

## Penn and His Printer

A DOCUMENT in the Public Record Office which was not included in *Extracts from State Papers, 1664-1669*, published as Supplement No. 10 to this *Journal* (1912), but which concerns *The Sandy Foundation Shaken* (1668), on account of which William Penn spent some months in the Tower of London, has been brought to our notice by Dr. S. W. Carruthers of the Presbyterian Historical Society of England.

A photographic copy of the document is in the Library at Friends House. It is a petition from Joan Darby to the Secretary of State, Lord Arlington, asking that she might be allowed to see her husband and minister to his needs. John Darby, printer, had been sent to prison in the Gatehouse at Westminster under a warrant of 7th December, 1668, for printing *The Sandy Foundation Shaken* (*Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1668-69*, p. 92). In her petition Joan Darby stated that her husband's fault had been committed in ignorance:

"he not being acquainted with the dangerous and pernicious things contained in the book he printed, the copy being brought to him but by piecemeale, and the author himself, William Penn, did sometimes dictate to the compositor as he was setting the letters, so that he knew not of the poyson therein contained."

The document (State Papers, Domestic, Car. II, 233, No. 140) is calendared in the *Calendar S.P. Dom., 1667-68*, p. 201, under date Jan. ? 1668. From the photostat the document appears to have had a date added in pencil, 21 Jan. 1668 [*i.e.* 1669]. This would seem to relate the petition to a warrant of 21 Jan. 1668 (just a year before) to bring Darby and Elizabeth Calvert before Secretary Morice (*Calendar S.P. Dom., 1667-68*, p. 178); but they were at liberty at this time. If January, 1669, is correct, then Darby would have been a prisoner for about six weeks, and his wife might well have had hopes of making a successful application to visit her husband.

Joan Darby's petition does not mention any particular book as the occasion of the imprisonment, but the naming of William Penn fixes it fairly conclusively as *The Sandy Foundation*, because Darby does not seem to have got into trouble over any other books by Penn.

It has been suggested (*Notes and Queries*, vol. 198, p. 282, July, 1953) that the petition refers to the printing of *A Trumpet blown in Sion* (1666), which Darby printed but for which no author has previously been assigned. This is hardly likely; there is no mention of William Penn in the State Papers when that work was being investigated in the summer of 1667 (*Calendar S.P. Dom.*, 1667, p. 395), and he was in Ireland from the summer of 1666 until nearly Christmas 1667 (except for a very short break in early Spring, 1667), so it is most unlikely that he was then dictating at a compositor's elbow in London—as he might well have been a year later.

R.S.M.

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## Friends and the Slave Trade

### A Yorkshire Election Declaration, 1806

IN the General Election, 1806, three candidates originally offered themselves for the two Yorkshire county seats: William Wilberforce, Henry Lascelles of Harewood House, and Walter Fawkes of Farnley Hall. Lascelles withdrew before the contest was due to take place, allowing Wilberforce and Fawkes to be elected unopposed.

During the election the slave trade issue came into some prominence. William Wilberforce was secure in the support of abolitionists. Henry Lascelles was suspect because of his family interests in the West Indies, so it is not surprising to find Walter Fawkes issuing a declaration on the slave trade to secure for himself the second votes of abolitionists. It may well have been his success in this which turned the scales against Lascelles and caused him to retire from the contest.

In the printed *Report of the Proceedings relative to the Election for Yorkshire, Nov. 13, 1806*,<sup>1</sup> Fawkes's announcement is preceded by the following "Circular Letter from three of the People called Quakers," which was published during the contest. It shows clearly where the sympathies of Friends lay.

<sup>1</sup> York: Printed and Published by A. Bartholoman, Herald Office. The Circular is printed on pp. 29-30.