

First Publishers of Truth in Lancashire

When Norman Penney issued in 1903-7 *The First Publishers of Truth* he relied primarily on about ninety papers contained in Portfolio 7 in Friends' Reference Library. For more than forty years beginning in 1676 the Yearly Meeting attempted to collect such materials and addressed successive questionnaires to subordinate meetings. The results evidently came in slowly and were never completed, but some of the replies no longer extant in London were entered upon local record books of Friends. Many of these Norman Penney secured and printed in his text: pp. 10 (Bristol), 77 (Plymouth), 130-146 (Kent), 152 (Lincoln), 197 (Wellingborough), 208 (Banbury), 231 (Surrey), 239 (Warwickshire), 286-320 (Yorkshire). Others he printed in the Addenda 329-333 (Dent), 335-340 (Lancashire), 341 (Shrewsbury). Still others as they came to hand he published in *Jnl. F.H.S.* v. 165 (Staffordshire), xiii. 67 (Uxbridge), xviii. 23ff (Norwich), xxv. 63 (Kellet or Yealand), xxvi. 76f (Devonshire). Inquiries in other places were unsuccessful. Most of the material was new. In addition the account from Dent was independently published in the *Friend* (Phila.), xxxvii, 1863, p. 76f, and that from Kellet or Yealand later but independently and more fully in *Richard Hubberthorne*, by Elisabeth Brockbank, 1929, 19f, 141f. J. Bowden, *History of Friends in America*, 1880, i. 139, shows his acquaintance with a minute book of Holderness Monthly Meeting of the account under Elloughton in *F.P.T.* 295-329, and I think even William Sewell in his *History* under 1654 shows a knowledge of the records of Kent (e.g. *F.P.T.* 141f).

It is in recognition of the important service for Quaker history made through these records by our late Friend that I am glad to offer for publication the following supplementary account from Lancashire. At Lancaster in April, 1933, I came upon the following record of First Publishers in the Quarterly Meeting Minute Book 1669-1711. This was later kindly transcribed and sent to me by the custodian, Basil Pickard, and is now published with notes supplied by John L. Nickalls. Basil Pickard has kindly examined the proof.

The position in the book does not exactly indicate the date at which the record was entered. It was between 1691 and 1711 however. The form of questionnaire answered (six questions) agrees with that first adopted in London in 1676 (*F.P.T.* 24). It will be seen that the entry for Chipping is not answered at all but merely a copy of the annual queries. The accounts for Yealand (see above), Rossendale (*F.P.T.* 337ff) and Oldham (*F.P.T.* 339f), are practically identical with those already published. Those for Marsden (*F.P.T.* 335f) and Knowsley (*F.P.T.* 147ff) are here much

shorter. The remaining seven are apparently now first published. Of these that from Swarthmore, providing as it does a long and independent record of events told in Fox's Journal (*Camb. Jnl.* i, 47ff; *Short Jnl.* 23ff) is the most interesting.

Many of the persons and a few of the actual incidents of persecution are mentioned by Besse in the Lancashire section of his *Abstract of Sufferings*, 1733, i. 138-152, or of his *Collection of Sufferings*, 1753, i, 300ff. Some appear in the petition to the Sessions in 1667 embedded in George Fox's *Journal* (*Camb. ed.*), ii, 65-72; others occur in the "Church Papers" and "Records of the Quarter Sessions" included in B. Nightingale, *Early Stages of the Quaker Movement in Lancashire*, 1921, pp. 63-197. From these and from the notes of Norman Penney in *F.P.T.* and *Camb. Jnl.* much biographical annotation to the present records could be obtained. Attention may also be called to the more local narratives in Elisabeth Brockbank, *Richard Hubberthorne of Yealand*, 1929 (especially Chap. xvi.), and Dilworth Abbatt, *Quaker Annals of Preston and the Fylde, 1653-1900*, 1931. The work of Robert Muschamp of Bury, Lancs., in many articles in Lancashire periodicals, should also be compared. He is preparing an account of the beginnings of the Society of Friends in Lancashire which will include all the meetings named below. Some chapters or preliminary studies by him have already been published separately. Speaking of the *First Publishers of Truth* Dilworth Abbatt says (p. 39f): "The replies to the questionnaire from the Lancashire Meetings were but meagre: the Friends in North Lancashire do not appear to have sent any, or else their answers have been lost in the lapse of two and a half centuries." In the following text the lost is found!

AN answer to the six perticulers in each Meeting throughtout the County is as followeth.

LANCASTER MEETING

- 1 G.F. was ye first yt brought ye message of Glad tydings amongst us.
- 2
- 3 John Lawson was ye first yt received him and his message.
- 4 To keep a record of ye names and travell and of all ye published labourers that are deseased, wee have bene carefull in it.
- 5 What judgement fell upon ye persecutors wee have nothing.
- 6 Where anie of ye harts of such enemye hath beene turned to god wee have nothing.

FYELD MEETING

1st John Lawson was the first yt brought ye message of glad tydings amongst us.

2

3 Edward Moone of Woodplumpton was ye first yt reseived him and his message.

CHIPPING MEETING

The usuall Querys asked ye representatives of each County att the yearly Meeting.

1 What sufrings & for what.

2 What present prisoners.

3 How many discharges when and how.

4 How many dyed prisoners and when.

5 How may publick Friends dyed who and the time when.

6 How many Meeting houses built and what meetings are aded since last year and when.

7 What signall judgments have come upon persecutors.

8 How truth progresses & friends are in unity.

9 How ye advise of this meeting in their Epistles to ye Quarterly & month meetings if practised.

YELAND MEETING

1st G.F. & Richard Farnsworth was ye first yt brought ye message of glad tidings amongst us.

2 As to their Sufferings att Steeplehouses marketplaces or else where, wee have little to say.

3 The first that received them & their messages in our meetings was, Robt. Wither, Thos. Chorley, Rich. Hubberthorn, Christopher Bissbrowne and his famely, Thos. Leaper, Fransis Fleeming, Robt. Stout, Will Hugingson.

4 As to publicke Labourers. Richard Hubberthorn who is deseased was a Faithfull Labourer, & one whome ye lord called Forth of our meeting, to declare ye message of truth, who travilled through Lancashire & Chesshire

& into Wayles, & after much Labour & travell he came to Chesster againe, where he was brought before ye Mayor. Hee sent him to Norgate, to the City prison in ye 9th mo. 1653 where hee remained untill ye 12th mo. then he was brought out, and by ye Mayor & justises He was Sent by warrant to be had from Cunstable to Cunstable, till he Came to Yeland, ye place of his nativeete. The first Cunstable, was Richard Sayle of Oule, who by him was Convinsed, burned ye warant, & sett him at libertie, And then he passed through severall places and cuminge to Congerton Steeplehouse, ye mayor sent him to their town hall prison after that he passed through severall parts & cuminge to Cambridge he was there put in prison, after passinge through Severall partes came to Windham, in Norfolke, from thence sent to prisoner to Norwich Castle, & their remained severall months. After that he passed through severall parts of ye nation & cuming to London where he had much exersize, with many great ones, & with ye King. Soe after much Labour & travell in England & Wayles, for nine years time. He was imprisoned by Richard Bronne a great persecutor (mayor of ye City of London) in newgate prison, where he was thronged, in ye heatt of sumer, where he finished his testimoney sealing it with his Blood, dying a minister of Jesus the 17th day of the 6th month In ye yeare 1662.

5 we have little to say.

6 wee have litle to say.

SWARTHMOORE MEETING

1 Ge. F was ye First yt brought ye message of glad tydeniges unto us & First preached ye everlasting Gospell againe att Swarthmore being Judge Fells house, & upon 5th day of ye week in ye 5th. mo. 1652 hee went to Ulverston Steeplehouse it being there Eesture day & there hee preashed ye Gospell in ye mightypower of God sainge hee was not a Jew yt was one outwards: nor yt was not circumesision which was outwards in ye flesh; but hee is a Jew that was one Inwards & if ye true Circumsision: which is in ye hearte by ye Spiritt yt hee continued preachingye Gospell for some time till hee was

haled out off ye Steeplehouse and on ye first day of ye weeke followinge he went to Dalton Steeplehouse & hee preacht ye Gospell & on ye second day off ye week following he went to Dendron Chappell & there preasht ye Gospell & att Auldenham¹ Steeplehouse & Ramsyde² Chapell & att Wallney Island, & att severall other places of worshipe hee went upon ye first days & Easture days to preash ye Gospell as afforsd.

- 2 Margrett Fell then ye wiffe off Judge Fell was ye first in l**es*er [Lancashire ?] name afforsd : yt received Gor Fox & ye rest : & ye Joyfull message & ye gospell of pease & of reconciliation againe unto God : by Christ Jesus ye light of the world who hath enlightned everyman yt cometh into ye world. Unto which light of Christ they were turned & in which they belived & M.F. aforesd & her 7 daughters & most of there servants : and Tho. Salt-house Will Caton Leo Fell Mary Askewe Anne Clayton & others received ye Gospell & most of them became able ministers thereof unto others sone after. Also James Lanc[aster] of ye Islande of Walney : & Thos Hutton of Ramsyde & Rich Mijer & Tho. Goade of Beakliffe all of Low furnasse aforesd ; received G.F. & ye Gospell preached againe by him : And Tho. Lawson preist of Ramsyde Chapell hearing yt G.F. had beene att Auldenham Steeplehouse : ye first day aforesd in ye morning sayde to his Congergation when there fornoone sermone was ended yt hee was Crediblely Informed yt G.F. purposed to bee at there Chapple ye affternoone unto whome hee purposed to resigne his place sayd Tho. Lawson went a mile to meet ye sayde G.F. & conducted him to his Chappell att Ramsyde aforesd & offered him his pulpitt to preach in which ye sd G.F. refused but Stoode upp upon a forme & liveingly declared & held forth ye way of Salvation to ye people for about 3 houres space & when hee came forth Into ye yarde some of ye people would have layde violent hands of him : but ye sd Tho : Lawson forbad them sayenig he was greatly satisfied with G.F. preaching : & sayd iff our worshipe & doctrine cannot be maintained without feare & vilence tis time to leave it : soe ye people were quited & an olde woman aged 80 years sayd shee never hearde such good

doctrine out of ye mouth of any blacke coate all ye dayes of her life : & ye sayd Tho : Lawson soone after layde downe his publicke ministry : being satisfied that the call of man made not a minister of Christ :

- 3 G.F. after hee had preached ye Gospell att Ulverstone Steeplehouse as aforesd att which time hee was only haled out ye second time when hee came upon a lecture day : one John Sawrey then called a Justice of peace called to ye officers & rude multitude to have him out & after they had pulled him out into ye yard ye saide Jo. Sawrey Cryed away with him : where upon ye rude multitude fell upon him : & beate him with forkes & staves & threw stones att him : thrusting pulling & pushing off him till they had haled him to ye Common or mosse syde & then they knockt him downe with clubes & staves : but ye sd G.F. soone gott up again & held forth his hands to ye people exhorting ym to more sobriety & one of ye rude multitude struck him over ye backe of ye hand with a long cute staffe & wounded & bruised him soe soarley yt his Fingers Felt as iff they were broaken : & his armes & other partes of his bodey remained blacke with ye blowes knockes & bruises For many days after : & severall other Friends yt weare with G.F. & accompanied him weare beaten also : & Tho. Salthouse had his head brocken & one Willi: Pools head was brocken : & James Lancaster cloake was pulled of his back & torne in pecies : & severall others Friends were much beaten & bruisesed att ye same time : & in there fury & madness they threw Judge Fell onely son Gorge Fell into ye water : whoe onely stood by they Friends yt weare soe abused : And when some Freinds would have had G.F. to have gone away to Swarthmore on ye backe side of ye towne aforesd ye saide G.F. refused to doe but came backe again through ye towne & market then held : & when ye rude multitude saw him they cryed a Fox a Fox : & begann to be rude againe but there was a soulger one Leonarde Pearson whoe haveinge seene or heard of these former barburous usage of him drew his sword & saide lett mee see whether any dogge in ye markett dar catch this Fox whereupon G.F. passt quitly through ye marcket none darring then to lay

violent hands on him : & soe went up to Swarthmoore. And sometime after G.F. with James Naylor went to ye Island of Walney to preach ye Gospell : & then James Lancaster Fetched ym oute in a boate & they had noe sooner landed upon ye Island but ye inhabitants came with clubs & staves off porpose to have destroyed G.F. & fell upon him & knokt him downe : & ye saide Ja. Lancaster seeing there crelty & wicked intentions lay alonge upon G.F. to save him from there blowes crying out bitterly what will you kill this good man yt came in love to yr soules : & they pusht att him with pitch Forkes & poles & ye women threw stones att him when ye could finde or spye a place bare to hitt him & misse ye aforesd Ja: Lancaster yt lay upon him to defende him from there blowes & stones & att last they puled James Lancaster by ye legg to gett him off him. & soe sprined one of his thighs in pulling of him : as hee felt ye streaine & hurts thereof a long time after. And then ye sd Jam: Lanc. desired to lett ym goe with there lives : & they should take all hee had amongst ym : & then G.F. gott up & they thrust him towards the sea with intent to have drowned him : & ye boate which brought ym over being neare Ja: Lanc. put G.F. into it & then through it of into ye water & they tooke up a fishing pole of ye sd Jas Lanc. about 6 or 7 yards longe, & strock againe att G.F. but misst him : & when they were got out of they reach of the poole they againe threw stones att them : & ye sayede Jam. Lancs. stooode up betwixt G.F. & ym : toe defende him from ye stones & some of ye stones light on Jam. Lancasters cheeke & made it bleede & then they rowed off by ye sea side to seeke for James Naylor : who had walked off into ye Islande whilst they weare beating G.F. as aforesd : being unknowne to them : but they after perseveing hee was a Quaker alsoe they hunted him out, & fell upon him & with clubes & staves beat him sorely allsoe : & when they sd James Lancaster had gott G.F. over ye water hee came backe to fectch James Naylor : but when hee was returned they held James Lancaster by force & sayd hee should not goe with ym againe because they sayd hee would bewiched by ym. & then ye sd Jam. Lancs. man sett Jam Naylor over ye water : but ye sd Ja. Lan.

having noe rest in his spirit his Freinds beinge thus persecuted and abused & exposed to ye fury of ye rude heathen like people: ye water being gone backe hee followed after & sought ym out: & founde James Naylor wandering in ye Country hee knew not whether. And after G.F. was put over ye water as afore sd hee walkt to a towne called Cocken³ & theire ye barborus people came out of ye houses: with there fleales & staves & hedge staikes & Fell upon G.F. & beat & sourly wounded & bruised him: & all bloody as hee was hee was taken by one Musforde a Freindely man, & had to Tho. Huttons house: haveing pittty of him: & there Tho. Huttons wiffe washed his sorses & dresst & bound up his wounds: & shee was convinced, & reacht by ye power of God. but after turned aside & went backe From Freinds & many yeares after when shee came to dye: shee againe confest to ye truth: & sayd yt ye greatest comfort shee had in any thinge shee did in her life was in yt shee had washed G.F. wounds sores & bruises as aforesd. & there ye sayd James Lancaster & James Naylor came to G.F. & From thense accompanied him to Swarthmoore.

- 4 Willi: Caton & Wili: Simpson were belongeinge to & off Swarthmoore Meeting & were both Faithfull labourers in ye Gospell & of a good & unblameable conversation to ye ende of days: And Willi: Caton preachite ye Gospell in France & Holand & Scotland & in severall partes of this nation & finished his tesstimony in Hollande Alsoe Willi: Simpson preacht ye Gospell in Scotland & in Barbadoes & in Severall partes of this nation hee underwent greivaes Suferings & imprisonements & continued Faithfull to ye end & Finisht his testimony in Barbadoes.
- 5 John Sawrey aforesd yt sett on ye rude multitude as aforsd upon G.F. crying out to ym away with: away with him hee comeings From Yorke some yeares after: was whistling & singing as hee ridd on ye high way: a thatcher heareing him bidd him take heede For ye waters were risen & before hee came to ye river his horse foote slipt upon a causey & threw him of into a ditch of standinge dead water where hee was soon drowned though his man was with him & his dead corpse was brought into his owne country to be interred was very

like to have beene carred away into ye sea as they were bringen him over. Alsoe severall others of G.F. persecutors as aforesd both in Ulversto: ye Island of Walney & Cocken were taken notice of to die very miserably most of ym. & were reduced to great poverty before they died.

- 6 Few off ye persecutors of G.F. Friends as aforesd turned to truth onely James Lancaster wiffe : whoe was one of ym. yt persecuted G.F. at Walney aforesd Shee slowly repented thereof & aafter consenting to it through feare of her husband & shee became a Freind & lived & walked in truth.

CARTMELL MEETING

- 1 G.F. was ye First whoe came in ye name & mighty power of ye Lord Jesus Christ & preached ye everlastinge gospell amongst us : & att Stavely Chappell & Cartmell Steeplehouse & Lindall Chapell in Cartmell For hee preached ye gospell in ye year 1652 & some times after him came James Naylor & Richard Farnessworth whoe preach ye Gospell amongst us : & in ye year 1654 came Willi: Dewsbery & preach they gospell in Cartmell Markett.
- 2 James Taylor Tho: Barrow Tho: Rawlinson ye elder Tho: Atkinson & Chri: Sill: were ye First in Cartmell aforesd : yt received G.F. & ye Joyfull message of peace & everlasting gospell which hee preacht amongst ym as aforesd & Tho. Pearson of Poobanke & his Mother : they allsoe received G.F. & ye gospell preacht by him.
- 3 G.F. soon after hee begann to preach ye gospell at Staveley Chappell as aforesd & to reprove preist Camel-forde : there hyerlinge cant. willi Rawlinson & one Miles Dawson fell upon him : & beate him & haled him out of ye aforesd Chapell : to ye wall side & threw him violenty over ye yarde wall downe a Steepe hill or browe into ye high way with which Fall G.F. was soely bruised. Also att Cartemell Steeplehouse G.F. was beaten & in there steeplehouse porch one Christopher Preston strucke him over the heade with a greate Cudgell : & after the had thrust & punct & shoved him to ye wall of there graveyard one Edward Casson forceably heaved G.F. over ye wall : & threw him with his heade forward to

they ground upon ye stones. Alsoe at another time when G.F. was preaching in Cartemell olde Markett Stead: one Robert Scyringe putt his legge behinde him & threw him violently backwarde upon his backe upon ye stones.

- 4 Capt Willi. Rallinson & Miles Dawson aforesd: yt soe beate & abused: & att Stavely Chappell aforesd: they lived in much misery being bothe greatly afflicted with ye Stone & often being in greate paine & aungish: Willi: Rawlinson aforesd: would cry out woe is mee woe is mee: when shall I be releast From this misery: under which affliction hee Continuaed long till hee dyed. Also ye aforesd Cristopher Preston who strucke G.F. as aforesd hee lived & dyed in much misery: And ye aforesd Edward Casson yt heaved G.F. over ye wall as aforesd sometime after lost one of his eyes with a lash of thornes & after hee had lived long in much paine & misery: & had bestowed much cost: & charges upon a mountebancke for ye cureing thereof hee at last lost his other eye allsoe. Alsoe as ye aforesd G.F. was walkeing with ye aforesd James Naylor and neare unto his house a wilde ladd one Willi Stones amongst other wilde ladds Cryed out a Fox a Fox a Fox & G.F. streched forth his hands & saide woe & misery will take hould of thee: and some yeares after ye sayde Willi: Stones Fell of a horse (haveing beene drinking at an Alehouse) & was found dead.
- 5 Richard [Roper]⁴ Richard Waller & John Braithwhaite were belonging to our meeting: & were all faithfull labouers in ye publishing & preaching ye Gospell wh they had recived as aforesd: tow of wh. to wit Rich:Ropar & Rich: Waller preached ye gospell in Ireland & Rich: Roper went into Germany & preacht ye gospell there: & John Braithwait preacht ye gospell in ye South & westernne partes of England & Cornewall: & they were all faithfull in ye worke and servise of ye Lord: & unblameable Conversation till ye dyed.
- 6 wee know of none of ye persecutors of Friends & ye First publishers off ye gospell amongst us yt. have beene Converted to ye truth: but they dyed in there sins & hardeness of hart as aforesd.

HAWKSHEADE MEETING

- 1st Thos: Salthouse & Ed: Burrough were ye First yt brought ye Message of glad tideinges & preacht ye gospell amongst us: whoe came to ye Steeplehouse att Hawksheade & gave in there tistimony for ye Lord against evill worshipe: & after they went unto one Willi: Beckes whoe was exorciseing or preaching in his owne house amongst some people there mett: & when Ed:Burrough Spoake hee soone left:—And ye First yt Came to Gresmeere⁵ Steeplehouse: to preach ye gospell were Thos: Salthouse & Tho: Rawlinson ye elder: who gave in there testimony For God against there evill worshipe. And ye First yt Came to Langedale Chappell: to preach ye gospell was Willi: Becke aforesd: whoe was now become a minister of ye Gospell unto which hee had recaived: as aforesd: from Ed: Burrough preaching whoe came ye later end of ye: 7th moth.in ye yeare 1655 & preacht glad tiddings to ye people. And on ye first day after Came Leo. Fell & some others with him: & hee preacht Christ Jesus ye Light off ye world very powerfully amongst us: unto which wee were then turned: & In wch wee gave up to receive & belive.
- 2 Willi: Becke aforesd: James Rigg & Jo: Braithwaite were ye first of Hawksheade parish: yt received ye truth & messengers of ye gospall as aforesd: Also In Langedale Willi: Wilson was ye first yt recived Willi: Becke & Leo Fell & there Joyfull message very gladly: beeing newly come home out of Scotlande From being a shouldger there: Also Francis Benson of Loughrigge & his wife & servants mayde & Reginald Holme were ye first yt received ye aforesd messengers of ye gospell.
- 3 for persecution there was little amongst us.
- 4 wee have nothing to say.
- 5 Many of ym yt were most Cruell or opposite against Freinds in ye begining were observed to wither away & come to nothings.
- 6 wee have noe account to give.

COPPALL MEETING⁶

- 1st Tho: Homes, Tho: Taylor & Willi: Adamson First brought ye message of glad Tydings amongst us to Blackwood. Izack Ashton, Willi Gibson, James Harisson first brought ye aforesd message amongst us to Coppall.
- 2 nothing pirkular to say.
- 3 Alex Riggby: Jonathen Rigby, margt Bradley Sen, Francies Standish received message & ministry in Blackwood. John Haydock, Heskin Fell, Roger Haydocke First received ye said message and messengers in Coppall.
- 4 wee have noething to say.
- 5 nothing to say.
- 6 nothing to say.

KNOWSLEY MEETING⁷

- 1st The first brought ye message of glad tydings Amongst us was Willi: Adamson & John Lawson Willi is gone back?
- 2 wee have nothing.
- 3 The first that did Receive them was Willi Hatton Peter Lethwhett & Benjamin Boulton.
- 4 wee have a record of them that are desceased & there faithfullness.
- 5 wee have an account what befell ye persecutors.
- 6 wee have nothinge.

TWISTON MEETING⁸

- 1st G.F. & Richard Farnsworth was the first that publish truth in these partes: Willi: Dewsbury shortly after.
- 2 wee know no one of them that sufered hurt here away.
- 3 one Stephen Hargraves first received them: but never came clearly out to owne the truth.
- 4 wee have not anythinge against any yt first published truth here away for their Conversation were honest.
- 5 wee have nothing to say.
- 6 wee Know of none yt helped forward persecution yt have ever repented of it but growne worse & worse.

BICKURSTETH MEETINGE⁹

- 1st The first yt brought ye message of glad tydings amongst us was Alexander Parker, John Lawson, Willi: Adamson.
- 2 As to ye second we can say litle but of some other record is kept.
- 3 Richard Cubban, Oliver Atherton was ye first yt received them & their message.
- 4 A record is kept of ye names & travells Faithfullness & unblablemy Conversations of all ye publicke laborers yt are deceased Amongst us.
- 5 Priest Ellison of Raingneford set his hearers on to smite Elizabeth Leavens & Cryed downe with Jezebell & at yt time Rebecca Barnes was smitten yt it was supposed shee dyed of it in a short time & many others smitten but ye sd preist Davied Elliston himselfe was smitten with sickness & pyned away in A short time & preached very litle after.
- 6 wee can say noething.

SANCKY MEETINGE¹⁰

- 1st Willi: Addamson, John Lawson, Tho: Holmes, Eliz: Levens, Eliz: fletcher, Eliz: Morgan & Alexander Parker were ye first (yt we remembered) to beare publick testimony for ye truth in Burtonwood & Sanckey.
- 2 Eliz: Levens at a meetinge upon Warrington Heath as shee was declareinge truth Samuell Leech Constable of ye same towne stopped her Mouth with his hands Ralph Barnes & John Barnes then beinge at they meeting was thereupon sent to Lancaster prison by John Atherton Justishe of ye peace (falscely soe Called) in that he disturbed the peacable & perverted Justice where they continued untill ye next assizes.
- 3 Tho: Thompson of Burtonwood, Ralph Barnes of greate Sanekey, Tho: Eccleston of Burtonwood, Eliz: Cubham of ye same, Sareage Mason of Cuedly Tho: Cocker & John Southworth both of Warrinton & Richard Cooke of Hougton and John Minshall of Sanckey first received freinds & there Message in these partes.

- 4 Notice is taken by this meeting in Relation to a Record of such Faithfull Laboures raised up amongst us for ye service of truth.
5. 6. As to these wee have nothing at present to retorne.

ROSSENDALE MEETING^{II}

- 1st Willi: Dewsbury & with him Tho: Stubbs were ye first yt brought ye glad tydings of ye blessed truth.
- 2 There was no sufferings inflicted on them but by many gladly recieved, yea ye priest of Rossendale Tho: Sommer-ton received & Willi: had a large time of ministring in ye Steple house & afterwards ye priest confirmed by words his testimony.
- 3 Susan Heyworth widdow & Mary Birtwisle widdow were ye first yt received them & there Message.
- 4 Tho: Laurimer in his Chilehood came aprintice to Abraham Heyworth performed it Justly & dwelt with him a Servant afterwards then removed to John Feilden where hee abode a faithfull Servant, & a good example, haveing a Testimony in Meetings, & in ye yeare 1669 he traevell'd in ye Service of ye Lord in Chesshire Darbyshire Notinghamshire & soe along to Huntington where he was Imprisoned the maner & place where he was taken ye durance of his Impreisonment & ye maner of his release wee Refer to freinds at Huntington he visited ye people of God in Ireland & Severall times in ye Eastern pts of England & Returned to Rossendale Meeting being not in health abode with Alice Ratcliff about 11 weeks hee parted this Life ye 8th day of ye 3rd Mo: 1678 & was buryed ye 10th day of ye same at ye buring place belonging to Rossendalle meeting.
- 5 Edmund Mills of Hallcarr in ye parish of Bury being a greate Infformer & persecutor of Friends in Rossendale by means whereof freinds Suffered about 120, & about two yeares before he dyed he fell sicke & was distracted, but recovering for a season seemed greatly to repent Declared to severall his great trouble for what hee had done Saying yt ye goods he tooke from the Quakers never did him good, but went & tooke his with them, he

became very poor when he di[e]d all yt he had would not neare pay his debts : because of his poverty he was layne naked in his coffin. he being helped up out of his chaire by some present he Sware yt he would not have risen up but for their helpe & soe dyed in their Armes.

6 Wee have nothing to say.

OLDHAM MEETING¹²

1st They yt brought ye glad tydings of ye gospell of salvation to us were James Taylor, Richard Roaper, John Braithwait & Tho: Briggs.

2 These Messengers were struck & haled out of ye Steeplehouse yard at Oldham by John Tetlaw who thrust them over ye wall & afterwards ye hand of ye Lord was sene against him so yt hee never prospered who soon after sold up all yt he had & went into Ireland where he dyed suddainly. Att Ashton underline one Priest Harrison gave Charge yt they should not entertaine them into there houses whose enmity was great against ye Apperance of truth, & afterwards ye use of ye one side was taken from him.

3 The first yt entertained them & there Message were James Sykes & Joshua Ogden.

4 Wee have nothing to say.

5 Wee answered in ye second.

6 Wee have nothing to Say.

MANCHESTER MEETING¹³

1st According to ye best of our Knowledge, The first that brought ye Message of Gladtydings amongst us was Eliza: Houmes & Eliza: Fletcher & afterwarde Tho: Briggs & John Braythwait:

2 Their Message vizt: of Eliza: Homes & Eliza: Fletcher being to ye Steeplehouse & declareing there ye truth amongst them were halled out & put in ye Dungeon.

3 the that receved them & there Message was Eliza: Oven & Isac: Moss.

- 4 John Abraham deceased was a faithfull & publike Labouer Booth in Ingland Scotland & Ireland & Continued of a an unblameable conversation to his end : & wee have ye same Recorded.
- 5 wee have observed that Some persecuteing magistrates have beene Sudenly taken away : vizt: Nicolas Mosley Justice of peace soe called, riding towards London fell of his hors & died imeadiatly on ye way.
- 6 wee have nothing to write.

MARSDEN MEETING

- 1st The first yt brought ye message of glad tydings a mongst us was Willi: Dewsbury & soon after Tho: Stubbs & Christopher Taylor came with him in ye sumer 1653.
- 2 Willi: Dewsbury & Christopher Taylor passing on ye high way, one called Colonell Nowell of Read & his man overtaking them ye said Nowell Drew forth his Rapier & gave his scabbard to his man, & they followed them a great way striking them & ye sd Nowell stabbed Christp. Taylor into ye back till blowd came. Willi: Dewsbury being moved to goe to Colne on ye 21th day of ye 10th mo: 1653 & Coming to ye Market Cross declared ye Word of ye Lord to ye people untill one James Foster of Colne, came behind him & fell upon him & so smote him downe, & so they hworyed him out of ye Towne.
- 3 James Smithson, Ann Wilkinson, James Wilkinson, Richard Hargreaves of Edgen & Henry Robinson first received them & there message.
- 4 John Moore was a faithfull labouer in ye worke of ye ministry amongst us. who was as to his outward sight blind though inwardly as a guide to ym. yt. were blind & an Instructor of them yt were out of ye way, a strengther of ym yt are weeake & a comfort to all yt Loved ye truth, who Travelled severall times Eastwards in Yorkshire Lincolneshire & Nottinghamshire & some parte of Leicstershire, in ye ministry & was an inocent harmlesse man in his time, & had a good Testimony for God & his truth where ever he was ordered, unto which he was

faithfull, unto ye time of his departure which was in ye first mo. 1677/8 & though he betaken away yet ye Rememberance of him still remeined fresh in our harts.

- 5 The above sd James Foster who had beene soe bitter against Willi: Dewsbury as he was in their Cellhouse a great log of wood fell upon him & slew him suddanelly.
- 6 we have nothing to say.

HENRY J. CADBURY

¹ Aldingham, by the sea 5 m. N.E. of Barrow in Furness. Dendron is a hamlet in the same parish.

² Rampside, on the coast at the S. end of the Furness peninsula.

³ Cocken, opposite Walney Island, N. of Barrow, which was itself an island in those days.

⁴ Added by another hand.

⁵ Doubtless for Grasmere, Westmorland. Spelman : *Villare Anglicum*, 1656, calls it Grestmer, Westmorland.

⁶ Coppull, 5 or 6 m. N.W. of Wigan. See also T. C. Porteus: *History of Standish*.

⁷ Knowsley, about 6 m. N.E. of Liverpool.

⁸ Twiston, 4½ m. E. of Clitheroe. In Whalley parish there is an old Friends burial ground known as Twiston Burial Ground. Charity Commission : *Quaker Charities (Co. of Lancaster)*, 1905.

⁹ or Bickerstaffe, about 10 m. N.E. of Liverpool, 3 m. from Rainford mentioned below.

¹⁰ Sankey, 2 m. W. of Warrington; Burtonwood, 4 m. N.W.; Cuerdley, 5 m. S.W.; Houghton, 2½ m. N.E. of the same.

¹¹ Rossendale Forest—there appears to be no parish of the name—is a moorland district S. of Burnley. Now gives the name to a large scattered parliamentary "borough" with about 70,000 inhabitants. The meeting house is at Crawshawbooth and the burial ground at Rawtenstall. W. Taylor : *Crawshawbooth, some historical notes*, 1922.

¹² See also J. Ward : *Retrospect of Oldham Meeting* [1911].

¹³ Hitherto Thomas Briggs has been given the place of "First Publisher" in Manchester. Elizabeth (Levens) Holmes and Elizabeth Fletcher travelled widely together. Eliza Owen is probably the Widow Owen at whose house Friends met for worship, under persecution, in 1655. No notice is taken here of George Fox's visit to Manchester in 1647, recorded in his *Journal*. Concerning his early employment at Manchester, or Mancetter, see p. 43 of this issue. *F.P.T.*; *Caton MSS.* at Friends House; Besse : *Sufferings*; R. Muschamp : *Lancs. & Ches. Antiq. Soc. Trans.* vol. xxxi.