

“The Life of John Janson”

A CURIOUS pamphlet is on loan in D., of which the full title is *The Life of John Ianson, of Pollington, near Snaith, Yorkshire, once an Opulent Farmer in that Neighbourhood.* Hull: Printed by Topping and Dawson, Lowgate, for the Benefit of John Ianson [1816]. This 24 page pamphlet, the property of Perceval Lucas, of Rackham, Sussex, an ex-Friend, contains the life-history in brief of an unfortunate and apparently (by his own telling) a much-wronged man. John was born at Healey, near York, in 1744. He writes:—

“I have been from my infancy up to my 67th year, amongst the Quakers; I was then excluded, and have not since that time, either by personal application or petition, been able to learn the grounds on which I was used in so unkind a manner and must therefore impute it to my Poverty. I laid three years and eleven weeks in a Stable upon Straw, I have been 39 years travelling, and cannot meet with three upright Quakers, Farmers, in one meeting, to hear my case, except one at Hitchin in Herefordshire [Hertfordshire], Jonas L——s; and T——r, of York.”

And again:—

“In no sect have I received the two extremes of good and ill treatment, than in that class of dissenters denominated Quakers, and in which society I was brought up, my father¹ professing that religion. I do not wish to be understood as condemning that highly respectable body, as I believe there are none that can rival them in acts of charity.”

Lawsuits and disastrous business transactions seem to have brought low our Author, who had to tramp many miles for a livelihood, selling “Cotton Balls, Laces, and Whitechapel Needles.”

¹ From a written pedigree accompanying this book we gather that his parents' names were John and Hannah Ianson, and the names of his grandparents, Samuel and Hannah. John's father was born in 1715, and he died in 1754.

Peace, Not War, the School of Heroism, is the title of a pamphlet by Jenkin Lloyd Jones, LL.D., published by the Chicago Peace Society, U.S.A. In this we read:—“The military record of Robert E. Lee as commander-in-chief of the army of the Confederacy pales in significance and power with the more heroic civic record, the post-bellum achievement of Robert E. Lee as president of a dismantled university. He scored his highest triumph when he said, ‘I have given four years of my life to leading the youths of Virginia to battle and to death. I want to give the remaining years of my life to teaching the youths of Virginia how to live.’”