

Additions to the Library at Friends House

IN the years preceding 1759, when Judge and Margaret Fell's grandson John Abraham, the son of Daniel Abraham and Rachel Fell, had to sell Swarthmoor Hall, he gave away to Friends in England and Ireland part of his grandmother's library, keeping some of it for his children. So far as is known only two of these books have been traced.

One has lately been given to the Library at Friends House by the proprietors of the Bannisdale Press. It contains 27 tracts by early Friends and bears an inscription *Ex libris Margaret Fox* in the handwriting of Daniel Abraham her son-in-law. The other was found by Isabel Ross in the Library of Congress at Washington during a visit paid in 1937 with an introduction from Henry J. Cadbury to the curator of rare books. This volume likewise consists of Friends' tracts bound together and it bears the same inscription, in the same hand. A later inscription reads, *James Birkett's Book bought of Alice Abrams, 1778, No. 1, containing 44 tracts.*

Alice Abraham (1737-1803) was a daughter of John Abraham and in 1778 was living at Lancaster. James Birkett was a Quaker sea-captain and merchant who traded with the West Indies, particularly with Tortola where there was then a settlement of Friends. Possibly the Friends' books brought there were taken to the American mainland when the last Friends left Tortola, and this volume may thus have found its way from James Birkett's possession and come eventually into the Library of Congress.

Are there any other books from Margaret Fox's library extant?

The second acquisition, by purchase from a special fund, is the original royal order, signed by King James II, for the publication in 1687 of the declaration of liberty of conscience, commonly called the Declaration of Indulgence. This is countersigned by the Earl of Sunderland, and is addressed to George Lord Jeffreys, better known as Judge Jeffreys of the "bloody assize."

The executors of the late Philip D. Tuckett have given to the library a Bible which belonged to Thomas Ellwood and which bears numerous marginal notes throughout in his hand. These may have been made in the course of preparation of his *Sacred History* which consists largely of a paraphrase of the historical parts of the Bible collected together. The Old Testament portion was published in 1705 and the New four years later. The work must have been in some demand for it ran through five editions in England before 1800. The volume has been rebound by John Westwood.

THE Autumn number, 1948 (vol. 37, no. 2) of the *Bulletin of Friends Historical Association* contains a lucid introductory essay on *The Faith and Theology of Robert Barclay* by Gerardina L. van Dalsen, minister of the Remonstrant Church at Doësborg, Netherlands, portion of a larger study prepared at Pendle Hill last spring. Also in this issue will be found the final portion of Francis Pennell's *Quaker botanists*, a promising list of researches in progress, and a brief memoir of Rufus M. Jones which concludes with the anticipation of a bibliography of his writings and a full account of his contribution to Quaker history.

THE *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 72, nos. 3, 4 (July, October, 1948) includes a paper on *The Organization and Procedure of the Pennsylvania Assembly, 1682-1776*. The October issue contains also Nicholas B. Wainwright's study *An Indian Trade Failure: the Story of the Hockley, Trent and Croghan Company, 1748-1752*. This is an eminently readable and illuminating survey of the financing, provisioning and business conditions of Pennsylvania fur trade enterprise as revealed in the papers of an unhappy partnership which failed to hold its own in the international and inter-colonial rivalries of the middle of the eighteenth century. In the January, 1949 issue (vol. 73, no. 1) appears an interesting study and reproduction of Scull and Heap's panoramic *East prospect of Philadelphia (1754)*; and *More Penn Correspondence, Ireland, 1669-1670* by Henry J. Cadbury. This correspondence consists of letters in the Pennsylvania Historical Society collections and of Mary Penington's letter to her brother in the Public Record Office, London. The printing of this last letter in full enables us to correct (from 14.iii. to 14.v.1670) the date given in *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic series. Charles II: Addenda*, pp. 307-8, and printed in *Journal F.H.S.*, vol. 40 (1948), pp. 54-55. In his introduction Henry J. Cadbury suggests that this letter was an enclosure in that from Gulielma Springett to William Penn, 16.v.1670.