

Joseph John Gurney Cannon

The following appeared in *The Friend* (Lond.), 24th December, 1926, written by Albert H. Votaw, Lansdowne, Pa. :

" J. G. Cannon was born of Quaker parentage in North Carolina in 1836. He died in Tenth-month of this year, more than four-score and ten years of age. With the exception of four years, he served in the Lower House of the United States Congress from 1873 to 1923, a term of service longer than any other person had held such position. For eight years he was the presiding officer of that body, and by his autocratic methods was often spoken of as the Czar of the Congress.

" In 1908 a party of students from a Friends' School in Philadelphia were strolling through the Capitol buildings at Washington, and passed by the door of the office of Speaker Cannon. It occurred to the leader that an interview with this prominent man might interest the party. Hence a request was sent by the messenger at the door for a brief interview, and at once the reply came to the waiting throng, ' He will see you immediately.' We were ushered to an inner room and were confronted by a tall man of patriarchal appearance who greeted us with marked cordiality. As near as can be recalled, after a preliminary remark or two, he addressed us quite familiarly as follows :

" " I was once a Quaker myself till I got naughty. A great many years ago, maybe, it was in 1836, a great Quaker preacher from England came to my native State. At that time it was customary with the Quakers, and it may be so yet, for some suitable persons to go along to the various meetings with a preacher, and this attendant was called a " companion." Well, my father, who was a doctor, was chosen as a companion to this eminent minister, and he was with him constantly for some weeks. He thought so much of this preacher that he named me, who came on this mundane sphere about that time, *Joseph John Gurney Cannon*. I got tired of writing so much name, so that I don't use all that was given me.' "

" Ebenezer Wing, of Sandwich, Mass., was one night roused from sleep by a noise in an adjoining room. He sprang from his bed, only to have the door closed and held by some one on the other side. Slipping into the adjoining front room, he watched, through the glass over the door, two men possess themselves of his hard-earned money, from his old desk in the kitchen. He made no attempt to confront them, but in the town next day he told the facts, withholding the culprits' names. Within two days the money was returned."

Quoted in *The Quaker in the Forum*, by Amelia M. Gummere, 1910, p. 193.