

up in detail over many years in a way rarely possible in the records of the parish, where relief is often both indiscriminate and intermittent. "Luke Smith is to have 1s. 6d.", state the overseers of a parish near Nailsworth, "provided he does not come again for a good while . . . he can have 2s. 6d. more later if he behaves himself to his wife and family." In contrast to such random payments, the policy of the early Friends seems most enlightened. They view each case with sympathetic scrutiny and plan, if possible, for an independent future. This is clearly shown by a Minute of 1671 which concerns a hand-loom weaver of Painswick. "Lent to Walter Humphris 24 pounds for ye redeeming of his Loom and other goods that so he might be put in a beter capacity for maintaining of his family and paying of his debts." That their policy was at times justified is evident by this particular case, where the weaver, after much difficulty in England, departed to Pennsylvania. There he appeared to prosper, and it must have been with deep satisfaction that the meeting which had helped him so constantly over many years recorded in 1701 "a Certain sume of 32 pounds that Walter Humphris Deceased gave to pay his debts here in England."

Simple and personal, then, as are often these local records of the Society, they are yet the material out of which our greater histories have been written. And they link us with a bond, akin to friendship, with these earlier folk who also knew our meetings as their own.

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Periodicals Exchanged

Receipt of the following periodicals in exchange is gratefully acknowledged:—

Bulletin of the Friends Historical Association (Philadelphia).

Quakeriana Notes.

Wesley Historical Society, Proceedings.

Presbyterian Historical Society, Proceedings.

Presbyterian Historical Journal (U.S.A.).

Unitarian Historical Society, Transactions.

Mennonite Quarterly Review.

Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research.