

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

FRIENDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Our Quotation

"The outlook and method of the historian are the true corrective for partisan views and narrow prejudices, and historical knowledge of the past is the necessary preparation for the wise activity of the present."

WILLIAM C. BRAITHWAITE, "The Historic Method in Teaching."
Friends' Quarterly Examiner, 1912.

Editorial

 WITH the present issue this Journal enters on a new stage, for the first thirty volumes were almost entirely the editorial work of Norman Penney.

In recent years the proportion of matter which came from his own pen increased, a practice which was only possible by reason of his very extensive knowledge of Quaker lore and the devotion to it of his considerable leisure.

It is the task of members of the Friends Historical Society to sustain the cause of Quaker historical study under the loss of so tireless a labourer in its cause. To do so we need the help of more members and of more young members.

The main purpose of our studies should be to promote an understanding of Quaker history and that outlook referred to in the words of William Charles Braithwaite quoted above. The antiquary who "digs" for the sheer thrill of uncovering the past, also provides the historian with the evidence he seeks about the life and thought of his forbears. An understanding of their experience and its lessons is of high value.

There must be many Friends interested in our history who are not members of the Historical Society. It is hoped that members will endeavour to interest others in the Society and to secure new subscribers. A specimen copy of the *Journal* will always be gladly sent for this purpose.

Any Friends who are pursuing historical study or research are invited to communicate as to their aims, needs, and discoveries. It should be possible in this way to put people unknown to each other in touch and sometimes to help them through material in the Library at Friends House. Local history has received considerable attention in recent years, there should be a place for some of the results in these pages.

It is intended to print as heretofore unpublished documents of interest, notes upon the archives of the Society, both central and local, and on other collections of MSS., with a proportion of articles based upon original study.

Contributions on the following subjects have already been promised for future issue:—an account of the ways and means employed by early Friends in conveying letters, also of the part played by a few Friends in the early nineteenth century development of postal services; a paper on Richard Partridge, a Friend who held an important position as London agent for some of the American colonies in the middle of the eighteenth century; some extracts from the recently acquired unpublished MS. *Life of Josiah Langdale* (d. 1723), one of the early ministers visiting America.