



URL: www.natstand.org.uk/pdf/BakerJG000.pdf
Root person: Baker, John Gilbert
Description: Family Tree
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Prepared by: Richard Middleton
Notes:

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¹George Baker ()
*** married **Sarah**

father **John Baker (1806.4.5 - 1866.12.22)**
mother*** married **Mary Gilbert (1812 - 1875.2.11)** on **1833.2.28**

John Gilbert Baker (1834.1.13 - 1920.8.16)
*** married **Hannah Unthank (13.4.1836 - 1901)** on **1860.7.19**

son **Edmund Gilbert Baker (1864 - 17.12.1949)**
daughter **Katharine Unthank Baker (1869 - 15.8.1918)**

sister **Sarah Jane Baker (1836.2.14 - 1891.1.15)**
*** married **James John Packer (1837 - 1863.11.9)** on **1858.11.13**

niece **Mary Elizabeth Packer (1860 -)**
nephew **John Packer (1861 -)**

brother **George Richardson Baker (1838.1.17 - 1900)**
*** married **Margaret Unthank (1838.2.24 -)** on **1868.4.23**

nephew **George Herbert Baker (1873 -)**
niece **Edith Margaret Baker (1875 -)**
nephew **John Gilbert Baker (1876 -)**
niece **Ethel Unthank Baker (1878 -)**
niece **Mary Beatrice Baker (1881 -)**

sister **Mary Caroline Baker (1839 - 1857)**
Unmarried

sister **Martha Ann Baker (1841 - 1907.12.25)**
Unmarried

brother **Robert Baker M.D. (1843 - 1910.8.18)**
*** married **Jane Martha Packer (1846 - 1930.4.20)** **1867.10.16**

niece **Elizabeth Mary Baker (1868 -)**
nephew **Robert Gilbert Baker (1872 -)**
nephew **John Francis Baker (1873 -)**

sister **Ellen Baker (1848 -)**
*** Married **George Isles Swanson M.D. (1840.10.30 - 16.3.1917)**
on **1872.9.25**

niece **Jeanie Isles Swanson (1874 -)**

¹ The Friends' Records for Guisborough show that George was the son of John and Mary Baker of Danby and that he had brothers John and William.

niece **Mary Gilbert Swanson (1875 -)** York {BMD | }
nephew **John Swanson (1876 -)**
niece **Eleanor North Swanson (1878 -)**
nephew **George Isles Swanson (1879 -)**
nephew **Robert Gilbert Swanson (1881 -)**
niece **Elizabeth Margaret Swanson (1883.6.10 -)**
nephew **Harold Garth Swanson (1884.11.25 -)**

brother **Thomas Baker (1851 -)**
*** married **Elizabeth Welsh (c1845 -)** Somerton in **1876**

niece **Evelyn Mary Baker (1877 -)**
niece **Winifred Baker (1879.7.7 -)**
nephew **John Frederick Baker (1881 -)**

sister **Margaret Hannah Baker (1853 - 1896.12.12)**
Unmarried

brother **James Hedley Baker (1855 - 1858.1.24)**

aunt **Sarah Baker (1808.2.21 -)**
uncle **George Baker (1808.2.21 -)**
aunt **Margaret Baker (1809.10.8 -)**
aunt **Elizabeth Baker (1811.11.3 -)**
aunt **Hannah Baker (1812.10.10 -)**
uncle **James Baker (1814.8.4 -)**
aunt **Esther Baker (1816.6.28 -)**
uncle **David Hedley Baker (1818.3.11 -)**
uncle **Joshua Baker (1818.3.11 -)**
aunt **Elianor Baker (1819.6.6 -)**

plus seven others (see appendix 1)

Sources:

1803 May 25:

On the Twenty fifth Day of the Fifth Month, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Three – George Baker of Danby Dale, son of John Baker of Danby dale aforementioned in the County of York, deceased, and Mary his Wife, surviving, and Sarah Hedley, Daughter of James Headley of Low Coniscliff (?) in the County of Durham, surviving, and Sarah his Wife deceased took each other in Marriage, in a public Assembly of the people called Quakers, in Darlington in the County of Durham aforesaid in the presence of us Witnesses – Jona. Backhouse, banker, Darlington. Joseph Bowion Felandrese? Do.

1806 April 5: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of John, son of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby.

1808 February 21: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Sarah, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1808 February 21: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of George, son of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1809 October 8: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Margaret, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1811 November 3: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Elizabeth, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby (born Danby Dale).

1812 October 10: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Hannah, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1814 August 4: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of James, son of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1816 June 28: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Esther, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1818 March 11: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of David Hedley, son of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale.

1818 March 11: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Joshua, son of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale. [Twins]

1819 June 6: Monthly meetings of Guisborough. General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers.

Birth of Elianor, daughter of George and Sarah Baker, farmer, of Danby Dale. [Twins]

1819 December 2: Quaker records

On the second day of the Twelfth Month, One thousand Eight Hundred and nineteen, Isaac white Farmer of Great Ayton in the County of York son of Thomas White of Great Ayton

deceased and Hannah his wife, and ²Jane Gilbert, Daughter of Robert Richardson of Great Ayton and Caroline his Wife and widow John Gilbert late of Newcastle upon Tyne, took each other in Marriage in a public Assembly of the people called Quakers, held in Great Ayton in the presence of us –
Witnesses – John Baker, Danbydale Farmer; John Smith, Druggist, Guisborough; David Baker, Guisborough, Grocer.

1833 February 28: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials

On this twenty eighth day of the second month one thousand eight hundred and thirty three. John Baker of Guisborough in the North Riding of the County of York, Draper, son of George Baker of Askham Fields near York, and Sarah his wife and Mary Gilbert, daughter of the late Jno Gilbert, deceased, of Newcastle upon Tyne and Jane his wife (surviving) took each other in Marriage, in a public Assembly of the People called Quakers, at Ayton in the North Riding of the County of York.

1834 January 13: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials.

On the Thirteenth Day of the First Month, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty four was born at Guisborough in the Parish of Guisborough in the County of York, unto John Baker of Guisborough, Draper & Grocer, and Mary his Wife, a Son who was named John Gilbert. We who were present at the said Birth, have subscribed our Names as Witness thereof: Wm Wilson, Surgeon; Mary Fletcher, Guisborough.

1834 June 7: *York Herald

RE ³WILLIAM BAKER'S BANKRUPTCY.

THE Creditors who have proved their Debts under a Fiat in Bankruptcy, awarded and issued forth against WILLIAM BAKER, of Thirsk, in the County of York, Grocer, Draper, dealer and Chapman, are requested to meet the Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Bankrupt, on the Eleventh Day of June next, at ELEVEN o'Clock, in the Forenoon, at the GOLDEN FLEECE INN, in Thirsk aforesaid, in order to assent to, or dissent from, the said Assignees selling and disposing of all or any part of the Stock-in-Trade, Household Furniture, Fixtures, Good-will of Trade, and other Effects of the said Bankrupt, either by Public Auction or Private Contract, or by valuation or appraisement, or upon credit, and upon [illegible] for such price or prices as they may think proper; and generally to assent to, or dissent from, the said Assignees commencing, prosecuting, or defending any action, suit, or proceeding, either at law or in equity, for the recovery or protection of any part of the said Bankrupt's Estate and Effects, or to the compounding, submitting to arbitration, or otherwise agreeing any matter or thing relating thereto; and on other special affairs. By Order, WILLIAM WHYTEHEAD, Solicitor to the Assignees. Thirsk, 13th May, 1834.

1836 February 14: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials.

On the fourteenth Day of the second Month, One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty six was born at Thirsk in the Parish of Guisborough in the County of York, unto John Baker of Thirsk, Draper & Grocer, and Mary his Wife, a Daughter who was named Sarah Jane. We who were present at the said Birth, have subscribed our Names as Witness thereof: Wm Lambert, Surgeon Thirsk; Mary Ann Seaton Thirsk.

1836 April 13: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers

Birth of Hannah, daughter of George and Mary Unthank, Miller of Willington Mill, Wallsend.

1837 February 8: England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah
Baptism of James John Packer at Thirsk

² This is JGB's maternal grandmother.

³ William Baker is JGB's great-uncle. It seems likely that JGB's father sold his business in Guisborough and bought out William's debts.

1838 January 17: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials.

Birth at Thirst of George Richardson, son of John & Mary Baker of Thirsk, Grocer & Draper.

1838 February 24: General Register Office: Society of Friends' Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials.

Birth at Willington Mill of Margaret, daughter of George and Mary Unthank.

1839: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Mary Caroline Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1840 October 30: *Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950.* Salt Lake City, Utah

Birth of George Isles, son of John and Jane Swanson, Edinburgh.

1841 Census: Market Place, Thirsk {Next door to the Foggitts}

John Baker	35	Draper
Mary Baker	25	
Sarah Baker	5	
George Baker	3	
Mary Baker	1	

1841: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Martha Ann Baker recorded in Thirsk, last quarter.

1843: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Robert Baker recorded in Thirsk, first quarter.

1846 February 9: England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah

Baptism of Jane Martha, daughter of John and Elizabeth Packer, Thirsk.

1848: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Ellen Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1851: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Thomas Baker recorded in Thirsk, first quarter.

1851 Census: Market Place, Thirsk

John Baker	head	mar	44	Draper & Grocer Master emp	Danby Dale, Whitby
Mary Baker	wife	mar	38	3 men 1 woman	Newcastle
John Gilbert Baker	son	u	17	Grocer's Assistant	Thirsk
Martha Ann Baker	dau		9	Scholar	Thirsk
Robert Baker	son		8	Scholar at home	Thirsk
Ellen Baker	dau		2		Thirsk
Thomas Baker	son		3mo		Thirsk

+ various assistants and servants

1853: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Margaret Hannah Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1855: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of James Hedley Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1857: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Death of Mary Caroline Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1858 January 30: *York Herald

DEATHS – BAKER. – At Thirsk, on Sunday, Jan 24th, James Hedley Baker, son of John and Mary Baker, aged 2½ years.

1858 November 13: *Yorkshire Gazette

MARRIAGES. On Thursday, the 11th inst., at the Friends' Meeting House, Thirsk, Mr James J. Packer, to Sarah Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. John Baker, all of Thirsk.

1860: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Mary Elizabeth Packer recorded in Thirsk, first quarter.

1860 July 19: *Shields Daily Gazette

MARRIAGES. NORTH SHIELDS. – At the Friends' Meeting House, on the 19th inst., John Gilbert Baker, of Thirsk, to Hannah, eldest daughter of Mary Unthank, of Spring Terrace, North Shields.

1861 Census: Market Place, Thirsk

John Gilbert Baker	head	mar	27	Draper employing 3 men	Guisborough
Hannah Baker	wife	mar	24	A???, 2 boys, 3 girls	Willington?, Nbl
James Raine, Henry Moorhouse & Elizabeth Ward					
John Baker	head	mar	55	Retired Shopkeeper	Danby Dale
Mary Baker	wife	mar	49		Newcastle on Tyne
George Richardson Baker	son	un	23	Grocer	Thirsk
Martha Ann Baker	dau	un	19		Thirsk
Margaret Hannah Baker	dau		8	Scholar	Thirsk
+ Servant					

1861: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of John Packer recorded in Thirsk, last quarter.

1863 November 14: *Leeds Times

DEATHS – MISCELLANEOUS. On Monday, aged 26, Mr. John James Packer, printer and stationer, Thirsk.

1864: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Edmund Gilbert Baker registered in Thirsk, first quarter.

1866 December 29: *York Herald

DEATHS. Baker. – On the 22nd inst., in his 61st year, Mr. John Baker, of Thirsk.

1867 October 19: *Yorkshire Gazette

MARRIAGES. BAKER – PACKER. – On the 16th instant, at St Leonard's church, Thornton-le-Street, by the Rev. A. B. Day, Robert Baker, M.D., to Jane Martha, youngest daughter of the late Mr. John Packer, all of Thirsk.

1868 May 9: *Leeds Times

MARRIAGES – On the 23rd of April, at the Friends' Meeting Home, North Shields, Mr George Richardson Baker, grocer, Thirsk, to Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Mr. George Unthank, of North Shields.

1868: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Elizabeth Mary Baker recorded in Thirsk, last quarter.

1869: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Katharine Unthank Baker registered in Richmond, third quarter.

1872: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Birth of Robert Gilbert Baker recorded in Thirsk, last quarter.

1872 September 28: *Leeds Times

MARRIAGES SWANSON – BAKER. – Sept. 25th, at the parish church, Thursk, by the Rev. B. Lamb, George Swanson, M.D., to Ellen, third daughter of the late Mr. John Baker, Thirsk.

1873: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of George Herbert Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1873 October 15: Genealogical Society of Utah. *British Isles Vital Records Index, 2nd Edition.*
Salt Lake City, Utah
Baptism of John Francis, son of Robert and Jane Martha Baker, York.

1874: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Jeanie Isles Swanson recorded in Thirsk, first quarter.

1875 February 12: *York Herald
DEATHS. BAKER. – On the 11th inst. At Castlegate, Thirsk, Mary, widow of John Baker, of Thirsk, in her 63rd year.

1875: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Mary Gilbert Swanson recorded in York, second quarter.

1875: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Edith Margaret Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1876: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of John Swanson recorded in York, second quarter.

1876 September 7: *England, Marriages, 1538–1973.* Salt Lake City, Utah
Marriage of Thomas Baker and Elizabeth Welsh at Long Sutton.

1876: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of John Gilbert Baker recorded in Thirsk, last quarter.

1876: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Evelyn Mary Baker recorded in Langport, Somerset, second quarter.

1878: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Ethel Unthank Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1878: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Eleanor North Swanson recorded in York, third quarter.

1879 July 11: *Western Gazette
BIRTHS. July 7, at North street, Somerton, the wife of Mr. THOS. BAKER, of a daughter.

1879: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of George Isles Swanson recorded in York, last quarter.

1881: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Mary Beatrice Baker recorded in Thirsk, second quarter.

1881: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of Robert Gilbert Swanson recorded in York, second quarter.

1881: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes
Birth of John frederick Baker recorded in Langport, Somerset, second quarter.

1883 July 22: *England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975.* Salt Lake City, Utah
Baptism of Elizabeth Margaret, daughter of George Isles and Ellen Swanson, born 10 June 1883.

1885 January 4: *England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975.* Salt Lake City, Utah

Baptism of Harold garth, son of George Isles and Ellen Swanson, born 25 November 1884.

1891 May 17: Probate

The Will of Sarah Jane Packer, widow, late of Thirsk, died 15 January 1891 at Cambridge Villa, Fulford-road, York, was proved at the Principal registry by her brother George Richardson Baker, grocer, of Thirsk.

1897 Probate:

BAKER Margaret Hannah of Sowerby near Thirsk Yorkshire spinster died 12 December 1896 Probate London 24 May to Robert Baker M.D. Effects £176 2s. 4d.

1900: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

Death of George Richardson Baker recorded in Thirsk, third quarter.

1901: England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes

The death of Hannah Baker, aged 65, was registered at Richmond, Surrey.

1908 February 7: Probate

Administration of the will of Martha Ann Baker, late of St James' Green, Thirsk, spinster, who died 25 December 1907, was granted to John Gilbert Baker, "professor of botany."

1910 August 18: Friends' burial ground York, monumental inscription (findagrave.com)

Death of Robert Baker.

1917 June 1: Probate

The will of George Isles Swanson, late of 23 st Mary's York, died 16 March 1917, was proved by Donald Sween Mackay, solicitor.

1918 September 19: Probate

The will of Katharine Unthank Baker, late of 3 Cumberland-road, Kew, died on 15 August, was proved at London by Edmund Gilbert Baker and John Gilbert Baker.

1920 November 9: Probate

The will of John Gilbert Baker, late of 3 Cumberland-road, Kew, died on 16 August, was proved at London by his son, Edmund Gilbert Baker, and John Stansfield Gayner M.D.

1930 April 20: Friends' burial ground York, monumental inscription (findagrave.com)

Death of Jane Martha Baker.

1950 March 22: Probate

The will of Edmund Gilbert Baker of 3 Cumberland-road, Kew, died on 17 December, was proved at London by the Westminster Bank Ltd.

Appendix 1: Transcription of obituary notices of his father and two uncles.

The Annual Monitor or Obituary of the Society of Friends Published for the year 1877

(New Series no 35 John Newby editor 1876 pages 3 - 16)

JAMES BAKER, 61 3 11 mo. 1875
Scarbro' An Elder : With Notices added, of
JOHN BAKER, Thirsk, 60 22 12 mo. 1866

GEORGE BAKER, 57 12 5 mo. 1876

The name of James Baker in this year's Obituary recalls the memory of others of the same family. Records of his worthy parents, and of his older sister Margaret, are to be found in the past volumes of the Annual Monitor ; as well as of Mary Caroline, daughter of his brother, the late John Baker of Thirsk. And we think it may be allowable to introduce to our readers on the present occasion, some account of the sterling character and useful life of this brother, who died in the end of the year 1866: and of whom no memorial has yet been printed.

JOHN BAKER

was the oldest son of eighteen children, descended from a family that had been settled through several generations as yeoman-farmers in the dales of North-eastern Yorkshire; who became Friends in the time of George Fox; and nearly all of whose numerous descendants in England and America at the present day, still belong to the same Religious body. His parents, George and Sarah Baker, originally lived in Danby Dale near Castleton, where John Baker was born in 1806. About the time when their son was old enough for a boarding school, his father left the Dale country, sold his farm, and settled at Askham Fields near York; where he lived to a ripe old age, surrounded by his sons and daughters, and grandchildren.

John Baker was three years at Ackworth School, and about the age of fourteen was apprenticed to an uncle; but before the term of seven years was expired, his uncle emigrated to America. Then he took a situation in London for three years, and in 1828 with the late William Brady of Dewsbury. In attending the funeral of each of his employers many years afterwards, he records his grateful sense of their care and kindness to him in his early life. Soon after coming of age, he entered into business as a draper and grocer with one of his cousins at Guisbro'. Here he worked hard, but was very successful, and probably the vicissitudes of his early life was a useful discipline to him, in calling out the industry and perseverance for which he was distinguished. In 1833 he married Mary Gilbert of Ayton, and the following year removed to Thirsk, where he spent the whole of his mature and active life: carrying on, in conjunction with his sons, a prosperous and increasing business, and living during nearly the whole of that time in the house above his shop, which stood in the centre of the market-place. Of his family of thirteen children, four sons and four daughters reached maturity, and his wife survived him several years.

In this sphere, while energetic in trade, and carefully training up a large family, he found plentiful occasion to exhibit the Christian character, in his own household and among his fellow townsmen. "For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men." (Rom. xiv, 18.) Old George Baker's maxim was, "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them; " — and his son walked after the apostolic rule, "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men."

Thirsk was a market town of about 3000 inhabitants, an agricultural centre midway between

York and Darlington; very busy on market day, and comparatively quiet for the rest of the week. Full of plans and prompt in realizing them, John Baker threw himself with characteristic ardour into the affairs of the town and neighbourhood; and devoted a considerable portion of his time and thought to the public service: — "being ready for every good work." First his interest was enlisted in Education. He found, on coming to the town, no satisfactory provision was made for educating the poorer classes. In conjunction with other Friends he originated Infant and British Schools, where children were admitted on a graduated scale of charges, according to the ability of their parents. Buildings had to be erected by voluntary subscriptions, and annual deficiencies met in the same way, — not as of later time by Government Grants, or the powers of a School-board. For many years the principal care of these schools rested on John Baker. He was Secretary to both of them, constant at Committees, encouraging the Teachers, watchful over the payments, organizing the staff of Lady Collectors. The schools imparted Education to about 200 at a time, and turned out a large proportion of boys who rose from the industrial classes to higher positions. They are still maintained, but fill a less important sphere: not only by the competition of the National Schools at Thirsk and Sowerby, but by National and Board Schools in the surrounding Villages; the pupils in which formerly came to the British School in Thirsk, making it par excellence "the School for the District," as regarded the industrial classes.

Our dear friend's public spirit was remarkable: he would step boldly forward when others would retire, or let things take their course. On public questions where parties and sects came into conflict, the Christian townsman still acted on principle: and was an example of rigid stedfastness in that which he judged was for the public good, a reliable supporter of the common weal. He was no public speaker, but was always ready to give a reason for the course he followed: an enemy to injustice, whether in the corrupt practices of an election, or the overbearing of the rich upon the poor. He paid no Church rates, but suffered restraint; and if the Magistracy of the town, being all chosen of one class, overstepped their limits, he was ready to remonstrate, and restrain them.

He was a man of unusual resolution and courage, and to the end of his life was a sturdy antagonist to ignorance and intolerance, and class usurpation. On one occasion a poor Welshman with remarkable eccentricities came to the town, and wandered about the streets without hat or shoes and stockings, preaching or talking to the people on religion and teetotalism. He had no money, and said he lived by faith; by which he gained the soubriquet of John Faith. He never begged; and though he received any money voluntarily given him, in the evening when he had paid for supper and lodging, he gave what remained to any one he could find who seemed to need it: — his principle being not to lay up for the morrow. The police apprehended the poor man as a vagrant, and the Magistrates sent him for a month to Northallerton jail. As soon as John Baker heard of this, judging it to be a stretch of authority against a harmless individual, he went to the Magistrates to explain and expostulate; but was abruptly told, "the thing was done, and the law must take its course." Not satisfied with this reply, he took train, and went to London to lay the case before Lord Palmerston, who was then Secretary of State for the Home Department. He had obtained testimonials from other towns and from some influential persons, including the "Rev. W. Keane, M.A. of Whitby," showing that good results had followed from the man's well-meant labours; and setting forth the arbitrary and illegal character of his imprisonment, he obtained an order for his release. This spirited interference it is believed was of lasting influence for good, both on the Magistrates and townspeople.

And into his religious profession, John Baker carried the same persistency and stedfastness. He was a whole-hearted Friend, and found an abiding source of satisfaction in knowing that his ancestors, and nearly all his numerous connexions, were so also. For a long course of years he hardly ever missed attending the Meetings with which he had any connexion, whether for worship or discipline, whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly: and always encouraged his children, and those whom he employed, to do the same. He was a diligent and steady supporter of the Friends' Schools at Ackworth and Rawdon, attended their General Meetings, and served punctually and efficiently on their Committees. He was not given to much religious conversation out of Meetings, but finding

himself for many years sitting at the head of Thirsk Meeting, he came under much exercise of mind to speak out of the fulness of his convictions to the small company which assembled there. He was however not recorded as a Minister. His sincerity and earnestness were unquestioned; but wanting in the gift of expression, and in concentration, and the faculty of orderly arrangement, his discourses, often very long, were at times burdensome to his friends rather than edifying: yet for the last nineteen years of his life he felt this engagement often laid upon him. He frequently spoke from the Psalms, and the experience of David, as a wonderful proof of God's mercy in forgiving sin, and renewing His visitations of Divine grace. As far as we know he was never charged with unsoundness in doctrine. The two pillars upon which his religious faith rested, were his full conviction of the pardon there is to be found, if rightly sought, through the atonement of Christ Jesus for every transgression, and his faith in the daily guidance of the waiting believer, in his words and deeds, by the Holy Spirit.

At times he kept memoranda of his spiritual exercises and trials, as well as of times of rejoicing.

After a blank of three years, appears a particular account of his daughter Mary Caroline's last hours, which is to be found in the Annual Monitor for 1853. Under date of Eighth month, 1857, he writes, — "As a branch engrafted into the true Vine, if I have already borne any fruit, I must submit to be purged, that I may bring forth more : — remembering that it is only as I receive spiritual life and ability from Christ, that I can bear any good fruit. May I then abide in Him, and He in me, that I may be taught to ask for those things which I need for my spiritual health and salvation, wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption."

After three days' recreation on the coast, spent at Redcar in 1860, he speaks of being renovated and full of thanksgiving, finding its expression in the prayer of Hannah, 1 Sam. ch. ii., and adds in a note that the 37th Psalm has been consolatory to him, and Heb. xiii., v. 13, 14, 15. His affectionate feelings and esteem for his relatives and friends are often recorded, in connection with attending their funerals: and I there were cases in which, at great trouble to himself, he gave them his services and effectual help under difficulties in business; with that energy, self sacrifice and integrity that sought the material advantage of creditor and debtor, and laid both parties under a grateful sense of his kind offices to each.

We subjoin a memorandum, dated 12th of Fifth month, 1865, in reference to the decease of his brother

GEORGE BAKER.

"After three nights of watching my brother George, he closed his eyes peacefully and gently in death. He was born Second month. 21st, 1808, the twin-brother of my sister Sarah Taylor. Respecting him the 12th verse of 1st chapter of the 2nd Corinthians, appears applicable : — 'Our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world.' Simple as Nathaniel— blind from his boyhood — the truth was confirmed in his history, 'the Lord preserveth the simple.' For his difficulties were many and great, and yet he surmounted them by diligence and perseverance, — and his farming was not only lucrative, but so good as to be a specimen for his neighbours of good management in every respect 'He being dead yet speaketh,' by his example of successful labour, and Christian meekness of demeanour, that simplicity, which has no guile in it."

JAMES BAKER

was the third son of George and Sarah Baker of Askham Fields, near York, and like his brother John was educated at Ackworth. He was born in 1814, and spent his apprenticeship, as well as the last few years of his life, at Scarbro'. At the age of 23, he

married Fanny Bartt Petchell of Hull, who was removed by death after a union of six years. He was married a second time in 1858 to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Morris of Manchester. Of his family of nine children, he lost an infant daughter, and a girl of ten years old; the latter died somewhat suddenly the year before her father's decease.

Although James Baker was neither a preacher nor a writer, his name is well known to many, and will long be remembered with affection and respect. For thirty-five years he carried on business as a draper in the city of York; and during this time he took an active interest in all that pertained to him, whether as a citizen, or as a member of that community of Christians to which he esteemed it a privilege to belong. Though not believing himself to be called to active public service as a Minister of the Gospel, he gave no small amount of time and attention to the good of the Church, as a Sabbath-school teacher, as clerk of his Monthly and Preparative Meetings, as agent for Ackworth and Rawdon Schools, and as an Overseer, and an Elder.

A total abstainer himself from early manhood, he took a great interest in the temperance question, earnestly endeavouring to further its aims; and besides being long a member of the United Kingdom Alliance, was for a period of twenty years treasurer to the York Temperance Society. But it was in the more private, and perhaps somewhat overlooked paths of Christian usefulness, that James Baker rendered probably the greatest service to those who needed his assistance. As an Executor and Trustee, and as the Guardian of fatherless children, he was ever ready to give advice and timely aid; and more than one widow will long remember with heartfelt gratitude, that they never found him too busy to bestow on their affairs his careful attention, thoughtful consideration, and business knowledge. In the character of a peace-maker he was well known and much resorted to; and to his wise and kind advice the adjustment of not a few disputes is to be attributed.

More than thirteen years ago, after the death of a beloved infant daughter, James Baker's health began to give way; and gradually as his disease progressed, he found it necessary to relinquish the active duties he had hitherto with much pleasure performed. In the spring of 1867 and again in 1870, he spent some weeks on the Mediterranean, with temporary benefit to his health. In the winter of 1874-5 the same expedient was again resorted to; but he returned home in the spring much worse. During the last nine months of his life he suffered from a most distressing cough, which, along with his difficulty of breathing, made it impossible for him to enter much into conversation; but he never murmured, bearing his sufferings with the most remarkable patience. On the 24th of Tenth month he became decidedly worse, and never afterwards left his room. He perceived that the end was approaching, and remarked what a comfort it was that he had "nothing to do but to die." On the following day he had some conversation during the intervals between the fits of coughing with one of his sons, in the course of which he said : —

"Always act from principle and never from expediency."

This idea of duty characterized his whole life, an instance of which may be worth recording. At the first Parliamentary election after he commenced business in York, some leading citizens belonging to one of the political parties called upon him to solicit at least one vote for their candidate, with the remark that unless he did thus divide his vote, it was useless for any tradesman to commence business in York. The answer was worthy of the man : — " I would rather sacrifice my business prospects, than vote contrary to my sense of duty."

About six days before his death, his bodily distress being great, he seemed to fear that he was in danger of becoming impatient; for speaking to one of his attendants he said, "Pray for me that I may be patient to the end."

He rapidly became more feeble; and apparently thinking that it might be the last opportunity he should have, requested, amongst other things, that his funeral might be conducted in a quiet unostentatious manner, and that no mourning should be worn by the members of his family; remarking that "on this point he believed Friends had a testimony to bear." He spoke of Jesus Christ as the only Saviour, the only foundation for hope, and

more than once expressed his readiness for death. On one occasion he said, — "I do not feel at times to have the brightness of which I read, and hear others speak," adding after a pause the significant words, " but I have no doubts, not any." In the early morning of the 3rd of Eleventh month, his breathing became much worse, but he lingered on till a little after two o'clock in the afternoon; when his purified spirit which had passed through great tribulation, was received, as those who knew him best thankfully believe, into the joyous presence of that Saviour in whom he had trusted, and whom, after having found forgiveness and life in Him, it had been his great delight to serve. Those who were left behind and who had been privileged to watch beside the bed of suffering, felt that they had had a practical sermon on patience, meekness and simple faith, such as no words could have preached to them.

*"Not his the golden pen's or lip's persuasion,
But a fine sense of right,
And truth's directness, meeting each occasion
Straight as a line of light."*