

THE JOURNAL

of the

FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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D.=The Reference Library of the Society of Friends, Devonshire House, 12, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C.

Foreword.

The Journal of the Friends' Historical Society does not present itself as a rival of, or as a competitor for public favour with, any existing publication. The Historical Society has been formed for promoting research in a field hitherto but imperfectly worked. How much of publication it may be able to undertake is uncertain, and must largely depend upon the funds placed at its disposal; but for the present its organ will be a quarterly *Journal*, informing subscribers of its proceedings, and printing such historical data relating to the Society of Friends as may be suitable for publication.

Experience has proved the existence of much historical lore, that can hardly be made available for public use except through the action of bodies possessing funds, other than those obtainable from sales in the ordinary channels of trade. Historical documents of the highest intrinsic value are nevertheless frequently uninteresting and tedious,

except to a restricted class of readers ; such are many of the State and Civic documents which have been published by Government authority and by the older municipal corporations, as well as by voluntary bodies like the Surtees Society, and the Congregational Historical Society, and by many local archeological and historical associations. Through these efforts a great deal of historical information, much of it curious, and some of it valuable, has been made public in recent years. The new Society proposes to do a similar work within the narrower area of the Society of Friends, for which it is believed there is ample room, notwithstanding the important services rendered to the study of denominational history, through the publication of much informing matter in the pages of *The Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, *The Friend* (of London and Philadelphia), *The British Friend*, *Quakeriana*, and at an earlier period in Luke Howard's *Yorkshireman*. The literature of Friends, including much still unpublished, is probably not inferior in importance and interest to that of other religious bodies, and there appears to be a requirement for a Society and a Journal devoted to this department of literary research.

The collection of printed and manuscript documents in the archives of Devonshire House is of great and constantly increasing value—the importance of which has now, happily, been recognised by its being placed under the charge of a competent librarian. The Society has received the approval of the Meeting for Sufferings,¹ and of its Library Committee, who are officially represented upon the Council : it has also been welcomed by some not themselves Friends, who are interested in their history from various causes. In addition to the stores at Devonshire House, and those in the British Museum, connected with the history and doings of Friends,

¹ The Meeting for Sufferings, the Representative Committee of London Yearly Meeting, passed the following minute at its meeting in Ninth month, 1903 :—

The annexed circular is received announcing the formation of a Friends' Historical Society. This Meeting approves of the step, and encourages Friends to support the Society.

(Signed) HENRY LLOYD WILSON,
Clerk.

important collections, belonging to local congregations, exist at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Kendal, York, and elsewhere, the contents of which are known only to a very restricted range of readers. Other documents of great value are in the hands of private individuals. It is believed that the Historical Society may have a useful service in promoting the care and preservation of documents which are apt to gather dust and become forgotten, unless they are under the eye of custodians possessing some antiquarian taste.

The Friends of the seventeenth century were commonly too busy, or suffering too severely from persecution, to devote much time to historical questions; yet it is interesting to recall how George Fox incited some of his more learned colleagues to investigate the ecclesiastical history of the marriage ceremony, when he was himself engaged in framing the Friends' marriage procedure.

Towards the close of the seventeenth century, and the beginning of the eighteenth, London Yearly Meeting took steps to collect information about "the first breaking forth of Truth" in different districts. Many of the returns then made by Monthly or Quarterly Meetings are still in existence, some of which it is intended to publish in this *Journal*. Notwithstanding all that has been written respecting the history of Friends, questions present from time to time which invite further investigation; for instance, the genesis of the term "Society of Friends" has, we believe, never been quite accurately determined, and several differing derivations do duty in Friends' books. Again, sundry inquiries have recently been made as to the history of the procedure affecting the recording of ministers, and whilst the main lines of this history are well known, some of the minor details remain obscure.

The new *Journal* will, it is understood, regularly devote some space to notes and queries, in which correspondents will be able to ask and answer historical questions. At the recently-held meeting of the Provisional Council, when Isaac Sharp and Norman Penney kindly undertook the

editorship of the present number, numerous suggestions were made respecting matter suitable for insertion, and it is probable that the difficulty of selection and discrimination will be far greater than that of finding material for *The Journal*. We bespeak for it a wide and cordial support.

JOHN S. ROWNTREE.

Notes and Queries.

AN interesting work might be written on the various experiences of Friends crossing the Atlantic on religious service. Who will send us an article on "Friends on the Atlantic"?

Professor Edward Arber's first volume of "The Term Catalogues, 1668-1709 A.D., edited from the very rare Quarterly Lists of New Books and Reprints issued by the Booksellers of London,"¹ contains frequent references to early Quaker literature, mostly adverse to Friends. Many of the titles are given in Joseph Smith's *Bibliotbeca Anti-Quakeriana*, but the following do not seem to have been known to our bibliographer.

"A true and impartial Narrative of the eminent hand of God that befel a Quaker and his Family at the Town of *Panton* in *Lincolnshire*; who affirmed he was commanded of God to pronounce Mr. *Ralph James*, Preacher of the Gospel, a Leper: the said judgment falling upon himself." In quarto. 1673.

¹ D. 13.N.

"The Young Man's Instructor . . . wherein several erroneous Doctrines of Quakers . . . are propounded and confuted. By Thomas Doolittle, Minister of the Gospel." In octavo, 1673.

"Hidden Things brought to Light, or The Discord of the Grand Quakers among themselves. Discovered in some Letters, Papers and Passages, written to and from G. Fox, J. Nayler, and J. Perrot; wherein may be seen the Cause and ground of their differences and falling out; and what manner of Spirit moved and acted each of them." In quarto, 1678.

"The Spirit of Delusion re-proved, or The Quakers' Cause fairly heard, and justly condemned. Being an Answer to *W. Penn, G. Fox, G. Whitehead, G. Keith, E. Burroughs*, and several others, the most leading men among them. Wherein their horrid Perversion, and false and dangerous Interpretations of above Fifty distinct Texts of Holy Scripture are plainly evinced. By Tho. Wilson, Rector of *Arrow* in *Warwickshire*." In octavo, 1678.