

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.

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*,¹ 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.

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

(CIRCULAR)

As a new Election of Members of Parliament for the County of York, will soon commence, we take the liberty of recommending to the members of our society, who are entitled to vote on this occasion, to consider whether their late Representative, William Wilberforce, is not peculiarly entitled to their vote and interest. Independently of other considerations, the zeal, steadiness, and ability, with which he has long maintained the cause of the African race, and, on every proper occasion, urged the abolition of the slave trade, give him a strong claim to the attachment and support of Friends.

We are sensible that, in general, it does not comport with the principles and practice of our society, to take a very active part in elections—But there are, doubtless, occasions which call for such exertions: and we conceive that the present is one of this nature; as it involves a subject, which has, for half a century, deeply engaged the sympathy and attention of the Society.

If the friends whom we now address, should view the subject in the same light as we do, they will probably deem it of importance to be present at the time of Nomination; as a seasonable and numerous attendance of the friends of William Wilberforce, may have a great influence in securing his election; and in preventing a contest, which would be attended with serious and distressful consequences. It is scarciey necessary to observe, that, in supporting their late representative, friends will see the propriety of bearing their own expenses, and putting the candidate in no charge whatever.

We trust that this application to the members of our society will not be thought, by any of them, an improper interference. We desire only to turn their attention seriously to the subject; and to induce them to reflect on the great importance of re-electing a person, whose labours have done so much towards abolishing the iniquitous trade in human beings; whose views, on this interesting subject, have so fully corresponded with our own; and whose continued exertions, in the present critical state of the question, would greatly contribute to a happy termination of the wrongs and sorrows of Africa.

William Tuke
Thomas Priestman
Lindley Murray

York, 27th of 10th Month, 1806.

The Rise of Nonconformity in the Forest of Dean. By Thomas Bright. Forest of Dean Local History Society, [1954]. pp. 52. 5s.

This deals in seven chapters with the various denominations, including Friends. There is more evidence available about Friends than some of the other denominations because their open defiance of oppression brought so much persecution upon them. The early meeting of Friends, at Coleford, died out some time late in the eighteenth century. Mary Botham, afterwards well known under her married name of Mary Howitt, was born there in 1799.