

Manuscript Additions to the Library

Some MSS. of special interest recently added to the Library are described here. Others are treated more fully in separate articles.

ABRAHAM MSS.

E. Mitford Abraham has very kindly presented to the Library, Friends House, the *Abraham MSS.*, formerly the property of the late Emma C. Abraham of Swarthmoor Hall. They are bound in one volume and include fourteen early Quaker letters sometimes referred to as the *Shackleton MSS.* The collection comprises in all sixty-four MSS.

The most important of these, Nos. 1-53, were fully described, with extensive extracts and in some cases the full text, in this *Journal*, xi. (1914), pp. 145-90. They include letters from George Fox, Margaret Fell, Thomas Lower, various members of the Abraham family, John Stubbs, Richard Hubberthorne and many other seventeenth century Friends. The remaining eleven items include a list of births and deaths in the Clare family, 1620-90 (No. 54); particulars of transactions relating to Swarthmoor Hall and other Abraham properties in the eighteenth century (Nos. 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 62). No. 63 relates to Judge Thomas Fell's ancestry and estates. This generous gift adds to the Library another important portion of the great collection of early Quaker MSS. which were preserved, most of them till 1759, at Swarthmoor Hall. Other sections of this original collection now at Friends House are the *Swarthmore MSS.* 7 vols., 4 presented, 3 purchased, between 1793 and 1907; *Spence MSS.*, 3 vols., purchased by subscription 1920; *A. R. Barclay MSS.*, 2 vols.; *Thirnheck MSS.*, presented 1923. Those not in the Library include the *Miller MSS.* and a small collection at present untraced called the *Thwaite MSS.*

CATON MSS. III.

To the above collection reassembled in the Library we can now add an interesting volume purchased this year, called *Caton MSS. III*, to distinguish it from two other MSS. bearing this name. This volume is undoubtedly the one enquired after in this *Journal*, v. (1908), p. 175, which was extensively drawn upon by A. R. Barclay in his *Letters of the*

Early Friends, 1836, and by James Bowden in *History of Friends in America*, 2 vols., 1850 and 1854. It is mainly in the handwriting of William Caton, with portions written by Sarah Fell, and contains 170 letters and papers, of which over 150 were written in the Commonwealth period. The letters are all addressed to Margaret Fell and are by William Caton, Thomas Salthouse, Miles Halhead, Edward Burrough, Francis Howgill, Henry Fell, Alexander Parker, Richard Hubberthorne, James Parnell, John Audland, Gulielma Penn, John Camm, Mabel Camm, William Dewsbury. The volume is dated "Swarthmore the 23 of the 6 mon: 1659." It is hoped to print in later issues a fuller account of these letters, with extracts.

WILLIAM PENN'S TRAVELS

An Account of my Journey into Holland and Germany. William Penn, 1677. This MS. copy of Penn's travels on the continent of Europe is almost identical with the printed version and may perhaps be a copy made from the original MS. account before it was published. It is in a seventeenth century handwriting. In several instances a few pages have been left blank corresponding with passages in the printed edition which have been omitted in this MS. Acquired by purchase.

HINCKLEY MEETING HOUSE, 1736

Arthur B. Watkins of Fritchley has kindly presented a deed, dated 1736, conveying certain property of Hinckley Meeting, Leicestershire, to William Stephenson in part payment for a new meeting house. There is reference also to a burial ground.

THOMAS ELLWOOD'S VERSES

The Library has purchased a small folio MS. volume entitled Π'ΑΨΩΔΙΑ, *A Collection of some few Poems which at several times and on various Occasions dropt from the Author's Pen.* It is bound in green vellum, simply decorated with a gilt tooled design and gilt edges. It contains seventy-five poems by Thomas Ellwood, written in his own hand, most of them initialled T.E. and many of them dated. All the verses published in his autobiography, in the undated *Collection of Poems* (published about 1760) and in Maria Webb's *Penns and Peningtons* are in it. It is no doubt the

book described at the end of chapter viii of the last named book, and probably the same as the MS. Miscellany of poems referred to in J. Smith: *Catalogue*, I, 571. Some of the thirty-six unpublished pieces are more spontaneous and of greater poetic interest than many of the "improving" pieces printed in the past. There are evidences of the author's delight in versifying, as in the eight variations for the latter half of a verse in praise of Beaconsfield. The fine handwriting and the tasteful binding are evidence of his love of beautiful things and also no doubt, of the value he himself put on these modest children of his pen and spirit. Among the unpublished poems are four to Edmund Waller, the son of the poet.

JOSEPH STURGE LETTERS

William A. Albright has presented a collection of thirty letters to Joseph Sturge (1847-1934) from a number of Friends and public men in this country, relating to peace, Ireland, India, treatment of coloured peoples, alcohol, and free trade, ranging in date from 1870-1928. MS. Box 10 (4), (5), (6).

FRIENDS' AMBULANCE UNIT

The minute books of the General Committee 1914-20 and of the Executive Committee 1916-21 have been placed in the Library by Sir George Newman and Arnold Rowntree.

NORWICH MINUTES

A valuable aid for the student of the everyday life of a meeting for discipline in the eighteenth century has been compiled by Arthur J. Eddington in his *Minutes of Norwich Monthly Meeting (1701-1775), Selected and arranged*. It is in typescript, a copy of which he has very kindly presented to the Library, bound in two volumes, containing 334 pages. The selected minutes have been arranged under ten main subjects as follows:—Meetings; Meeting Houses and Properties; Certificates and Membership; Marriages; Education and Apprenticeship; Literature; Sufferings and Principles; Finance; Poor Friends; Discipline. Each section is further subdivided and there is an index to the whole. The minutes extracted give a chronological summary of the activity of the Monthly Meeting in respect of each of a large number of matters.