

1282 as we should make it (dating from the year of the Hejira, 622), but A.H. 1322 as may be seen in Letts' Diary. It also accounts for the puzzling fact that the fast of Ramadan and other yearly events may come at any time of our year.

ELIOT HOWARD.

Thomas Hancock, author of "*The Peculium*."

Thomas Hancock was born July 19th, 1832, and was educated at Merchant Taylors' School. His father, who was an artist and also a manufacturer of india-rubber, intended him to take a share in the business, but a mercantile life had no charm for him, so he tried his hand at journalistic and literary work. It was during this time that the Prize Competition, originated by Mr. Rowntree, came to his notice, and he wrote *The Peculium*. This brought him under the eye of Frederick Denison Maurice, one of the judges of the Essays, and he advised Thomas Hancock to seek orders in the Church, which he did, after some difficulties, as he had no University or College training. Eventually he was ordained by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce at Oxford, and served as curate till 1875. In 1884, the late Professor Shuttleworth offered him the lecturership of S. Nicholas Cole Abbey, in the City of London, which he held until his death on September 24th, 1903.

The whole of the period from 1875 until his death, Thomas Hancock did journalistic work for his living, and spent all his available time in historical research upon the middle period of the 17th century, on which he was a comparatively unknown, yet first-rate authority. He left behind him MSS. notes and references from all sorts of works of that period—books, newspapers, sermons, and pamphlets, which run into thousands and thousands of pages, those referring to the early days of the Society of Friends being amongst the fullest.

¹ Slightly abbreviated from a biographical sketch written at the request of the Librarian of D., by Thomas Hancock's son, Aidan Hancock, of S. Peter's Parsonage, Sutton Road, Colney Hatch Lane, London, N.