

Thomas and Ann Story:

An Unrecorded Correspondence, 1702-1709

A COLLECTION of thirty letters which passed between Thomas and Ann Story in the years 1702-05 and 1707-09, belonging to Mrs. H. M. Bardsley, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, was recently lent to the Library at Friends House for examination. The Rev. John Bardsley of Bedfont, the owner's son who brought the letters to our notice, writes that the collection descended to Mrs. Bardsley (*née* Wilson, a descendent of Isaac, b. 1714, died 1785, and Rachel Wilson of Kendal) from her family. The main interest of the letters is that they come from a period for which the Library possesses no first-hand information; and the printed *Journal* (1747), full as it is, does not mention Thomas Story's marriage to Ann Shippen, the recipient of his letters, in 1706.

The letters are in two groups. The first eight are modern copies of letters from Thomas Story to Ann Shippen, written in the years 1702-05 before their marriage. The series ends (no. 8, dated 5.x.1705) with a most interesting letter in which Thomas Story reminds Ann Shippen of his long standing affection for her, and desires to know her decision whether or not to accept him as her husband.

- Letter no. 1 Thomas Story to Ann Shippen. Dated Flushing 1.vi.1702.
2 T.S. to A.S. New York. 24.vi.1702.
3 T.S. to A.S. Boston. 1.iii.1704.
4 T.S. to A.S. Boston. 19.iv.1704.
5 T.S. to A.S. Newport. 5.vi.1704.
6 T.S. to A.S. West River. 25.ii.1705.
7 T.S. to A.S. Samuel Chews, Herring Creek. 1.iii.1705.
8 T.S. to A.S. Philadelphia. 5.x.1705.

The remaining twenty-two letters (1707-09) are all autograph. Thomas Story writes mostly of his travels, but with little detail, and Ann tells of the home affairs. They both report on the state of their health, which does not appear to have been very robust in either case. The last two letters (no. 29 and no. 30, dated 23 and 24.ix.1709) tell of the capture of the ship in which he was travelling by a French privateer; a full account of this and other incidents in the West Indian journey is given in the printed *Journal* (1747).

- Letter no. 9 Thomas Story to Ann Story. Dated Elcenburgh. 6.viii.1707.
- 10 T.S. to A.S. Choptank Meeting House. 14.viii.1707.
- 11 T.S. to A.S. Newcastle. 18.xi.1708/9.
- 12 T.S. to A.S. At Anchor a little above Bunby-hook. 22.xi.1708/9.
- 13 T.S. to A.S. Bridgetown, Barbados. 11.xii.1708/9.
- 14 A.S. to T.S. Philadelphia. 22.xii.1708/9.
Is sending 1 ton of flour to Jamaica for T.S.
- 15 A.S. to T.S. Philadelphia. 5.i.1708/9.
- 16 T.S. to A.S. Barbados. 12.i.1708/9.
- 17 A.S. to T.S. Philadelphia. 25.i.1709.
- 18 T.S. to A.S. Barbados. 26.i.1709.
Is trading with flour and oil.
- 19 T.S. to A.S. Bridgetown, Barbados. 5.ii.1709.
- 20 T.S. to A.S. Bridgetown, Barbados. 11.ii.1709.
- 21 T.S. to A.S. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2.iii.1709.
Ill health; prospect of visit to Antigua; visit to the Governor of Barbados, and to General Codrington, "respectfully" entertained by other (un-named) persons of note.
- 22 A.S. to T.S. Philadelphia. 5.iii.1709.
Letters received and sent; sent six half barrels of flour; chest of linen to the value of £80 sterling sent for T.S. from Whitehaven.
- 23 T.S. to A.S. Barbados. 9.iii.1709.
Expenses of the journey.
- 24 T.S. to A.S. Barbados. 9.iii.1709.
Departure for Antigua and Jamaica.
- 25 T.S. to A.S. Antigua. 14.iii.1709.
Spent three months in Barbados and received much kindness; sending home a gift for his wife in case he is taken by the "Enemy of our Nations" (the French).
- 26 T.S. to A.S. Antigua. 24.iii.1709.
Two weeks in Antigua; going to Jamaica and hopes to return home from there.
- 27 A.S. to T.S. Philadelphia. 27.iii.1709.
French privateers on the Delaware as far as Chester; fears her husband may meet the French on his return voyage; Richard Snead of Bristol has written about his land in Pennsylvania.
- 28 T.S. to A.S. Nevis. 29.iii.1709.
Landed at Nevis the previous day accompanied by James Boyden; finance; going on to St. Christophers, then to Jamaica and to return home.
- 29 T.S. to A.S. Antigua. 23.ix.1709.
Left Nevis; went to Jamaica and stayed nearly two weeks; with J. Dickinson to Long Island in the Bahamas; captured by a French privateer; ship taken to Port a Pie (Port de Paix, Haiti) and condemned; stayed two weeks there and was entertained by the governor of the port.

30 T.S. to A.S. Antigua. 24.ix.1709.
 Much the same as the previous letter.

M.A.H.

Recent Publications

Woodbrooke 1903-1953, a Brief History of a Quaker Experiment in Religious Education. Edited by Robert Davis. London, Bannisdale Press, 1953. pp. 191. 10s. 6d.

Woodbrooke Settlement in Birmingham was opened as a permanent centre of religious and social study in 1903, primarily to meet needs in the Society of Friends for the strengthening of the quality of ministry in the society's meetings for worship.

Fourteen chapters by twelve writers form this brief history. They deal with the origin, purpose and growth of Woodbrooke, and with its international and interdenominational developments. Many passages testify how valuable Woodbrooke has been to the thousands of men and women from half the countries of the world who have studied there. It has been and continues to be a means of fruitful collaboration and mutual understanding among people belonging to many churches and to none. Its success in its original purpose is less clear.

There are eight illustrations, which do not appear to be listed in the book.

Dynasty of iron founders: the Darbys and Coalbrookdale. By Arthur Raistrick. pp. xvi, 308; 10 plates. London, Longmans, Green and Co. 1953. 30s.

This book surveys the historical development of the Coalbrookdale firm for a century and a half from the time when, in 1699, Abraham Darby established an iron works in Bristol, and transferred his activities to Coalbrookdale eight years later until the Great Exhibition of 1851, in the same year as the Darby family ceased to take direct managerial responsibility in the firm.

Arthur Raistrick has used the Norris MSS., the Kelsall diaries, and Darby journals and letters at Friends House, and the company papers still in possession of the company and at Shrewsbury Public Library, as well as various smaller collections—some in private hands, and has produced a readable and well-documented contribution to British industrial history.

Many Friends besides the Darbys, the Thomases and Richard Reynolds make their appearance in the pages of this book, and it is interesting to learn how the company carried Quaker conviction into commercial practice.

The life and times of George Fox: The Man in Leather Breeches. By Vernon Noble. London and New York, Elek Books, 1953. pp. 298, illus. 21s.

In 150 years there have been few lives of George Fox; not only