

about the betrothal she so keenly desired—if only one obstacle were removed.

She was sitting with her brother—under strict injunctions from the doctor of cheerful and judicious conversation—some eight days after his imprisonment, when she ventured to broach the engrossing subject with—

“Miss Assheton is wonderfully anxious to see you, Stephen.”

He sighed as he answered, “She can’t be more anxious than I am to see her. Has she heard from her father?”

“Yes; I think it’s about that she wants to talk to you. He is expected over almost directly.”

“Thank goodness!” said Stephen wearily. It was on his mind to say more, for, weakened by illness, his insistent anxiety for Aimée grew almost insupportable, but just then entered Dr. Burroughes with a cheery—

“Well, my man, and can you stand another visitor? Here’s Freeman badgering my life out to let him come up. I suppose I must give in. Ten minutes he may stay, and no longer. Henrietta, you come and turn him out then;” and to his great satisfaction honest

Freeman was forthwith ushered up, and occupied the allotted ten minutes with his deputy master chiefly in fervent congratulations on his narrow escape. But, to his thinking, Mr. Legh didn’t progress fast enough. “He’d like to see him looking heartier,” he said, adding, with a wise nod over his prophetic hint—

“What you want just now, sir, is a nice wife about you—askin’ your pardon. She’d make a different-lookin’ man of you in no time, a wife would.”

It was rough sympathy, but it hit the mark. Stephen, craving to speak of Aimée to some one, any one, unloosed his tongue. Mrs. Burroughes coming in at the moment, detained behind the door-screen by a bolt catching the lace of her sleeve, heard his answer—

“A wife, Freeman? You are right. I’ve the best one in the world ready for me, and wouldn’t keep her waiting a day if I weren’t so unluckily tied by—”

Back shot the bolt, and to the front came Mrs. Burroughes. Freeman departed, full of hopes for the invalid’s amending. Tired of talking, Stephen lay back in silence, while, with his words revolving in her active brain, his sister sat devising how she would loose him from his bonds.

END OF CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

## TO A SEA-SHELL.

A SONNET.



SEA-SHELL, singing, as if in thy soul,  
In a melodious low-voiced monotone,  
Of sounding shores where foam-bright breakers  
roll,  
Of sunlit seas where but wave - songs are  
known!  
Thy crimson-wreathèd ear, in days long flown,  
Drank deep the wondrous music of the sea;

And now thy heart, with mingled mirth and moan,  
Still sighing swells with ocean’s melody.  
A shell upon life’s morning shore like thee,  
The sad soul, severed from its natal bays,  
Yet holds high treasured in dear memory  
The glorious cadence of love’s early lays,  
And pleased in sorrow, listens to the low  
Heart-holden symphonies of long ago.

J. W. M.

## “FRIENDS” IN THE COMMONS.

**I**N widely differing methods two centuries have brought the House of Commons and the members of the Society of Friends into contact. When the denomination was young, the House of Commons brought to its bar one of the most eloquent advocates of the new faith, adjudged him a “blasphemer,” and, in spite of Cromwell’s remonstrance, branded, burnt, flogged, and imprisoned that “much-afflicted man, James Nayler,” as Lamb calls him. There were versions of the punishment, only a little milder, inflicted upon other Friends, who were collectively deemed enemies of the Commonwealth. Under Charles II. their sufferings were slightly alleviated for a time, but fresh “Acts” were passed to crush

the sect. Under James, partial toleration was secured by the “lobbying” of Penn, and then the legislative interest of the body turned to Pennsylvania. One Friend had been elected to the House of Commons, but the legislative oath and other circumstances prevented Archdale taking his seat; and though others had been invited to become candidates, we have to come down to the Reform Bill of fifty years ago for the first Quaker member of Parliament.

Durham was divided by the first Reform Bill, and one of the new constituencies delighted to honour the late Joseph Pease. He had laboured to aid in giving his native county the first public railway; he was largely interested in the commerce of South Durham; his family was of long and good repute in the district; he was personally popular, “and a winning tongue had he.” He had the scruples of one or two of his family

and friends to overcome, and he had a sharp fight, but was returned at the head of the poll. The question of the oath was to be faced, however. On Friday, February 8th, 1833, he entered Parliament, was tendered the usual oaths, and refused them. He had expected this. On Lord Althorp's proposition, a committee was appointed to inquire into precedents. It may be added that the case of Joseph Pease was pleaded by a rising Quaker barrister—the late Mr. John Hodgkin. The committee reported, and on the following Friday Mr. Pease took his seat on his simple affirmation. This much is generally known; but it is not so well known that the question of the oath came up again in Parliament in Mr. Pease's case. On the 17th of May, on the members of the Coleraine election committee coming up to the table to be "sworn," the Speaker called attention to the fact that one of the members was Mr. Pease, and asked for instruction whether his affirmation was to be accepted in all cases. Sir Robert Peel, Mr. O'Connell, and other members spoke in favour of such a course, and their advice prevailing, the last bar to the admission and the usefulness of members of the Society of Friends in

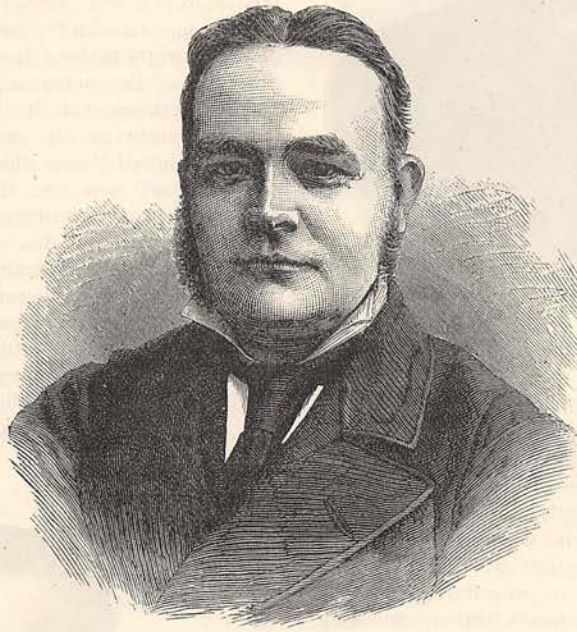
the House of Commons was removed. In Parliament this first Quaker member served several years—abating no jot of the peculiar habits of his body.

There were no interjectional "sirs" in his speeches, and none were specially "right honourable members" to him. His mulberry-coloured coat was collarless; yet in it one of the sketchers in the House in those days described him as "the best-dressed man amongst" the legislative "six hundred." Until 1841 he was a useful, if not a prominent, legislator; but long after his retirement he retained interest in politics, and showed the same skill in popular speaking when, in 1857, he advocated the cause of his brother Henry, then a candidate for South Durham. Mr. Joseph Pease lived to see his eldest son occupying his seat, and to know that Britain recognised one of her foremost orators in a member of a body once proscribed.

With peculiar fluency of words, with wide knowledge of men, and with a keen sense of the humorous, the speeches of Mr. Joseph Pease are treasured up

in the memories of some who heard him. He had a wide knowledge of dialect, and also a keen sense of when to use it. His speeches had the didactic enlivened with wit, and largely they shaped and directed for long the politics of the division which he lived in. When he praised the peacemaker, in one time of war-fever, an interjectory sentence—"but mind, never interfere between man and wife"—restored good-humour. When he spoke of railways and of business details that would have been dry, his knowledge of the facts, his personal observation of the place and the people, enabled him to command the attention, because he pictured subjects that were so alive with interest instead of dull abstractions.

Some anecdotes are told of Mr. Pease and the "House" officials that are apocryphal, but that have a basis of truth in the well-known repugnance that the Quakers of old had to the removal of the hat as a sign of respect. It is, however, told that when the news of the triumph of the first Quaker member reached one eminent politician, a lady of title, she was in the centre of a festive throng at her husband's palatial



MR. J. F. B. FIRTH, M.P. (CHELSEA).

residence, and recognising the gain that the political party she was attached to had experienced, she ordered the musicians to strike up the fitting piece—"Merrily danced the Quaker's Wife!" Returning to the Legislature, the truth of the stories to which we have referred is found in the fact that Mr. Pease did decline to uncover, and that even to the Speaker. On other occasions good-humoured "chaff" was evoked, and the "price" of the member for South Durham for a more consistent support of the Government was once facetiously said to be the "Commandership-in-Chief or the Bishopric of Durham." A more serious assertion of the principles of the Friend followed some dispute as to the Irish representatives in those days, and the member for Drogheda (Mr. Dwyer) sent a "formal challenge to fight" to Mr. Pease, to which the only and the fitting reply was silence. When he retired from the representation, in 1841, he proposed Mr. John Bowes as his successor; and a contemporary writer sums up a description with the



MR. THEODORE FRY, M.P. (DARLINGTON).

statement that even political opponents "hang with admiration on the periods of the Quaker orator. None of them, they know, can speak in that style, and with real good-nature they whisper to each other as Joseph proceeds that he is a downright clever fellow!"

Singularly enough, it was from the county of Durham and from its cathedral city that Mr. John Bright derived first the right to enter Parliament—the unsuccessful attempt of 1842 to win Durham city being successful on its renewal in the following year. And, with the exception of four short months since that time, Mr. Bright has been one of the best known of the members of the Legislature—so well-known that it is needless to add anything here, except that in his own Society his influence is felt, and in its Parliament his voice is at times as influentially heard. At the general election of 1857, and again at that of 1859, South Durham elected Mr. Henry Pease. He had the aid in these elections of his brother's eloquence, and in parts of the division he needed it. There was then surviving the prejudice against the "three Quakers" who had visited Russia prior to the Crimean war, of whom Mr. Henry Pease was one, and there were local objections to him. In one of the hotbeds of the opposition, then, the visit of the candidate had been prefaced with personal attacks in the press, in which the "Russian deputation" figured. It fell to Mr. Joseph Pease to reply to them, and after his reply they were no more repeated. Singularly enough, in another town Mr. Henry Pease was asked whether he would oppose an enlarged military expenditure. Close to him on the balcony was a venerable Quaker, with hat of broadest brim, and with straightest-collared coat,

and pointing to his friend, the candidate's reply, brief and conclusive, was—

"I wear a dress and hat like that!"

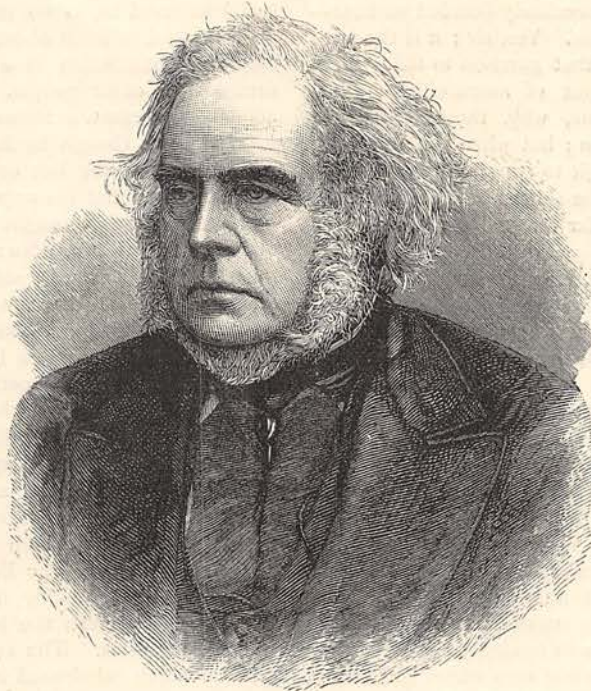
A pleasant speaker, though not eloquent—one with very exquisite choice of words—a philanthropist rather than a politician—a courteous, kindly man—was this Mr. Henry Pease, the second of the prominent family to enter the House of Commons, where he sat until the dissolution in 1865. But prior to that time others of his faith had joined Mr. Bright and himself in Westminster. In 1859, Mr. Edward Aldam Leatham, one of the newer type of Friends, a University graduate, an author, a banker, was elected for Huddersfield, which (except in one Parliament) he has since represented. His oratory is well known in the south of Yorkshire, and is appreciated in St. Stephen's, though the resemblance in degree to the style of a great speaker has sometimes forced the comparison of "Bright-and-water."

On the retirement of Mr. Henry Pease in 1865, South Durham chose as his successor his nephew, Mr. Joseph Whitwell Pease, eldest son of the first Quaker member, and now one of the few titled Friends. Sir Joseph Pease has represented his native division for twenty years, and that with a general acceptance that will make the parcelling of the division under redistribution have its regretful side. In that succession, and in the introduction of other Friends into the House after the passing of the Reform Bill of 1867, the position of the body in regard to its representation in Parliament changed. Since that time, at successive general elections, Darlington has chosen first



SIR J. W. PEASE, BART., M.P. (SOUTH DURHAM).

Mr. Edmund Backhouse, and then its present member, Mr. Theodore Fry; Chelsea, Mr. Joseph Firth Bottomley Firth; Whitby, Mr. Arthur Pease; Cambridge, Mr. William Fowler; Bristol, Mr. Lewis Fry; Reading, Mr. George Palmer; and Armagh, Mr. James N. Richardson. But the choice has been for reasons in which sectarian element had no part. Services to the commercial world have been largely the causes of choice in some instances; political services in local spheres have been the chief causes in others; whilst municipal claims have had recognition elsewhere. And whilst in the earliest of the Friends in the House the denominational element had prominent display, it has been little evidenced for the last score of years. The dozen members of the body in Parliament have been of the newer school—the school of Friends who pin not their faith to peculiarities of dress or speech, and who have no outward display of religious belief; and thus it occurs that in the “Parliamentary Companion” the allusion to the Society of Friends is only in the case of one right hon. gentleman not a member, of whom it is said that his father was “for more than fifty years



THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P. (BIRMINGHAM).

an eminent minister” of that body. It is also noticeable that whilst in the cases of the three first Friends in the House the introduction was from business life only, that of the later ones has been from corporations and professions of which they were members. And from these causes the distinctiveness marking the earlier representatives is not found in the later, so that the repute they have gained is due to other causes. Hence the House listens to this speaker because of his intimate knowledge of London government, to another because of his wide experience in banking, to a third as a prominent railway director, and to a fourth as a well-known philanthropist. This change has, for our purpose, the defect that it removes the special feature on which we have been dilating.

It is observable that all the members of the body in the House are on one side in political life, though in ex-members both sides are represented. Largely, the cause of the current of political thought running in one

groove is to be found in the past history of the body—in the persecutions it had to undergo, in the training it gave its members, and in the objection of one side to the removal of tests.

But if the House relaxed its rules to admit the Quakers, and if special clauses have freed them from other bars, now that the newer school is the exponent of their views, we hear nothing of the removal of the hat by an usher, there is no display of the objection once entertained to prefixes, and the speech bewrayeth no longer. In modes of dress and address, in language and in habit, they have sunk into those of the bulk of gentlemen who have the privilege of entry into the “first club in Europe.” And finally, the resemblance is found also in the classes from whom the Quaker members are drawn. They have been mainly of the trading classes. Two of those now in the House are, or have been, professional men, but bankers and manufacturers include the larger number. The constituencies they represent are mainly urban—metropolitan constituencies like that of Chelsea, manufacturing centres like Birmingham and Darlington, and occasionally a county district like South Durham.

In the list the name of John Bright is naturally prominent; but there are orators also in men like Mr. E. A. Leatham; and in that gentleman, Mr. Firth, and Mr. Fowler, there are authors of some repute; whilst it is not too much to say that for business capacity the representatives named will well compare with those drawn from communions whose numbers in Britain exceed by far the 15,000 of the Society of Friends. Whether the effect on the House has been good we need not ask, but it is another and a different question whether it has on the Society. Its members have entered into political life, and the outcome of that and the reflection on the body at large are only slowly beginning to develop—too slowly as yet to fully enunciate them all within the limits of a short paper.

A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

\* \* \* Our Illustrations are taken from Photographs by Messrs. Russell & Sons, Tufnell Park, N.