

Friends in Current Literature

REVIEWERS have differed considerably in their estimate of W. Teignmouth Shore's *John Woolman, His Life and Our Times* (London: Macmillan, 8 by 5½, pp. 273, 5s. net). Most agree in thinking that there is little of "Our Times" in the book, but many interesting and sympathetic sketches of the life and work of Woolman have appeared in periodical papers in consequence of this publication. The following are the closing words of "The Church Times" review of March 13: "Many will be grateful also for the light which is thrown on the beliefs and habits of the Quakers. And it can never be anything else but helpful to read how a man deliberately set himself to follow, as best he knew how, the footsteps of Jesus Christ." We think that what may be termed the historical and descriptive interludes are very valuable. We only regret that we could not, after much search, find in our archives more illustrative matter for the Author.

The Joseph White who is introduced so abruptly on p. 273 is mentioned three times in Woolman's Journal. He lived in Bucks Co., Pennsylvania; began to preach when twenty; visited England in 1758; died 1777, aet. 64. ("Piety Promoted"; Corder's "Memorials"; and other books and MSS. in D.).

The paper by William Charles Braithwaite, read at the Reading Summer School, 1913, entitled *Lessons from Early Quakerism in Reading*, has been issued in pamphlet form (Reading: Poynder, 8½ by 5½, pp. 18).

Jesse Edgerton, of Damascus, Ohio, has issued a volume of his poems under the title, *A Brook by the Way* (8½ by 5½, pp. 222). The book is illustrated with a picture of the Author (1845—), of his home in Damascus, of the old Meeting House at The Ridge, near Barnesville, O., of Stillwater Meeting House (ice-bound), and of the Boarding School at Barnesville when attacked by fire in 1910 and as re-built to-day. Two poems are here reprinted:

AMBROSE BOONE.

1871.

Ambrose Boone, a minister, from Canada, died suddenly at the home of Robert Ellyson, at Middleton, Ohio, Twelfth Month 7th, 1871, while on a religious visit to the Meetings of Ohio Yearly Meeting. His remains were carried to his home in Ontario, Canada.

Fold his hands upon his bosom !
Gently lay the stranger down ;
For the toils of life are ended,
He has won a Heavenly crown !
Stranger friends had gathered round him,
Watching o'er his couch of pain,
As the slender ties that bound him
To the world were cut in twain.

Far from home and all its pleasures,
 From the home he loved so well,
 Earnest in his Christian mission.
 In a foreign land he fell.
 Fell as came the solemn message
 That his work on earth was done,
 Foremost in the path of duty,
 Falling with his armor on.

From beyond the ceaseless surging
 Of Ontario's restless wave,
 Came he in the Master's service,
 With the message that He gave :
 Yet before the task was finished,
 In His boundless love, the Lord
 Called him, may we hope in mercy,
 Home to reap a rich reward.

In that land of fadeless beauty,
 Where the ransomed spirits dwell,
 Where the glory far surpasses
 All that mortal tongue can tell ;
 Now released from pain and sorrow,
 Freed from every doubt and care,
 He, we humbly trust, is mingling
 With the Church Triumphant there.

SILENT WORSHIP.

1886.

I sat among the worshippers,
 The silence was unbroken,
 For not a word of prayer or praise
 By mortal tongue was spoken ;
 The silence, sweet and solemn, fell
 Upon the gathered throng,
 But the gospel's living current
 Flowed precious along,

From vessel unto vessel,
 From prostrate soul to soul ;
 The bowed in spirit felt the power
 Of living virtue roll.
 And waiting in the Master's name
 To know His sovereign will,
 There fell upon the spirit's ear
 The whisper, " Peace, be still."

Ah ! the great Minister was there,
 Dispensing heavenly good,
 Unto the luke-warm ones, reproof,
 Unto the hungry, food ;
 And some who came in poverty,
 Faithless and destitute,
 In this sweet silence felt their faith
 And confidence recruit.

Oh, 'tis a precious privilege,
 With worldly thoughts laid low,
 Silent before the throne of Grace,
 In penitence to bow :
 Oh, 'tis a precious privilege
 To feel, as true, His word,
 That they shall have their strength renewed,
 Who wait upon the Lord !

Oh, gracious God ! a rebel, I
 Against Thy power have striven,
 And yet presume to come to Thee,
 Craving to be forgiven ;
 Then let me humbly bow with those
 Who on Thy mercy call,
 And while they feast grant me the crumbs
 That from Thy table fall.

The latest addition to the series " Friends Ancient and Modern "† of the Friends' Tract Association (London) is *John G. Whittier, Poet, Reformer, Mystic*, by Ernest E. Taylor (London: Headley Brothers, and New York: Friends' Book and Tract Committee, 144 East 20th Street, pp. 40, one penny or five cents). This is an admirable production and cheap withal—four illustrations inside and one on the cover, the last-named representing a statuette group of Whittier, Beecher and Garrison interviewing a female slave with infant in arms.

Frank T. Bullen's latest book *From Wheel and Lookout* (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd., 7½ by 5, pp. 277, 4s. 6d. net), contains a chapter entitled " A Quaker Mate."

" John Penn " for the mate, and " Brotherly Love " for the vessel, are certainly names Quakerly, but the spirit of the story throughout is anything but that of a peaceable spirit. After an exciting shipwreck, John Penn and his lady love are picked up by a whaling vessel manned by mutineers—in order to protect the lady the Quaker mate first kills the captain and then, " with a swift glance around for firearms, rushed out into the cabin " !

In *The Decorator* for January, there is a full account of the presentation by the Incorporated Institute of British Decorators of the gold medal of the Institute to Metford Warner, a well-known and highly esteemed London Friend, accompanied by a very good portrait and a picture of the medal.

In the *Pembrokeshire County Guardian* there is a column headed " The Pembrokeshire Antiquary." Under this caption are now appearing

† Others of the series are George Fox, Elizabeth Fry, Stephen Grellet, Francis Howgill, Joseph B. Braithwaite, Daniel Wheeler, George Whitehead, Margaret Fell, Joseph Sturge, Dr. William Wilson, William Penn, Thomas Ellwood and Richard Hubberthorne. About 104,000 of these biographies have been circulated.

several articles by (Rev.) P. D. Morse of Wolf's Castle, on "The Quakers in Pembrokeshire." In the second article, our late Friend, George Phillips of Haverfordwest (d. 1889, aged sixty-seven), receives warm eulogy. He was born of a Wesleyan family, but he united himself with Friends in 1857, when thirty-six years of age. For long he was the only Friend in the county.

In the *International Journal of Apocrypha*, dated January, there is some account of "A Quaker Translation of Ecclesiasticus and Wisdom, 1827," prepared by Luke Howard, of Tottenham (1772-1864). These works by Luke Howard are in D., as also his "Book of Tobias," and "Apocrypha of the Book of Daniel," and other publications.

Several papers report interviews with John Gilbert Baker, F.R.S., "the world-famous botanist and horticulturalist, who for so many years occupied the position of keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Gardens, Kew" (*Morning Post*, 14 i. 14), and who was presented with an address of congratulation on his eightieth birthday. In one interview Gilbert Baker narrates his Quaker upbringing and school-life at Ackworth and York, and mentions some noted school-fellows, as Joseph and John S. Rowntree, Henry Seebohm and George and Henry Brady.

"At request of Hon. George Vaux, Jr., chairman, Board of Indian Commissioners, 1913," the *Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Indian Commissions to the Secretary of the Interior, 1912-1913*, has been sent us from Washington, D.C. The Report deals with such live subjects as Agriculture, Irrigation, Health, Suppression of Intoxicants, and information respecting various Indian tribes—the Pimas, Apaches, Navajo and the Five Civilised Tribes.

The Annual Report of the Ackworth Old Scholars' Association for 1913 is full of interest, but the editing and printing should be improved. There is something wrong with the Presidents, as Samuel E. Brown is said to be the holder of that office 1912-13 in one place and Caroline C. Graveson in another. In one obituary notice the dates are hopelessly out—born "1814," at Ackworth "1815-9," married "1900," died "1913, aged 38 years."

A three-column review of the career of Francis Daniel Pastorius (1651-c.1720) appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, Boston, Mass., of January 12, under the heading "Pastorius [*sic*] Versatile Writer."

There are short articles, with portraits, of Dolly Madison (1768-1849) and Lucretia Mott (1793-1880) in *Happy Women*, by Myrtle Reed (New York and London: Putnam, 8½ by 5½, pp. 174).

We have received from the offices of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, 15, Devonshire Street, London, E.C., a *Report of the Deputation to Madagascar, July—October, 1913*, consisting of a report presented

by the three Deputations of the London Missionary Society, the F.F.M.A., and the Paris Missionary Society, and of the report presented to the F.F.M.A. Board by its own Deputation—Richard Beck, Charles E. Stansfield and Henry T. Hodgkin. The work of the Deputation will certainly mark an epoch in Christian activity on the Island, and should be studied by all Friends alive to the importance of efforts for the spread of the Gospel in all lands. This 196-page pamphlet may be obtained for one shilling.

Mary J. Taber, of New Bedford, Mass., an ex-Friend, author of "Just a Few Friends," has written another book, *Bathsheba's Letters to her Cousin Deborah, 1831-1861* (Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 7½ by 5, pp. 253). Here is one letter:

" 11th mo. 6th, 1838.

" *Dear Cousin Deborah*

" I had a 'heart to heart' talk with mother to-day, or I set out to have one. I told her I was growing wickeder every day. . . . She said, 'What ails my child? I never heard such talk. I shall have to send thee to bed without thy supper if thee does not stop right now.' So that was the end of my heart to heart talk with mother."²

Several articles by Edward Grubb, which appeared in last year's volume of "The British Friend," have been gathered together into pamphlet form, entitled *Separations: Their Causes and Effects. Studies in Nineteenth Century Quakerism* (London: Headley, 6½ by 4, pp. 159, 1s. net). The Separations referred to are those in America in 1827, 1842, 1845, and 1854, and the "Beacon" Controversy in England in 1836. There are also chapters on Joseph John Gurney, The Rise and Spread of Pastoralism, The Present Position, and The Problem of Correspondence. Large use has been made of books and tracts in D.

In the third number of *Present Day Papers, A Monthly Journal for the Presentation of Vital and Spiritual Christianity* (Haverford, Pa., and Headley Brothers, London, 6d. per copy, or 6s. 6d. per year post paid), there are articles by Eleanor D. Wood, Georgina King Lewis, George H. Ferris, Clarence C. Clark, and others. It is to be hoped that the appearance of the magazine may improve as time goes on, at present it must be considered poor—the page-headings are specially weak, and the inner title page and half-title unattractive.

Our Friend, Joseph Burtt Davy, has recently resigned his post as Government Botanist in the Department of Agriculture in South Africa, and has become Botanist to the Agricultural Supply Association of Johannesburg. There is a several-column account of his new work, in the Johannesburg *Sunday Post*, of January 25, under the title "How to Grow Maize. Mr. Burtt-Davy's New Activities."

NORMAN PENNEY.

² It is to be feared that there are Quaker parents to-day equally out of touch with the thoughts and feelings of their children.