

## Annual Meeting

---

Through the kindness of Westminster Friends, the Society was fortunate in again holding its Annual Meeting at 52, St. Martin's Lane. This took place on February 4th, early spring flowers, a bright fire and a number of interesting charts and sketches (the work of the President, L. Violet Holdsworth) combined to make the Lounge a pleasant setting for a large and enthusiastic meeting. Well-known by his own literary work and his great interest in early Quaker history, Ernest E. Taylor made an ideal Chairman. The inevitable business was first disposed of. The meeting readily accepted recommendations forwarded by the Committee which included the appointment of Herbert Corder as President and T. Edmund Harvey as Vice-President. It was fitting that reference should be made, by more than one speaker, to Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, the lecturer's father and first president of the Historical Society; for it was largely as a result of his keenness and enthusiasm for the wider study of Quaker history that the Society was inaugurated in 1903.

Since making her home in Cornwall, Violet Holdsworth has realised that the work of early Friends in the West has never been given the prominence which was its due. "Loveday Hambly, a little-known Quaker Saint," was her choice of subject. It proved to be one after her own heart, for the doings of Loveday, prior to her conversion by Fox in 1656, were as a closed book and therefore offered the fascination of the unknown with a wide field for speculation and research. As the life of this woman was unfolded to us we realised something of the patient research and untiring enthusiasm which had been required to rediscover this early Quaker convert, who in many respects held a similar position in the West to that of Margaret Fox in the North. Material was found in most unexpected places. The lecturer said: "I felt like a miner whose pickaxe, seeking to loosen a pebble, accidentally strikes a rich vein of hitherto unworked ore." Unlike Swarthmoor Hall, Tregangeeves, near St. Austell, the home to which Loveday came as a bride, is no longer standing. At the time of her first meeting with Fox, she was a middle-aged, childless widow; from that day her home became a centre of Quaker hospitality.

Long before the annual meeting our lecturer found that her material had assumed the proportions of a book. Listeners to her lecture and readers of this report will rejoice to know that there is a prospect that in the near future a volume will be published entitled: "Loveday Hambly and her Guests at Tregangeeves."

A report of the address appeared in *The Friend* (Lond.), Feb. 19.

M. ETHEL CRAWSHAW.