NOTES AND QUERIES

A LEGACY OF OLD PHILADELPHIA SILVER. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has recently received from the estate of Miss Dorothea Emlen a legacy of early Philadelphia-made silver which materially adds to its collections. This bequest consists of a silver tankard made by Johannis Nys and six silver wine cups made by Joseph Lownes, all of which are excellent specimens of the period silver now owned by the society.

These pieces were bequeathed by Miss Emlen in memory of her father "George Emlen the seventh and last of his name." All had been made for preceding George Emlens and had come down in successive generations, from father to son—always to a George Emlen—until the last owner, Miss Dorothea Emlen, who was the only living child in her generation of that branch of the Emlen family.

The tankard was made for the second George Emlen (1695-1754), who married Mary Heath, April 24, 1717, at Philadelphia Meeting. He was a local merchant, residing on the north side of Chestnut west of Fifth street, and had a brewery on Fifth above Chestnut streets; a member of the Common Council of Philadelphia and one of the founders of The Library Company of Philadelphia. His father George Emlen, arrived in this city about 1682 and married the second time, June 5, 1694, Hannah Garrett, the daughter of William and Ann Garrett. George Emlen, 3rd (1718-1776), married, in 1740, Anna Reckless, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Reckless of Chesterfield Meeting. He continued his father's business where he sufficiently prospered to enable him to build a country home, which is still standing, near Camp Hill, Whitemarsh. Their son, George Emlen, the fourth (1741-1812), married Sarah Fishbourne, daughter of William and Mary Fishbourne of Philadelphia. It was for this George (the fourth of the name), for whom Joseph Lownes, a local silversmith, made the silver wine cups which were part of the legacy. All of this silver descended to their great-grandson George Emlen (1843-1907), the seventh of the name, who married, in 1874, Helen Wharton; and it was their daughter, Dorothea Emlen who has so generously bequeathed to this Society the historic pieces.

The tankard, weighing forty ounces, and so marked on the base, is one of the finest of the six known tankards made by Johannis Nys; with an unusually graceful domed lid, artistic thumb-piece, graduated pellets on the handle and a cast cupid's head on the handle base. This is stamped with Nys' mark (I N, in a heart with a cross of five pellets below), on the upper side of the tankard and twice on the lid. In fact, it is the only piece of his silver which has so far come to light, which has the five pellets so clearly showing below his initial letters. On the front of the tankard within a graceful mantelling is the cypher of the owners, George and Mary (née Heath) Emlen; and, curiously enough, instead of the letter E being in the centre of the cypher—as is usual—with G E each side, the letter M is the prominent one. On the bottom is engraved the weight "40 on" and in crude block letters the initials E of the owners G • M, as was customary at that period.

The spelling of Nys' name has interested students of old silver not a little. In Penn's cash-book, 1700, we find it Johan Nys; in the same year John Dickinson's account book shows it John Nys; in 1712, Isaac Norris' Journal has it as John De Noyes and John Denoys, but in the
same book it is spelt John 'Neys, in 1716. In Arthur Holton's will (1715), it appears as John Nys, while James Logan's account book (1718) gives it twice as John De Nys. When signing his name to a petition to the General Assembly (1710); as witness to the will of James Spencer (1713); and as an appraiser for the same estate, he wrote it distinctly Johannis Nys; as he likewise did when witnessing the will of John Goadby, June 8, 1723. And this, by the way, is the latest date (1723) assignable to Johannis Nys, one of the earliest Philadelphia silversmiths. What became of him or where he went has not yet been discovered.* In 1715, his shop was on Front street at the corner of Carpenter's Alley; a building owned by Arthur Holton, a baker.

The silver wine cups made for George Emlen (the fifth), and his wife Sarah (née Fishbourne), are the product of another Philadelphia Quaker craftsman, Joseph Lownes, who has stamped his mark, J. Lownes, in script letters in a shaped cartouche, twice on the bottom of each cup. On the side is engraved in script of the period (circa 1775–1785), G S E, the initials of the original owners. Joseph Lownes, goldsmith, married at the Philadelphia Meeting, 1 mo., 12, 1786, Esther Middleton of Crosswicks. He advertised from 1780 to 1792 in the Philadelphia newspapers and his name appears in the directories from 1785 to 1816. His shop was on Front street, "near the Drawbridge," between Walnut and Spruce streets. Later, we find him at 124 South Front street and again at 191 South Third street. He was of the firm of Lownes and Erwin and of J. and J. H. Lownes as late as 1822. His advertisement in the Federal Gazette, of April 2, 1792, indicates that at that time he imported from England a variety of Sheffield plate and jewelry and kept on hand all kinds of table ware of both silver and plated-ware.

The Society deeply appreciates this generous bequest of Miss Dorothea Emlen and trusts that those who read this note will view the pieces on exhibition in its museum on the second floor. The fact that these are so carefully preserved will be, it is hoped, the means of influencing others to make similar bequests.

HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM.

**Book Notices**


One of the new books that is doing good service in signalizing the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Penn's arrival in America is Arthur Pound's study of the Penns of Pennsylvania and England. Such a study evidently involved painstaking research; and it is a pleasure on our part to add that Mr. Pound's volume possesses much more than a passing memorial value. In the main, it is a sound, sensible and useful book, quite welcome even to crowded shelves.

And, speaking of crowded shelves this is, perhaps, a good time and a good place to remind ourselves that William Penn is—and will long continue to be—dealt with in innumerable histories. His life has been written not merely in many volumes but in many languages. As a world-character, he is constantly the subject of study the world over. The Japanese, for instance, know a great deal about him, and have books telling of his achievements.

We here have several standard biographies—some English, others American; some with Quaker bias, others quite un-Quakerish;—and at the historical societies and in the larger libraries one finds, in addition

* Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, LV. 170.
Wine cup made, *circa* 1780, by Joseph Lownes for George and Sarah (née Fishbourne) Emlen
to Penn's individual works, a great variety of memoirs, pamphlets, sketches, letters, prints, documents and what-not relating to his character, or career, or colony. The Manuscript Department of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is particularly rich in Penn letters and in original correspondence dating from the earliest Pennsylvania period. In the second volume of Joseph Smith's Catalogue of Friends' Books, the space between pages 282 and 327 is devoted to printed Penn material. William Penn's grandson, Granville Penn, scholar that he was, who has some twenty books to his credit, wrote authoritatively upon "Sea-General Penn," the Founder's celebrated father.

But, in spite of the multiplicity of Penn books, Mr. Pound's new one finds its place and fits in. It will be appreciated especially as a good volume to turn to when students wish to gain a quick conspectus and estimate of the various celebrities of the name in England and America. Structurally speaking, the parts of the book are not as well fused as one would like:—Penn the sailor, Penn the Quaker and the later Penns. But it is sound as to its facts, whatever one may think of some of its deductions.

The English part of the book (like that of M. W. Brailsford's Making of William Penn) is done more spiritedly than the American part. The study of Admiral Penn is long and quite thorough. Admiral Penn was fortunate in having an excellent biographer in his great-grandson, and in having an excellent epitaph-maker who put upon his tombstone the essential facts of his active life. Whether he was so fortunate in having, with his usualship, Samuel Pepys, as a neighbor and intimate friend, as well as intimate enemy, might be questioned. But Pepys is to be seen through so easily and clearly that the world ought to be glad of him—the first distinctive, if unintentional, debunker.

Mr. Pound makes good and discreet use of Pepys, who was Clerk of the Acts, or Navy, and later Secretary of the Admiralty. Here was a politician and a man of the quill, living on Tower Hill near Sir William, a man of action. The British Navy, in the thumping and thunderous time of the Dutch wars, was the chief interest of both. Mr. Pound likens Penn to Pepys, but they were obviously men of a different kidney.

Pepys called himself "Peeps." Other of the name—those of the Cottenham branch, for instance, pronounce it "Peppis," the French form being "Pepy." Originally the family of "Peppi" came from Italy, settled in Languedoc and is now represented at La Rochelle as well as in England. The Pepys of La Rochelle sound the name "Peppis." The public is prone to say "Peps," Ashby Sterry wrote an epigram on the name:

"There are people, I'm told—some say there are heaps—
Who speak of the talkative Samuel as Peeps;
And some, so precise and pedantic their step is,
Who call the delightful old diarist Pepys;
But those I think right, and I follow their steps, 
Ever mention the garrulous gossip as Peps."

Pepys had a dignified front, and outwardly appeared to be what he actually was—an able and useful man. It was his Diary that revealed his very human—not to say petty, backbiting qualities. From boyhood he had a bent for shorthand. So, in his Diary, he used a cipher. When he felt particularly secretive, "he wrote his cipher generally in French, sometimes in Latin, or Greek, or Spanish." He almost blinded himself writing the 3000 pages of his six manuscript volumes. It is not necessary to put full faith in Pepys. We are bound to sift out the truth from the mendacious matter. He was as busy as a bee and stung like a hornet. We must read between the lines when we appraise his Penns.

Pepys liked to eat; he liked to drink; he liked to be well at the front. He used superlatives. He was just as abusive of Batten and
Brouncker and others as of Penn. Lord Brouncker was "a rotten-hearted, false man." Sir William Penn was "an asse," "a Coxeomb," "a rascal." Pepys mentions Admiral Penn about one thousand times, saying all manner of things about him—as that he was "a sociable man," "a merry fellow," "fuddled," "fawning," "foolish," "treacherous.

He was sanctimonious, too—"a knave," "a counterfeit rogue," "a cowardly rogue," "as false a man as ever was born." Thus Pepys, so full of expletives. Knowing him as we do, we are justified in concluding that much of his abuse was because Admiral Penn had thwarted him at the Naval office. "Vieux Pen," as the Dutch called the Admiral, probably knew Pepys inside and out.

Pepys found the Younger Penn "a mighty merry talker." On January 1, 1661-2, Pepys wrote: "By and By came the two young Pens, and after we had eat a barrel of oysters we went by coach to the play, and there saw it well acted, and a good play it is, only Diego, the Sexton, did overdo his part too much. From thence home, and they sat with us till late at night at cards very merry, but the jest was Mr. W. Pen had lett his sword in the coach, and so my boy and he run off after the coach, and by very great chance did at the Exchange meet with the coach and get his sword again."

September 5, 1664, coming home, Pepys was made a little jealous because his wife was expecting young Mr. Penn to see her. Pepys was vexed that his lady should make such a to-do over the handsome neighbor. But William the Quaker was not the only man of whom Pepys was jealous. "My devilish jealousy," he wrote, "makes a very hell of my mind." As a matter of fact Mrs. Pepys was a discreet and faithful, though abused wife, Samuel himself being confessedly lax, weak and wayward.

Mr. Pound surmises that certain suppressions of truth by Admiral Penn, as to what happened in the Battle of Lowestoft, 1665, when the crippled Dutch fleet escaped destruction, placed the Stuarts under obligations to him and to his son. Hence the willingness of Charles and James to repay discreet silence with such a reward as the Pennsylvania grants. At best, this is but speculation. In May, 1660, Charles the second wrote to General Monck: "I have so good an opinion of Generall Penn that if you had not recommended him to me, I would have taken care of all his interests."

In spite of an occasional lack of clarity, Admiral Penn is well characterized in the volume under notice. He stands out as a living creature, schooled in stormy times.

And now, bearing in mind the usefulness and accuracy and value of Mr. Pound's book, we beg to be allowed to say our say as to its drawbacks.

Has the author risen to his opportunities? Has he not fallen short in his dramatization of certain chapters—or rather in his failure to dramatize them?

At this point we are tempted to suggest, not unaniably we hope, that Mr. Pound does not make enough of the epic aspects of Quakerism when it uprooted itself—or almost uprooted itself—in one world and planted itself in another. His chapter entitled "Quakerism" (pp. 89-102) is unimpressive. Nor does he sufficiently dramatize Penn, the Founder, who had the genius, the zeal, the energy, the hardihood to do a thing on a grand scale that has affected civilization from his own time to this.

In its very essence, the fundamentally important trial of William Penn and William Mead at Old Bailey, in London, was dramatic. Here was the Quaker thrill—the Quaker triumph. It was the key-scene in the life-drama of the Founder of Pennsylvania. In it Penn gave proof of courageous and capable leadership. In retelling the scene the author is undynamic, to say the least. What is there in a book if it fails to
pulsate when the reader finds himself so near the heart of it? Students who approach the Gracechurch Street episode for the first time, in Mr. Pound's account of it, will be apt to miss what should be a wholesome and memorable sensation.

Mr. Pound lays less stress than do most writers on the evils that led to the Quaker migration. The persecutions, as recorded in Joseph Besse's *Sufferings of the Quakers* caused the Friends to turn their faces towards the Promised Land in the Valley of the Delaware. Besse's work might well have been entitled *Torments of the Quakers*. No one who goes over it page by page, fails to understand why the Quaker families abandoned their old homes. Theirs is one of the poignant tales of history. By the same token, no one fails to understand why Penn's practical championship of religious liberty caused him to be hailed as a courageous leader of mankind.

But the magnitude of Quaker achievement and the beneficent results of Penn's labors are apt to be lost sight of when we microscopically study sectarian and individual faults and weaknesses. As a subject to sharpen one's wits on, William Penn the Founder, just suits and satisfies the speculative biographer. If he had been a trifle wicked—as wicked as the carnally susceptible Mr. Pepys, for example,—he would have invited biographers of the debunking school, but he was an upstanding man as far as that goes, and so they look for other subjects. Nevertheless, our Penn is a puzzle. He was strong, yet weak—strong enough to become one of the world's greatest benefactors, yet so weak in a business way in the latter part of his life as to reach an inglorious end. Mr. Pound handles Penn better when the great man begins to go down hill. He is in debt, but keeps on borrowing. He is extravagant, even after he realizes that he is slipping. Planning Utopian Commonwealths is easy—inpiring, indeed; actual province-founding is a hard, profitless, ungrateful task, with no end to it. “Oh, Pennsylvanics, what hast thou not cost me? Above £30,000 more than I ever got.” He fell into the hands of Philip Ford and then got into jail, where Ford, the usurer, should have been. If Pepys had been Ford's neighbor (Pepys died in 1703), we might now have some interesting, if painful, reading about the way Penn was victimized. But Penn at that period was losing his faculties as well as his grip; and soon he died.

It is to be regretted that the author has not made it easier for the reader to follow him in his numerous arguments and animadversions. Some of these seem inconsequential; they interrupt the narrative, which at times lacks in coherence and fluency. Perhaps Mr. Pound did not wish to charm but to convince. Yet he is frequently unconvincing. There are too many surmises and assumptions.

Mr. Pound does not appraise Penn's writings as highly as most critics have done before him. The real trouble with books of this sort is their excess of piety. Bunyan is surcharged with it, too; but Bunyan, an uneducated man, who found his style in the depths of the Bible, beats Penn and all the other pamphleteers of the cultivated world. Mr. Pound writes: “His [Penn's] style is usually inferior to his sense . . . Propaganda, for that matter, produces few masterpieces . . . Artist-pain was beyond him, and so his writing is hardly more than good journalism in a day when the soul was big news . . . Most authors of the Penn type, with full, serene, indefinite minds need editors to tell them what, when, and why not.”

Similarly, Mr. Pound's own style is not free from faults. It is marred by the use of cliches and redundancies. He uses strange expressions—“amateurism of Quakerism,” “exuberancies of exhibitionism.” He uses strange words—“religionism,” “importancies.” But “final ultimatum” on page 125 is probably a simple slip.

Penn lived at a period when the “Jails were crammed with honest enthusiasts whose piety was their only crime.” His masterwork was their
rescue and transfer to happy homes under smiling skies. He was far ahead of his time in his advocacy of American colonial unity and of regulated European peace. "His fame," wrote Bancroft, "is now wide as the world; he is one of the few who have gained abiding glory."

GEORGE MORGAN.

KRESS FAMILY HISTORY. Compiled, written and published by Karl Friederich von Frank zu Döfering, of Vienna, Austria. And the genealogical material concerning the American line of the Kress Family contributed by Charles Rhoads Roberts, of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Vienna, Austria. 1930.

Quarto. Pp. 770. Bound in cloth, side and back ornamented in gilt, one of which was presented to our Society by Mr. Claude W. Kress. The work is most elaborately produced. It is profusely illustrated with portraits, coats-of-arms, reproductions of old pedigrees, pictures of castles, churches, the chapel founded by the family and other interesting illustrations. The frontispiece is an illuminated reproduction of the arms of the family from a drawing by the celebrated artist of Nuremburg, Albrecht Dürer. Poems are also given commemorating the family and the arms.

There are a register of sources from which information was obtained, indexes of names and places, of artists, authors and experts. Two folding charts are contained in a pocket of the cover, one of the old Kress Family Tree and the other of the family to 1930. There is an interesting account of the Church of St. George at Kraftshof, built by Friederich Kress I. and founded in 1305, with illustrations. The Castle Kraftshof, called Kressenstein, with stone of the arms dated 1291, gave name to the family and was situate at Nuremburg. Christoph Kress received a patent of Imperial Nobility, July 15, 1530, from the Emperor Charles V.

The account of the family in America is equally well compiled. The founder in Pennsylvania was Karl Kress who arrived October 4, 1752, in the Neptune, accompanied, apparently, by three brothers, who appear to have been born at Steinau, a Prussian town in Hesse-Nassau, where several generations are mentioned. Connection is then claimed with a family at Halle, a city of Prussian Saxony on the Saale, whose ancestry is given to Heinrich I. Kress of Neunhof, near Nuremburg, mentioned in 1307 and 1334, and referred to in the Old Family Tree as son of Friederich I. Kress von Kraftshof, but as brother by the author. Friederich was the founder of the baronial family of Kress von Kressenstein of which an account is given.

Karl Kress settled at Egypt, Whitehall Township, Northampton County, with his brother John. Later they resided in Lehigh Township where Karl died October 26, 1792, and was buried at St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation, known as the Indianland Church. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His grandson, Henry Kress, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and his son, John Franklin Kress, was an officer in the Civil War. Other members, prominent today, are referred to.

Mention is also made of other Kress families. Mention is made of Wilhelm Kress, born at Petrograd, Russia, July 21, 1836, who resided at Vienna where he died February 24, 1913, an inventor of airplanes and author of works on the subject. An account of the descendants is given of Christian Kress, born in Germany February, 1728, who arrived in Pennsylvania in the Basle, October 23, 1752, and settled in Northampton County. In 1765, he resided at Walbeck, Sussex County, New Jersey. He died at Chemung, March 27, 1800. Of this family was Brigadier-General John Alexander Kress, born November 4, 1839. Several other Kress settlers in Pennsylvania are mentioned.

EDWIN JAQUETT SELLERS.
The William Penn Sash