

MARY, his first wife, was also an earnest and faithful Friend, judging from the Meeting records, and a direct evidence of her kindness of heart is to be found in an old letter, given further on. Her death occurred at Goshen in 1728.

(5) George Ashbridge arrived at Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania on the V day of the V. month, 1698.

I have examined the old Bible which contains the above entry now in the Friends' Library at No. 140 N. 15th St., Philadelphia.

It is about $19\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " in size, said to be printed at Oxford in 1717, by John Basket, although the title-page is missing.

It is in a fair condition, and besides the statement given above, the names of the children of George and Mary have been printed by hand in large letters carefully, to give a curious shaded effect to them, and covering several pages.

Upon a slip of paper pasted on the cover is written :

"I desire this Bible to be deposited in the Library of Friends at Cherry St., and there kept for the use of Friends after I am gone.

Sarah Ashbridge.

Phila. 3 mo. 6th, 1845."

This Sarah was probably the daughter of Joseph and Priscilla (Davies) Ashbridge.

Some explanation as to the designation of the months and days by numbers may not be out of place.

The Society of Friends, which originated in England about the middle of the 17th century, declined to use the ordinary names for the months and days, on the grounds that they were a legacy of heathenism, and that to continue to use them would appear to perpetuate idol worship. They therefore numbered them, calling March the first month, and Sunday the first day of the week—the year commencing, as was then the custom, on the 25th of March.

In Pennsylvania, this custom of the English Quaker was made one of the laws of the Province, although it was not always carried out. Thus, for instance, what we would call June 1st, 1720, would be styled 4th month, 1st, 1720, while January 20th, 1721, would be denoted 11th month, 20th, 1720-21.