

1855

A Short Account of George Fox: Prepared for Children

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GEORGE FOX

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Mary L. M. B.

From her sister

Phoebe Bowerman

A SHORT ACCOUNT
OF
GEORGE FOX.

PREPARED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

THIRD EDITION.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH RAKESTRAW.
1855.

THIS short compilation was prepared solely for the use of Friends' Infant School, without any view to its publication; but having been found interesting to the pupils there, it is now offered to parents and those who have the charge of instructing the children of Friends, in the hope that it may prove helpful to them in leading the youthful mind to an acquaintance with our Christian testimonies.

This little history of George Fox has passed through two editions: the first printed in 1833, the second 1842; and now there is no copy to be obtained. Some of the pupils of the "Infant School," retaining still the impressions made upon their tender minds whilst learning and answering the profitable questions contained therein, and feeling desirous that the children of the present day might have the opportunity of becoming early acquainted with these excellent truths, are induced to give it another re-print, with a small addition.

Philadelphia, Fifth month, 1855.

A SHORT ACCOUNT, &c.

Question. What religious Society do we belong to?

Answer. The religious Society of *Friends*, commonly called Quakers.

Ques. Who was the first Friend?

Ans. George Fox.

Ques. In what country did he live?

Ans. In England.

Ques. When was George Fox born?

Ans. In 1624, in the latter part of the reign of king Charles the First.

Ques. What was his father's name?

Ans. Christopher Fox. He was so good a man, that his neighbours called him *righteous Christer*.

Ques. Was his mother a good woman?

Ans. Yes: she was a pious woman, and a kind good mother to her children.

Ques. What kind of a little boy was George Fox?

Ans. From a little child he was very different from his brothers; refusing childish and vain sports and company; he was very still and

grave, and when he saw old people behaving rudely and foolishly, he would say to himself, "If ever I come to be a man, surely I should not do so."

Ques. What employment did he like most when he was a boy?

Ans. He delighted most in keeping sheep; and when he was old enough, he was placed by his parents with a man who was a shoemaker, who kept sheep and cattle; and George was very skilful in taking care of these animals.

Ques. Was he very careful always to speak the truth?

Ans. Yes: for he says, "When I came to be eleven years of age, I

knew pureness and righteousness, for while I was a child I was taught how to walk so as to be kept pure. The Lord taught me to be faithful in all things, and to keep to Yea and Nay in all things."

Ques. If he was so different from other little boys, did people like him?

Ans. People generally loved him for his innocency and honesty; but when any boys or rude persons laughed at him, he let them alone and went quietly away.

Ques. What happened to George Fox when he came to be a man?

Ans. When he came to be a man, he often met with rude com-

pany, whose conduct grieved him very much: and to hear vain and wicked words was a great trouble to him, for he knew that wicked words are an offence to the Almighty.

Ques. What did he do, when he was so troubled at the wickedness of the people?

Ans. He often retired to the fields and woods, out of the way of evil company, and waited on the Lord, and prayed that he might be directed in the way he should go.

Ques. Did George Fox love to read the Bible?

Ans. Yes: for while he lived so much by himself, he read the

Holy Scriptures diligently, esteeming them the best of books.

Ques. Had he any thing beside the Bible, to tell him what he ought to do ?

Ans. Yes. He had the Holy Spirit which shines into all our hearts, so that even little children can easily know what is right, and what is wrong.

Ques. How does the Holy Spirit show children what is right and what is wrong ?

Ans. By making them feel unhappy when they have done anything sinful, and happy and peaceful when they have done well : and if they are tempted to do a wicked

act, they feel in their hearts that they ought not to do it.

Ques. What did George Fox do, at the time called Christmas?

Ans. When the time called Christmas came, while others were feasting and sporting, in which he would not indulge, he went about from house to house, looking for poor widows and giving them money; for though he was not rich, he had a little to spare for those who stood in need.

Ques. How old was he when he began to preach?

Ans. About twenty-three years of age. And though at first he spoke but a little while at a time,

yet what he said made people feel that he spoke the truth; for he spoke what the Lord put into his heart to say.

Ques. Did people pay him for preaching to them?

Ans. No: for when George Fox received a gift in the ministry, he knew that it was given him freely by Christ Jesus, who said to his disciples, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

Ques. Did any people join him and become Friends?

Ans. Yes. Many serious people were glad to hear him preach; and some who had led wicked and ungodly lives were soon convinced of

his doctrines; and by being convicted for their sinful ways, and obedient to their Heavenly Father, they were enabled to forsake the evils that are in this world.

Ques. Did any of them become ministers?

Ans. Yes. Many of them became eminent ministers of the Gospel.

Ques. Where were meetings of Friends set up?

Ans. Meetings were established, not only in England, but also in Germany, Holland, America, and the West Indies.

Ques. What occurred to George

Fox when he was about twenty-seven years old?

Ans. When he was about twenty-seven years old, some soldiers wished to have him for their captain; but he could not be a soldier, for he knew that wars and fightings came from yielding to our evil propensities. And because he refused, he was put into a filthy prison, where he was kept nearly half a year.

Ques. What did he do, after he got out of jail?

Ans. He travelled about, preaching to the people, confirming his doctrine by the Holy Scriptures, in which he was well versed; and

telling them to mind what the Holy Spirit taught them in their hearts.

Ques. What things did George Fox speak against.

Ans. He testified against feasts, sports, theatres, and shows, which encourage people in idleness and vanity, and lead them away from the fear of the Lord.

Ques. What did he say to those who had little children?

Ans. He advised them to train up their children in the fear of the Lord: and he told all people to do justly, speak the truth, and do unto others as they would have others do unto them.

Ques. Did George Fox think it right to swear?

Ans. He could not take an oath, for our blessed Saviour said, "Swear not at all."

Ques. Did George Fox feel at liberty to use the vain customs and fashions of the people of the world?

Ans. No. He felt restrained from doing so by the spirit of Christ in his heart, which also forbad him to take off his hat or bow to any person, which honour should be given only as a mark of reverence to the Almighty.

Ques. What else did the Holy Spirit require of George Fox?

Ans. He was required to use the

plain language, Thee and Thou, to every man; because it is the language of the Bible, and it is also according to Grammar; and because the use of flattering titles, and of *you* to a single person, is designed to please the vanity and pride of man.

Ques. How did people treat him for doing so?

Ans. Because George Fox and his friends could not say *You* to a single person without disobeying their Heavenly Father, and could not take off their hats to great people, the men of the world were very angry at them; and sometimes they beat them, and sometimes put

them in prison, and sometimes their hats were violently taken away from them, and never returned to them again.

Ques. How did they bear such cruel treatment?

Ans. They bore their trials patiently, remembering that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ received not honour from men: and these his servants looked to Him for support and consolation, and not unto men.

Ques. Did they suffer in any other way?

Ans. Yes. At first they were in danger of suffering from poverty: for the people of the world disliked

their plain language and manners so much, that they were unwilling to have any business with them.

Ques. How was it afterwards?

Ans. Afterwards, when it was found how honest they were, and that they kept all their promises, their business increased very much; so that some of their neighbours said, "If we let these Quakers alone, they will take the trade of the nation out of our hands."

Ques. Did George Fox ever come to America?

Ans. Yes. He visited the islands of Barbadoes and Jamaica, in the latter part of the year 1671, and at the begining of the next year, he

took shipping for Maryland, and passed more than a year in this country, where he had large and solemn meetings, and many people joined him and became Friends.

Ques. Were there many inhabitants in America then ?

Ans. Yes, in New England. But except Indians, there were but few inhabitants at that time (1672) in Pennsylvania and some other parts; and in passing along from Maryland to New England, he and his companions lay many nights in the woods, and had considerable difficulty in crossing rivers and swampy places.

Ques. How was it then in New Jersey?

Ans. In New Jersey they would travel a whole day without seeing man or woman, house, or any kind of dwelling place; and they lay in the woods at night, by a fire.

Ques. Did they meet with no Indians?

Ans. Yes: sometimes they met with Indians who were very friendly to them, and would allow them to come into their wigwams and lie down on their mats and skins.

Ques. Give a description of George Fox.

Ans. He was tall in stature, graceful in countenance, manly in

person, grave in gesture, courteous and instructive in conversation, and free from affectation in his speech and carriage; very moderate in eating and drinking; deep in understanding, of a discerning spirit; and in his discourses, what was deficient in human learning, was abundantly supplied by heavenly knowledge.

Ques. Where did George Fox die, and how old was he?

Ans. George Fox died in London in 1690. He was sixty-six years old; and his soul departed in great peace, after he had been sick three days. A great meeting was held on the day of his inter-

ment, after which his body was borne by Friends, accompanied by a very great concourse to Friends' burying ground near Bunhill fields, and committed to the earth. Many testimonies were delivered recommending the people to the guidance of the same Holy Spirit, by which he was made an eminent minister and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE ADVANTAGES OF RELIGION.

Happy the child whose early years
Receive instruction well ;
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
'Tis pleasing in his eyes :
A flower when offered in the bud
Is no mean sacrifice.

'Tis easier work if we begin
To fear the Lord betimes ;
While sinners that grow old in sin
Are hardened in their crimes,

'Twill save us from a thousand snares
To mind religion young ;
Grace will preserve our following years
And make our virtue strong.

To thee, Almighty God, to thee
Our childhood we resign ;
'Twill please us to look back and see
That our whole lives were thine.

Let the sweet work of prayer and praise
Employ my youngest breath ;
Thus I'm prepared for longer days,
Or fit for early death.— *Watts.*

A MORNING HYMN.

My Father, I thank thee for sleep,
 For quiet and peaceable rest ;
 I thank thee for stooping to keep
 An infant from being distrest :
 Oh, how can a poor little creature repay,
 Thy fatherly kindness by night and by day !
 My voice would be lisping thy praise,
 My heart would repay thee with love ;
 O, teach me to walk in thy ways,
 And fit me to see thee above :—
 For Jesus said, let little children come nigh ;
 He will not despise such an infant as I.
 As long as thou seest it right,
 That here upon earth I should stay,
 I pray thee to guard me by night,
 And help me to serve thee by day ;
 That when all the days of my life shall have
 past,
 I may worship thee better in heaven at last.
J. T.

AN EVENING HYMN.

Lord, I have passed another day,
And come to thank thee for thy care;
Forgive my faults in work and play,
And listen to my evening prayer.

Thy favour gives me daily bread,
And friends, who all my wants supply;
And safely now I rest my head,
Preserved and guarded by thine eye.

Look down in pity, and forgive,
Whate'er I've said or done amiss,
And help me every day I live,
To serve thee better than in this.

Now while I speak, be pleased to take
A helpless child beneath thy care;
And condescend for Jesus' sake,
To listen to my evening prayer.

A FRIEND ABOVE.

One there is above all others,
Well deserves the name of friend ;
His is love, beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end.

Which of all our friends, to save us,
Could or would have shed his blood ;
But this Saviour died to have us
Reconciled in him to God.

When he lived on earth abased,
Friend of sinners was his name,
Now above all glory raised ;
He rejoices in the same.

Oh, for grace our hearts to soften !
Teach us, Lord, at length to love ;
We, alas ! forget too often
What a friend we have above.

LOVE EACH OTHER.

“Little children, love each other,”
Is the blessed Saviour’s rule ;
Ev’ry little one is brother
To his playfellow at school.

We’re all children of one Father—
The great God who reigns above !
Shall we quarrel ? No : much rather
Would we be like him, *all love*.

He has plac’d us here together,
That we may be good and kind ;
And is ever watching whether
We are one in heart and mind.

He who’s stronger than the other,
Let him be the weak one’s friend ;
Who’s more playthings than his brother,
He’ll delight to give and lend.

Selfish children's sad behaviour
Shows they love themselves alone ;
But the children of the Saviour
Will not call the *best* their own :

All they have they share with others,
Give kind looks and gentle words ;
Thus they live like happy brothers,
And are known to be the Lord's.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

Great God, and wilt thou condescend
To be my Father and my friend?
I, but a child, and thou so high;
The Lord of earth, and air, and sky.

Art thou my Father? Let me be
A meek, obedient child to thee;
And try in ev'ry deed and thought,
To love and please thee, as I ought.

Art thou my Father? I'll depend
Upon the care of such a friend;
And only wish to do and be
Whatever seemeth good to thee.

Art thou my Father? Then at last,
When all my days on earth are past,
Send down and take me, in thy love,
To be thy happy child above.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

See, the kind Shepherd, Jesus, stands,
With all his beauteous charms :
Hark ! how he calls the tender lambs,
And folds them in his arms.

“ Let little children come,” he cries ;
“ Forbid them not to come,
Their mansion is above the skies,
And I will lead them home.”

He'll lead us to the heavenly streams
Where living waters flow,
And guide us to the fruitful fields,
Where trees of knowledge grow.

The smallest lamb amidst the flock,
Shall be the Shepherd's care ;
While folded in the Saviour's arms
We're safe from ev'ry snare.