

Friends in Current Literature

Bootham School Register, compiled under the direction of a Committee of the Old York Scholars' Association, 1914 (York: Delittle, Fenwick & Co., 6s. 6d. net), owes much to the support and industry of Francis C. Clayton and others. Its 291 pages of excellent clear type afford good reading for old Bootham boys. The names of present boys and of old boys still living are printed in large block type, at once distinguishable from the names of the dead. Here one may read the history of the early veterans from 1829 when the School was taken over by the Quarterly Meeting, recall memories of one's own contemporaries, their school exploits and hobbies, and learn in what ways they have distinguished themselves in after life. Amongst the honoured dead may be mentioned Jacob and John Bright; Joseph Firth Bottomley Firth; Thomas Harvey; Henry Stanley Newman; Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, Bart.; Stanley Pumphrey; David Richardson; John Stephenson, John Wilhelm and Joshua Rowntree; Frederic and Henry Seebohm; John Foster Spence; Daniel Hack and James Hack Tuke; Robert Spence Watson; Thomas Whitwell, with many others who have done great service for the State, locally or imperially, have made their mark as scientists, or filled useful places as Ministers, Church officers or Educationists of the Society of Friends. Not less distinguished are the names of many living men whom it would, perhaps, be invidious in this short notice to single out.

On the amusing side, under Henry Binns is recorded the conspiracy of that worthy Quaker Minister, along with John Bright and George Mennell, to run away from school for America. They were all caught *flagranti delicto*—Binns on leaving the premises; Bright, who started second, on the Tadcaster Road; Mennell, who reached Leeds on foot, was found waiting for the others at the Inn from which the Liverpool coach was to start!

Amongst the excellent illustrations may be specially mentioned the grand head and face of William Tuke, the portrait of John Ford with its rugged, forceful lines, the minutes in John Ford's handwriting of the meeting that established the School Natural History Society in 1834, portraits of three other head masters, Fielden Thorp, John Firth Fryer, and Arthur Rowntree, a portrait of Miss A. B. Woodhead, and lastly the benevolent features of the Right Honourable Robert Spence Watson.

[For particulars as to the origin of the Register see various references in "Bootham."]

The Older Nonconformity in Kendal, by Francis Nicholson and Ernest Axon (Kendal: Titus Wilson, 8½ by 5½, pp. 677, 21s. net), does not profess to deal with Friends, "the oldest Nonconformists in the town," except incidentally; and is mainly a history of the Unitarian Chapel and the two Nonconformist Academies of Richard Frankland, M.A., and Caleb

Rotherham, D.D. The authors show that Westmorland was not favourable soil for Presbyterianism, and regard (p. 33) the introduction of Quakerism as "the remarkable episode" in the religious history of the county. They consider that other Nonconformists had no great strength in the town during the early Restoration Period, chiefly because (p. 80) the Quakers had "drawn into their Society the bulk of those who would otherwise have made the staunchest Nonconformists." The early Unitarian teaching in Kendal seems to have come (p. 34) from a Friend, Robert Colli[n]son, but it should be added that he soon found himself at variance in other ways with the Quaker leaders, and was denied by them in 1656. (See "Beginnings of Quakerism," pp. 344, 345.) There are useful references to George Walker, the Quaker surgeon who was implicated in the Kaber Rigg plot of October, 1663 (p. 90), to Gervase Benson (*passim*), and to Thomas Camm (pp. 249-256).

The Contribution of Nonconformity to Education until the Victorian Era, from the pen of Dr. W. T. Whitley, M.A. (Secretary of the Baptist Historical Society), finds a place in "The Educational Record," June, 1915. After speaking of the steady interest of Friends in education from the earliest days he says: "Specially noteworthy is their care for girls; in 1681 at Aberdeen their mistress saw not only to book-learning, but to their being taught to support themselves by the weaving of stockings."

Summing up the work of Joseph Lancaster, Dr. Whitley says: "Thus we may even say that the effective impulse towards the nation assuming the duty of educating all children was given by a Friend."¹

In connection with the practice of using Latin text books we read: "To adopt English meant to cut off pupils from the stream of continental life and thought . . . the question was ignored by most English teachers, but it was deliberately faced and discussed by the Society of Friends . . . A meeting of schoolmasters was called [1705] . . . After some prolonged deliberation, it was decided to disuse Virgil, Horace, Juvenal, Terence, Ovid, Erasmus, Æsop's fables, Corderius, etc., which had hitherto been used by Friends for the instruction of youth in the Latin tongue."

Whilst they discarded these authors as "heathenish," and "not agreeable to truth," they were not, says Dr. Whitley, "averse to Latin as Latin," but revised Lily's grammar, and did not "eschew the ancients."

Mention is made of the educational efforts of William Penn and John Bellers, and a tribute is paid to the Society of Friends as pioneers in the work of Adult Schools now widely spread over the country.

Rawdon and its History, by James H. Palliser (Rawdon, to be obtained from the author, pp. 108, 2s. 6d. net), contains a picture and interesting

¹ Joseph Lancaster was only in membership with Friends for some thirteen years, but Friends were amongst his warmest supporters, and after his time to a large extent carried on the British Schools of the country. When these gave place to Board Schools, many Friends exchanged British School management for work upon School Boards.

particulars regarding the Meeting House erected in 1697; "the office of caretaker has been for many years, and is still, held by the first scholar on the girls' side at Rawdon. This forms an interesting link between the Meeting and the School, which have been closely associated for more than sixty years" (p. 73).

The oldest minute book (presumably Preparative Meeting) is dated 1693, when Friends met for worship and business in private houses. In 1825, "Two Friends were appointed as librarians and to have charge of the clock. Query, when and why was the clock removed, and where was it situated? Was it found too attractive to the children from the School, or did some Friends object to its presence?"

The eighth Swarthmore Lecture, entitled *The Quest for Truth*, was delivered by Silvanus P. Thompson, F.R.S., in the Central Hall, Westminster. (Headley, pp. 128, 1s. net.)

Edward Grubb has brought out an enlarged edition of his *The True Way of Life*, which was first published in 1909 in answer to Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey's "A New Way of Life" in which he supported Compulsory Military Training. Of the new edition the author says in the Preface: "This is really a new book. . . . I have now dropped a large part of the purely controversial matter, and have tried to present an independent statement of what I conceive to be the Christian Way of Life, with special reference to War." (Headley, pp. 151, 1s. net.)

The Present Day Message of Quakerism, by Charles M. Woodman (to be obtained from the office of "The American Friend," Richmond, Ind., \$1.00 net, pp. 106). The author in a Foreword explains that the book is the outcome of "messages" given week by week at the Friends' Church, Portland, Maine. He covers his subject in four chapters entitled: "The Basis of the Quaker Faith," "The Guide of the Quaker Life," "The Creed of the Quaker Church," "The Field of the Quaker Message."

A cutting from *The Brooklyn Sun*, issued 30th of May, 1915, from the pen of "D.G." [sent us by Daniel Gibbons, a member of the Friends Historical Society], refers to the "beliefs" of the well-known agnostic, Colonel R. G. Ingersoll.

He desires "to preserve of him" the following, having heard the story "from Jonah Rees himself," whom he describes as "a most conscientious truthful man."

Jonah Rees, "a well-known member of the Society of Friends and one 'appearing in the ministry' occasionally," whilst in the employ of a Quaker attorney of New York, Wilson M. Powell, frequently met Ingersoll in the course of business. "It was inevitable," says "D.G.," "that the Quaker and the great agnostic should touch often" on the deep mysteries of life, and on one occasion the Colonel said to Jonah Rees:—"Rees, if I could tell you what my conception of the unknown is, it would be the greatest, grandest, mightiest thing the human soul could fancy."

If we remember rightly, this was not the only occasion on which the inner soul of the man broke through the cloud of negation that enwrapped it. His pathetic utterance on the death of a saintly sister was a testimony to the strength of a Christian life, and almost amounted to a confession of the weakness of the agnostic position.

My Villa Garden, by Samuel Graveson (London : Headley, 2s. 6d. net, 124 pp., with 30 illustrations, six in colour). In nothing, perhaps, is the value of a little practical experience so apparent as in gardening. Most amateur gardeners who have indulged their ambitions reach a point where they yearn for the guidance of a *confrère* whose toil through the elementary stages is past, and who, aided by nothing but his own gumption, has successfully applied the bewildering multiplicity of instructions and hints found in the gardening books and papers. *My Villa Garden* just fills this need of the *confrère*. Its pages give the impression of a pleasing, practical result, attained by painstaking care, observation, and watchfulness. The book makes pleasant reading, and is certainly calculated to stir the imagination as to the possibilities even of a small town garden.

A privately printed tribute to the memory of Gwendolen Crewdson (1872-1913) has been presented to the Reference Library by her brother, Wilson Crewdson, the writer of the introductory pages. It contains the sermon preached by Rev. C. J. N. Child, M.A., at the unveiling of a tablet at Girton, "To the loved and honoured memory of Gwendolen Bevan Crewdson, Student, Librarian, Junior Bursar and generous friend of this College." This is followed by notices of her life from the "Girton Review" and the "St. Leonards School Gazette," also the sketch from the pen of Richard Westlake (recently deceased) which appeared in the issue of "The Friend" for 20th of February, 1914. The booklet is the inspiring record of a life of rare beauty, of "singleness of vision and aim," summed up in the words, "I wish to make something of my life." In four portraits at different ages, one of which appeared in the issue of "The Friend" above referred to, the sweetness of expression is the outward mark of the soul within.

Japan our Ally (London : Macmillan & Co., 1915, 36 pp., 2d.), by Wilson Crewdson, M.A., Member of Council, Royal Asiatic Society ; Vice-President Japan Society ; etc., etc., condenses into a few illuminating pages the history of European relations with Japan from the landing of Portuguese adventurers in 1542 to the present friendship with England. A preface by the Rt. Hon. Sir Claude M. Macdonald, P.C., G.C.M.G., etc., gives "this admirable little brochure" a good send-off, combining some of its salient points with reminiscences of Sir Claude's own experience during the twelve years in which he represented Great Britain in Japan.

After first welcoming foreigners, Japan became suspicious of the development of their intrigues and entered upon a period of exclusion of outside influence and a period of internal peace extending over two

and a half centuries. The last sixty years, however, have witnessed a remarkable change from the date of the first treaty between Japan and the United States in 1854. During this time the Japanese have shown "an aptitude for progress" almost unrivalled in history. On to their ancient conservative civilisation was grafted a new spirit under the influence of the works of John Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer and Jeremy Bentham, until in 1889 a Constitution, based upon European methods, was established, and a National Assembly was set up. Under the early treaties with Japan, foreign residents were excluded from Japanese criminal and civil jurisdiction. In 1899 Great Britain led the way in releasing Japan from this intolerable system and the other Powers soon followed. Thus it took little more than forty years for Japan to rise from "Oriental feudalism" to a system of government in which her people counted for something and her laws were respected by foreign countries.

The rapid progress of Japan during these early years of the present century is a matter of common knowledge and is well summed up in the concluding pages of Mr. Crewdson's interesting essay.

The Cymdeithas Llen Cymru has reprinted, as Number III. of the Red Series, the rare tract written in 1654 by Alexander Griffiths, entitled *Strena Vavasoriensis, a New Years Gift for the Welsh Itinerants, Or a Hue and Cry after Mr. Vavasor Powell, Metropolitan of the Itinerants, and one of the Executioners of the Gospel, by colour of the late Act for the Propagation thereof in Wales* (March, 1915, privately printed by William Lewis, Ltd., Cardiff). Vavasor Powell (1617-1670) was a notable Welsh preacher at a time when Wales was in a state of great spiritual destitution. For his relation to the Quaker movement, see "Beginnings of Quakerism," pp. 207-209. His congregations seem to have been the chief source out of which sprang the groups of Friends in Mid-Wales, and his system of itinerant preachers closely resembled the Quaker "Publishers of Truth." The piece now reprinted is adverse to Powell, whose opinions and actions are bitterly criticized, especially his opposition to tithes. There is no reference to Quakerism, which only reached Wales in 1655.

Richard Beck and Perceval Lucas contribute an excellent pedigree of the Beck family to *The Pedigree Register* for March and June, 1915, wherein the following Quaker families are linked up:—Giles, Drayton, Head, Tylor, etc.

The June issue of *The Pedigree Register* also contains articles by Joseph J. Green, entitled "Fly-Leaf Inscriptions and Family Registers," in connection with the families of Arnold, Markes, Robson, Pease and Hedley.

The Friends' Central Study Committee has issued a pamphlet entitled *Lists of Courses of Study and Text Books*, intended for the help of those wishing to form Study Circles. (To be obtained from the Secretary, Elsie M. Smith, Lynhurst, Hoddesdon, Herts.)