of Elizabeth Jacob—“ meetings were tedious to me and the company of Friends an unsupportable burden ”—“ meetings were become a pleasure and I longed for the return of meeting days.”

There is also a letter from Anthony Wm. Boehm to John Beaufoy, London, January the 12th, 1713/14, and a scrap dated July the 8th 1714.

For the Beaufoy family see *Jnl. F.H.S.* vii. x. xiv. xxvii. xxviii.; for Elizabeth Webb see iv. vi. x. xi. xxv.; for Elizabeth Jacob, see x. xiii. xxviii.; for A. W. Boehm (1673-1722), see x.

A WISE SUGGESTION

Epistle from the Circular Y.M. held in Bristol, 1726—signed by Alexander Arscott—with the following addition :

“ Dear ffreinds

“ I am Desired to acquaint you that the next Circular Yearly Meeting is to be held on the second first day of y^e next seventh month. And it is also desired it may be proposed to the Quarterly Meetings of every county that constitutes this Meeting to consider whether it may not be of service to appoint some ffreinds in a prudent way to Observe and inform themselves some time after said Circular Yearly Meeting is Ended what reception the Testimony of ffreinds has had among the people, and that Report be made to the next yearly meeting in this city.”

For Alexander Arscott see *Jnl. F.H.S.* ii. ix.

TACE (SOWLE) RAYLTON

There is a receipt for eight copies of Besse's “ Sufferings,” 4 mo. 2, 1745, signed by Luke Hinde “ for my aunt T. Raylton and self.” The note of relationship is informing.

LETTER FROM MARY KNOWLES

“ Basinghall St. No. 7, Aug. 10.

“ My dear Friend

Thy kind letter lost its way for a little time but came this morning after George had seen Frd Finch ; and he desires me to say that he doubts

not of finding in the scene & the society of Thorp Lee all that he shall desire. Thy two sprightly Boys (so late a boy himself) will be exceeding pleasant to him ; with whom nothing except this sultry season, wou'd prevent him running and jumping with them.

" It is lucky enough for *us* & thy Husband too, that his engagements prevent the sad story of a dinner *here*, for our staircase & part of the rooms are now painting, I cou'd not prevent it being done and it is so intolerable that we are oblig'd to get out of it & dine among our friends where we can. Thy letter not coming in due course we concluded you were out on an excursion, & we engaged ourselves to go to Stanmore tomorrow, to stay till 6th day next, which we shall do, & then set off for Thorp Lee on *7th day next* ; we set off, it seems, in the stage at two—the Egham stage, which it seems, is within half a mile of your house—perhaps it may be convenient to send a man or boy to shew us to your mansion as we shall have a little bit of a trunk or the like of that.

" Tho' I may have the pleasure of a call from thy Dear tomorrow yet it may be safest to send this p return of post, as Gentlemen are rather uncertain messengers. A summons to dinner interrupts my very willing but very bad pen, or much cou'd I enlarge affectionately to thee, dear friend.

" Accept George's & my love & believe me Thine

" M. KNOWLES."

For Mary Knowles see *Jnl. F.H.S.* xxi. 72. George was her only son. The date of the letter would be about 1780. The addressee is not known.

THE ROTCH FAMILY

Moses Brown to Thomas Thompson, 31 xii. 1824 : " . . . Some Friends at N. Bedford have been disowned, others asked dismissal. Wm. Rotch, Jr., yet stands a member and I hope may be preserved such, tho' he has much to draw him off, his children nearly all gone out, and his brother Samuel Rodman disaffected so as to ask a dismissal, his sister Mary a leader in separation. I trust it is a painful circumstance to his aged worthy father,¹ who it is said is so hard of hearing that till lately he did not know the situation of his once highly valued family."

¹ That is, M. Brown hopes that the aged father will disapprove.

Moses Brown, of Providence, Rhode Island and Thomas Thompson, of Liverpool, were keen collectors of Quakeriana.

MINERALS FOR HENRY F. SMITH

John Griscom to T. Thompson, iv. 1825 :

" I have packed up a box of minerals for H. F. Smith, Darlington, directed to thy care, & which I must request thee to forward to him. I have not time to write to him now but intend to do so soon.

" Captain Marshall takes care of the box and will pay thee the amount of duty for me. Please call on him for it."

For Henry Frederick Smith see *Jnl. F.H.S.* xix. xx. xxii.-xxvi. ; for John Griscom see xvii. xix.

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTING

" My dear Friend

" I think it a pity any body should wish for my hand writing, however, at thy request I send my scrawl.

" Thine very affectionately

" ELZth FRY.

" Upton Lane 4. 8, 1835.

" Dear love to thy wife who I was sorry not to see."

MARIA MITCHELL, ASTRONOMER

" The medal received from the King of Denmark, and awarded to Miss Maria Mitchell, of Nantucket, for the first discovery of a Telescopic Comet, on the 1st of October 1847, is of pure gold over two ounces in weight. On one side is the head of the present King of Denmark, with the simple inscription, ' Christianus viii. Rex Daniae.'

" On the reverse is the figure of Urania, the muse of astronomy, as depicted in ancient works of art. She is in a sitting posture and holds a globe in the left hand and a stylus pointing to a section of it in the right. Underneath the figure is the inscription : ' Cometa visus, 1st Oct. 1847,' while surrounding it is the following appropriate line from Virgil's Georgics : ' Non frustra signorum obitus speculamur et ortus.' (Not in vain we contemplate the rising and the setting of the constellations.)

" On the edge of the medal is the name of the discoverer ' Maria Mitchell.' The dies are exquisitely cut, and the whole execution of the medal is chaste and artistic.

" Miss Mitchell is the daughter of William Mitchell, the Cashier of the Pacific Bank at Nantucket. She is quite young, not over twenty-four or five, and possesses remarkable talents for mathematics. Her father has also distinguished himself by his astronomical observations.

[*N. Y. Express.*]

For Maria Mitchell see *Dean Bond of Swarthmore, 1927 (Jnl. F.H.S. xxiv. 66).*

DECEASE OF AMELIA OPIE

Mary B. Browne to a friend:

" Castle Hill, Norwich, 3rd of 12th Month, 1853.

" After six weeks of severe suffering our valued friend Amelia Opie was released about 12 o'clk last night. For three days & nights the conflict with death was painful to witness; the mind seemed clear but there was no power of expression. We humbly hope she rests in peace with Him in whom she trusted."

For Amelia Opie see *Jnl. F.H.S. x. xiv. xvii. xix. xxvi.*

Named for . . .

English Quaker nomenclature transplanted to America :

Joseph John Gurney Cannon (Jnl. F.H.S. xxiv.).

William Forster Mitchell (Hinchman's Recollections, 105).

Henry Tuke Parker (Jnl. F.H.S. xxviii.).

What others ?