

Obituaries

DAVID S. TABER, whose death occurred in his seventy-fifth year on the last day of 1914, has acted as the New York agent for THE JOURNAL since the formation of the Historical Society in 1903. His kind help in this connection, and also in procuring American books for the Reference Library, will be much missed.

He was the son of William C. and Hannah Taber, of New Bedford, Mass., but went to New York before he was twenty-one years of age. For the rest of his life he was, both in his relation with Friends and commercial affairs, a New York man. He was in earlier years a partner in the firm of Augustus Taber and Brother, marble importers, but subsequently he joined the well-known house of William H. Wood & Co., Medical Publishers. He married William H. Wood's sister, Elizabeth, daughter of William and Mary S. Wood, of New York. Akin to his work as a publisher was that of the Friends' Book and Tract Depôt, New York. He was Chairman of the Committee of Management, and took a great interest in the distribution of Quaker literature. This was but one of his many interests, for he was closely identified with the church work of New York Yearly Meeting, and to him Friends and others from all quarters turned for help and counsel. One of his colleagues writes of him: "Careful, painstaking, earnest, cheerful, sympathetic, David S. Taber was an inspiration to us all." Vigorous to the last, he went to his office for the last time the day before his death. He was well known to many English Friends who have met him on this side of the Atlantic, and to still more who enjoyed his warm welcome and generous hospitality on the other side. Of his parents' eleven children who grew up and all married, but two or three survive. His sister, Susan Taber Thompson, wife of William Thompson, of New Bedford, Mass., has, with her husband, paid many visits to this country.

New York Monthly Meeting of Friends, rightly following in this case a time-honoured practice, issued a "Testimony," from which the following is extracted :

For many years he has been a devoted member of this Meeting, active on many Committees, holding positions of the highest responsibility and performing the duties pertaining to them with marked efficiency. A man of unusual intellect, he was able to serve the Society of Friends not only in this country but elsewhere, as a source of knowledge of Friends' literature ancient and modern.

[See issues of *The Friend* of 29th of First Month, 5th of Second Month, and of *The American Friend*, 28th of First Month, and 25th of Second Month, 1915.]

By the decease of CHARLES W. DYMOND (1832-1915) the Friends Historical Society has lost a stalwart supporter, and the Society of Friends an original writer and thinker. He was the nephew of Jonathan Dymond, the linen draper essayist of Exeter, in which city he also was born.

He was by profession an engineer, and when the writer first knew him in the late sixties, was engaged on that portion of the Great Western system then known as the Bristol and Exeter Railway. "What do you think of the new engineer?" an old hand was asked. The reply in effect was: "We don't quite make him out; he never swears at anyone." He himself, in dealing with workmen, differentiated between the workmen he ordered to perform certain work and those to whom he carefully explained what he required. As an engineer he was probably unsurpassed in the scrupulous exactness of his work, subjecting his surveyor's chain to a daily test, and even making allowance for stretching in the later measurements each day, especially when working on rough land.

His extra-professional interests were of two kinds, antiquarian and philosophical. To his antiquarian labours he brought the same exactness of detail that distinguished his engineering. Drawings of druidical and other remains at Stanton Drew and Worlebury in Somerset, of cromlechs or dolmens in Devon and Cornwall, were made to scale, and with an extraordinary delicacy of detail. As he showed his illustrations he would remark,

“ Not the highest style of the art.” Nevertheless, he used to work at times with his pen in one hand and magnifying glass in the other, as he put in the minutiae of his drawing.

His philosophical bent and general interests came out in his writings, the subjects of a few of which may be mentioned here as evidence of the versatility of his mentality. Sanitary Memoranda, 1884 ; Ancient Remains at Stanton Drew, 1896 ; Worlebury, an Ancient Stronghold, 1902 ; A Key to the Theory of Linear Perspective, 1910 ; Symbolism, a Lecture, 1886 ; Modern Spiritualism, 1895 ; Memoir, Letters and Poems of Jonathan Dymond, 1907 and 1911 ; a Sketch of the History, Doctrines and Practices of the Religious Society of Friends ; A Synopsis of the Theosophy and Theology of Emanuel Swedenborg (the two last with other papers in MS. only).

In his later life Charles W. Dymond retired to a quiet home in the English Lake district, enjoying to the last the beauty of the scenery of fell and tarn, his retreat favouring the meditations of the philosopher. His courteous manner, genial disposition, and sense of humour added a charm to his intellectual gifts.

ISAAC SHARP.

Friends and the Indians

JN a paper read by Emma Taylor Lamborn, at the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of London Grove Friends' Meeting, Pa., 1914,¹ we read concerning Robert Lamborn, who married Sarah Swayne in 1722 :

“ Here was his settlement in early life, early in the cultivation of the wilds of America, as it were on the margin of civilized society. The Indian natives were his nearest neighbors, and his most frequent visitants, of whom my grandfather spoke in high favor of their veracity, hospitality, and social intercourse, all in the

¹ The paper has the heading : “ The Record of an Early Settler in America ” ; it appears with others in the printed records of the bi-centennial celebration at London Grove Meeting House, Pa., 3rd of Tenth Month, 1914 (copy in D.).