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978-1-108-01532-5 - The Short Journals and Itinerary Journals of George Fox

Edited by Norman Penney

Excerpt

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I

THE SHORT JOURNAL

¹GEORG FOX So Called of the World but the world knows neither him nor his {new} name, Here are some of his sufferings y^t hee hath suffered by the world and their Professors, Priests & Teachers; For preaching the truth Christ y^t never fell nor will fall nor chang but ends all the changing figures and Types and shadows in Adam in the fall, Christ y^v never fell nor Never will fall.

[In Mansfield there came a Priest who was looked upon to bee above others, and all y^t profest themselvs above the priests went to hear him and cryed him upp, I was against their going, and spoke to them ag^t their going; and asked them if they had not a Teacher w^hin them The Anoynting to teach them; And why would they go out to man.

And then when they were gone to hear him I was in a sore travell and it came upon mee that I was Moved to go to the steple house to tell the people and y^e priest and to bidd them to cease from man whose breath was in their Nostrils, and to tell them where their Teacher was, w^hin them, the spirit and y^e light of Jesus, And that How God y^t made the world doth not dwell in Temples made w^h hands and many other things concerning the truth I spake to them...^a they were pretty Moderate to hear y^e truth, whereby after...^b wrought upon.

First I was imprisond in Nottingham for speaking to a priest in y^e Steeplehouse for] as I passed to Nottingham as I looked upon y^e Town, The great steeplehouse [struck att my life when I spyed it a great Idol and Idolatrous Temple;] And so I went to the Meeting and after a while I went to the Steeplehouse²; as I was Moved I spake to the priest, and y^e priest said y^v the Scriptures were the touchstone and Judg and were to try all doctrines and appease and to end

^a Edge of first leaf worn away. A has *and*

^b Edge of first leaf worn away. A has *many were*

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Controversies att which sayings of his I said y^t the Scriptures were not y^e Judg, but y^e holy ghost y^t gave them forth was the Judg and Touchstone: for the pharisees had the Scriptures and y^e Jewes and professors, but the Controversies are not ended then after they had mee before the Maior and Aldermen who sent mee to prison; a pittifull stinking place, [where the wind brought all the stench^a of the house of office in y^e place,] where y^e stench^a of y^e place was in my throat and head many dayes after, and then in y^e Evening I was brought to the Sheriffs¹ house, and the sheriffs wife said y^t salvation was comed to her house; and all their family was wrought upon by y^e power of y^e lord; And they beleved in the truth and this being y^e first day of y^e week; the next Seaventh day y^e Sheriffe himself spake the truth in a paire of slippers in y^e market amongst the people, and his family; very many others being wrought upon.

The Maior and some of y^e Aldermen caused mee to be sent to another prison where I was kept till I was sett...^b Liberty. [when I was a prisoner in the same place there came a woman...^c to the prison and two wth her and said y^t shee had been possessed two and thirty years². And the priests had kept her and had kept fasting dayes about her, and could not do her any good, and shee said the lord said unto her arise, for I have a Sanctified people, hast and go to them for thy redemption draweth nigh, and when I came out of prison I bad friends have her to mansfield, and at that time our meettings were disturbed by wild people, and both them and the Professors and priests said y^t wee were false prophets and deceivers and y^t there was witchcraft amongst us, and the poor woman would make such a noyce in roaring and Sometimes lying along upon her belly upon the ground and wth her spirit and roaring and voyce, and would set all friends in a heat and sweat. And I said all friends keep to y^r owne, lest y^t which is in her gett into y^u and so she affrightend the world from our meettings; and then they said if that were cast out of her while she were wth us, and were made well then they would say y^t wee were of God; this said the world, and I had said before y^t shee should be set free; and then it was upon mee that wee should have a

^a A: *strength*^b Edge of leaf worn away. A has *att*^c Edge of leaf worn away. A has *to mee*

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meeting at Skekbey at Elizabeth Huttons¹ house; where wee had her there; and there were many friends almost overcome by her wth y^e stink y^t came out of her; roaring and tumbling on the ground; and y^e same day shee was worse then ever shee was, and then another day wee mett about her; and about y^e first hour y^e life rose in friends, and said it was done, and shee rose upp & her Countenance changed and became white and before it was wanne and earthly, and she sat down at my thigh as I was sitting and lift up her hands and said ten thousand praise the lord and did not know where shee was and so shee was well², and wee kept her about a fortnight in y^e sight of y^e world and shee wrought and did things, and...^a sent her away to her friends, And then the worlds professors, priests & Teachers never could call us any more false prophetts deceivers, or witches after, but it did a great deal of good in y^e Countrey among people in relaçon to y^e truth and to y^e Stopping the mouths of y^e world and their slandrous Aspersion.]

^{2^{ly}} And in Lecestershire as I was passing thorow the fields I was moved to go to Lester and when I came there I heard y^t there were many to preach and it was so, and I was moved to go among them, and after I had heard severall speak, and at last a woman asked a question. And the priest in y^e pulpit said I permitt not a woman to speak in y^e church, though hee had before given liberty for any to speak; and then I stood upp and spake and said dost thou call this mixt multitude a Church; [and then I spoke how y^t the Church was in God the father of our lord Jesus Christ; and what the woman was y^t was not to speak, and w^t the woman was y^t might prophecy and speak, and it broke them all to peeces and confused them, and they all turned ag^t mee into Jangling and they broke upp and came to a house from the steeple house, & y^e truth set them all in a heat and scatterd them from the house and steeple house and the power of y^e lord came over them all, and the truth.]

^{3^{ly}} In Darbyshire at Chesterfield where I was moved of the lord by his power to go to y^e steeplehouse and when I had spoken w^t was upon mee to speak they put mee forth of y^e steeple house and y^e Maior sent for mee [and after some speech wth mee about comeing to y^e steeple house and when

^a Edge of leaf worn away. A has *then wee*

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In Derby House of Correction

it was said to him whether was it better to obey god or man
Judg yee, and y^e Apostles suffered for declareing ag^t y^e
Temple, and did bring people to Christ from y^e Traditions]
and so hee caused y^e watchmen to put us out of y^e Town
about y^e eleventh hour of y^e night.

And the priest¹ preached of mee y^t I was taken up into y^e
clouds wth a whirlwinde, and I was found full of gold &
silver, upon which my outward friends sent for mee and I
wrote to them and they shewed it to y^e priest, and hee said
any man might write, but where is y^e man. And they sent
to mee agⁿ and I went, and when I came into Darbyshire I
had a discourse of the thinges of God wth them, and they
acknowledged y^e truth most of them and one said hee had
been a professor forty years & hee had not tasted of y^e love
of God So much for his heart was open^d wth it.

Then wee passed through friends to Darby Town, and
after I had visited friends; The next morning the Bell did
ring, and I asked y^m what it rung for, and they said it was
for a Sermon; and it struck at my life and then I was moved
to go and two others wth mee to y^e steeple house and when
y^e priest had done I spoke to him and the people [of the truth
and the day of y^e lord and the light wthin them and the
spirit to teach and lead them to God] and after a while they
haled mee out and had mee before Collonels and Justices
and Priests, and the Examination held from y^e first houre
until the Ninth houre. And I told them y^t God was power
and a Consumeing fire, and not for them to dispute of him,
for all their preaching, sprinkling, sacraments would never
sanctifie a man, nor their readings or expoundings; And
they said was I sanctified, and I said yes. And they said
had I no sin. I said no Christ had taken away my sin.
And then they made a Mittimus, and sent mee and another²
to y^e house of Correction; and the other did not prove
faithfull but made for his liberty and gote out of prison, and
then the priests, Justices, professors, and people were in a
rage and said y^t I was a deceiver and a false prophet and a
seducer; And then the lord open to mee if all forsook mee my
spirit doubled to mee^a, and y^t I was a king sett for y^e defence
of y^e faith y^t giveth victory, and y^e hope y^t purifieth as hee
was pure, and y^e believe y^t passed from death to life in wth

^a Vol. 1. p. 3. Ell. text: *was strengthened*

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condemnacon is not. And all other hopes, faiths, beleefs, y^t doe not give victory and purifieth and passeth out of death to life, Judg and deny. And great disputes I had wth all sorts of people; and as I preached down sin the priests raged^e and preached up sin; And the Goaler and y^e Justices were in a rage ag^t mee, and y^e lord smote y^e Justices and y^e Goaler That the Goaler came trembling up to mee, and said y^t hee had done mee wrong and had spoken ag^t mee and hee would speak to them¹.

And hee told his wife y^t hee saw the day of Judgment & hee saw mee there and was afraid of mee, for hee had done mee wronge And so hee was like the Goaler in y^e Acts y^t came to the Apostles and he must lye wth mee hee said, and hee went to y^e Justice y^t first called us Quakers whose name was Bennet², and told him y^t hee was willing to keep mee, but not as a prisoner, for hee did beleeve y^t the plagues would never depart from his house as long as hee kept mee a prisoner; and the Justice said hee beleevd the same; and y^t I was the honestest man amongst them all; and hee y^t had got his liberty y^t was Imprisoned wth mee, they said hee was a knave and they wondred at him y^t hee did not stand to his principle; [and the poor man was in trouble a great while before hee returned to y^e power of God againe.]

Then they gave mee liberty more then I had, and y^t I might walk a little upp and down, and then they thought I would have gone away; and then one night they had mee before the Commissioners; and would have had mee to take upp Arms and to bee a Soldiour and I told them I stood in that which took away the occation of warrs and fightings; and They in a rage sent mee away wth the Goaler and bid him put mee in the dungeon, where hee did in a low place in the ground and lousey, and there I was kept a great while; [and then I was taken out and put in y^e high Goale, and there I was kept till I was sett freely at liberty; who had been kept a year wthin three weeks, in four prisons and the house of Correction, and at y^e Town prison house and the Countrey Goale and dungeon and this was in 1650 in the 30th of y^e moneth called October³ in the Common wealths dayes and then the light and truth and glory of y^e lord flowed & spread abroad.]

¹ A: *cryed*

4th In yorkshire I was moved to go to Beverley and upon the 7th day at night I came to an Inne very wett, and the next day being y^e first day I went to y^e steeple house as I was moved of y^e lord and when the priest had done I spake to him, and the people [of y^e truth of God and the day of y^e lord and the light of Christ within them and of y^e spirit and of God's teaching by the spirit, and y^t God y^t made y^e world did not dwell in temples made wth hands;] and the Major came to mee, [and took mee by the hand] and reasond moderately wth mee; and so after a while I passed away; and they reported y^t a spirit had been there, for they were in an amazement; I came suddenly and so passed away suddenly; y^t when I came a great way off y^t was y^e report amongst y^e great ones.

And in the afternoon I went about 3 miles off Beverley and there went into y^e steeple house and when the priest had done I spoke to him, & y^e People largely and they were moderate and many heard the truth gladly; and desired mee to give them another meeting; and so y^e truth had its passage.

And then I was moved towards y^e lands end in Holderness and as I went I spake thorow the townes and by y^e sea side, and to people in y^e fields of y^e day of y^e lord y^t was comming upon all ungodlyness and unrighteousnesse, and how y^t Christ was come to teach his people himself and as I was preaching and speaking through a town called Patrington And as I passed down the town I was moved to bidd people to repent & fear the lord and come off all their false Teachers for y^e day of y^e lord was comming upon all sin and wickednes, and the priest being in y^e town street and hearing mee and as I went down y^e street I spake to y^e people, and some heard and others said y^t I was madd, and it began to be dark, and I being thirsty I desired drink or milk and meat & saying y^t I would pay them for it, and they would not, and then I passed out of y^e Town, & some followed mee, and asked mee^a some questions about outward things^a, and I bad them fear the lord [and prize their time for I saw their question was tempting,] and they left mee and so I passed on and lay out all y^e night.

And when y^e day brake I walked when I could see my

^a...^a Vol. 1. p. 30: *what news?*

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way and passed towards a Town, and in y^e way there came a man after mee wth a great staffe when it was hardly light and hee went wth mee to y^e town and raised the town and the Constables upon mee, hee having a warrant y^t they had made at Pattrington and the Constables brought mee wth staves to Pattrington where I had a great service wth priest and people the whole town in a manner being upp & they sent mee to a Justice, and when I came near the Justices house, there came a man to mee and asked mee if I were y^e man y^t was apprehended and I said I was; and he said for my sake hee was there, and went before mee to y^e Justice, and when I came to y^e Justice, he bid mee put off my hat, and I said did it trouble him, and y^e man y^t spake to mee on y^e way told him it was tenderness^a. And I took it of in my hand and said to him doth this trouble thee; and I put it on again, and bid him mind the witness of Christ the light in him y^t sheewed him his sinns and his evill deeds y^t hee had done, and he confessd to y^e truth and I was sett at liberty; and I went back wth y^e man y^t said hee was there for my sake to Pattrington for hee lived there; and the next first day I had a great meetting at his house in y^e after noone where many of y^e Countrey was gathered and many were convinced, and in y^e forenoone I went to y^e steeplehouse and spake to y^e priest and people and they were pretty moderate and a great many were convinced in y^e Countrey.

And I was moved to go to y^e foremost town in Holdernesse, and spake through the Town three times; and then the officers put mee forth of y^e Town and People had a report y^t I would never come into Bedd nor Towns; and as I passed out of that Countrey I came to an Ale house; and I desired Lodging and other necessary thinges, and they would not Except I would go to y^e Constable¹ and I passed away and lay out all y^e night.

²And from the forementioned Town w^{ch} I had passed through in Holdernesse 3 times; I was moved to go to a steeplehouse in Yorkshire³, and when the priest had done I spake to him and the people, and they were all light, and after I had spoken to them the truth, I sleighted their light spirits, and there came at night the heads of y^e Town where I lay and was convinced of y^e truth and there was a priest

^a Vol. 1. p. 31: *my principle*

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convinced¹ and after there was a Rantor² that was to dispute wth mee who was mightily looked upon by y^e People in the Countrey, and when he came he said it was shewed to him y^t I should bee sitting in a chayre and it was so, and y^t he should bow down to the ground before mee and hee did so, before y^e people and priests; and the first words I was moved to say to him was repent thou [Swine and] Beast, and he said it was Jealousie, and I asked him what was the ground of Jealousie, and the ground of a heathen in man, and give mee account of thinges in the body before wee discourse of thinges out of the body; and they were all amazed and astonished, and the truth came over all, and the witnessse of God answered and their wisdome confounded.

And when the meetting was broken upp the next morneing one Priest Levens³ that was there desired mee to go alone wth him for hee had some questions to aske mee, So I took his Brother [William Ratliffe]⁴ wth mee, and so he asked mee somethings and I answered him but his intent was to have taken away my life and have murdred mee alone, for after he had parted wth mee hee met wth a priest in a rage, and broke his cane upon the ground in madnesse, and said if ever hee mett mee hee would have my life, and hee would give his head if I were not knocked down within a moneth, but truth came over all; and there was another priest sent to dispute wth me under a cover, hearing I was to go out of y^e Countrey; and when I came he got away and would not be seen; and so truth came over his head and the people came to see it, and his folly.

In Yorkshire there was a Justice⁵ very loving and said his house was myne and I was moved to go to the steeplehouse and hee went wth mee in the fields and he said in himself If I spoke they would put mee to him, and there came a Captaine⁶ a friend and went wth mee, and y^e Justice went back, and I had a brave service wth y^e priest and people, and the truth came over all in laying open the false Teachers and priests, and the truth and the true Teachers, and the light and the spirit of Christ in them, and y^t God y^t made y^e world dwelt not in temples made wth hands, but their bodyes were the temples of y^e holy ghost.

And in the afternoon I was moved to go to another

^a Vol. 1. p. 23: *Scotch Preist*

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steeplehouse and there when I came y^e Priest was preaching, and was bidding y^e People to come without money and wthout price, and hee had three hundred pounds a year of them, and so I said to him did hee bid them come wthout price and had hee so much a year and took tyth of them; come down thou hyreling; and hee fled away, and I had a fine time to speak y^e truth to y^e People and they received it, and did not oppose but it came over all and I passed away.

And I was moved to go to [Stokslye]¹ steeplehouse, and when y^e priest had done I spoke to him as I was moved and to y^e people the truth of God, and they were moderate and I lett them see their true Teacher, [and how that their Teacher was found in the stepps of the false teachers, and how y^e lord was com'd to teach his people himselfe, and y^e light which Christ did enlighten wthall they might come to in y^mselves, and so by it come to Christ; so when wee were gone out of the steeplehouse into y^e street, the priest sent for mee to his house, and I sent to him and bad him to come into y^e street among y^e People to try his ministry and himself, and it was in the snow in the winter, and hee did not come] and so I passed away in y^e truth y^t reacheth in all hearts.

And I was moved to a steeple house which James Nayler was a member of² and when I came into it the priest was preaching and when hee had done, I spake to him; and hee and the people bad mee come up to him, and I went up to y^e pulpitt, and beganne to speak to him, and y^e People thrust mee out of y^e doore and chancery and haled and pulled mee upp and down and cryed for y^e stocks and threatned mee wth them, and this was y^e greatest professor in yorkshire³, but y^e truth came over all and a great service was y^t day of the truth there and at a meeting not farre off.

I was moved to go to Moten⁴ steeple house in yorkshire upon a lecture day, the day when y^e Markett was, and y^e priest was preaching to about a dozen people, and when hee had done there came another priest and would have had mee to go upp into y^e pulpitt and I denied it, and this priest went to y^e other priest & asked him for my going upp into y^e pulpitt and he said yes I might, and then the priest came to mee agⁿ and would have had mee to go into y^e pulpitt, and

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because I would not some of the people beganne to call mee a deceiver and then began to bee a Tumult; I stood upon a seat and cryed for Audience and spake to them freely many hundreds of people there was and a great service for y^e truth there was of opening the truth and speaking it to them and largely and letting them see the true teacher the spirit of God and the light in them selves, and the false teachers w^hout them for their ends meanes, and money and the truth came over all, and wee passed away peaceably in the truth of God answereing the witness of God in all.

And then I was moved to go to Doncaster steeplehouse and was moved to speak the truth both to y^e priest and people where they plucked mee out beating mee and throwing mee down and bruised mee sore & then had mee before y^e Maior and other officers, and after they had threatned mee they sett mee at liberty, and said If I came againe my blood bee upon my owne head, and turned mee amongst y^e rude multitude who stoned us, and there was a Bayliffe y^t took mee into his house, & y^e rude people broke his head, y^t y^e blood runne down his face, and about his house the rude people waited; [and hee was lott I told him y^t ventured himselfe and took us into his house from y^e rude multitude.] And when wee went out of y^e Town they stoned us a great way out of y^e Town some friends being w^h me.

And I was moved to go to Tickell in Yorkshire, and when friends was in y^e meetting and fresh and full of y^e life and power of God I was moved to go to y^e steeplehouse, and y^e priest had done & I went upp among them in the chancery, and was beginning to speak, and they beat mee about y^e head, y^t I was all bloody, and it runne of mee in the steeple house, and then they cryed take him out of the Church, and they punched mee and thrust mee out, and beat mee sore w^h Books fists and sticks and threw mee over a Hedg into a close and there beat mee, and then threw mee over agⁿ and then beat mee into a house punching mee into a house, and through the entry; and there I lost my hatt and never had it agⁿ there they ston'd and beat mee along sorely Blooded and bruised; and then I went into a friends house, and y^e priest beheld a great part of this his peoples doings, and then in o^r friends yard I spake the truth to them priest and people [they being in the street and I in y^e friends yard on