

# THE JOURNAL

OF THE

## FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Quotation

*“ On the shore where Time casts up its stray wreckage, we gather corks and broken planks, whence much indeed may be argued and more guessed ; but what the great ship was that has gone down into the deep, that we shall never see. Indeed, one of the attractions in studying the past is the sense which that study awakes that far more has been doomed to irrevocable oblivion than the little that anyone can ever know. That touches the imagination.”*

GEORGE MACAULAY TREVELYAN : *The Present Position of History.*  
Inaugural Lecture of his Regius Professorship of Modern History at the  
University of Cambridge, October, 1927.

### Editorial Note

**I**N a recent issue of *The Friend*, Philadelphia (10.x.1935) Henry J. Cadbury and William I. Hull offer answers to the question as to what Quaker literature is needed to-day and make several suggestions in the field of Quaker history. One is for a history to cover Europe, with a chapter on the older Quakerism in each of the principal countries where it took root, followed by a more general account of recent development. Not all these countries have been dealt with separately yet. William Hull is publishing as fast as he can the full story of Dutch Friends and as we go to press the second volume out of ten reaches us, entitled *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania*.<sup>1</sup> But we

<sup>1</sup> We shall hope to give an adequate account of it in our next issue. Besides a detailed picture of Quakerism in the Netherlands and the Rhineland and of the great migrations of the 1680's to Pennsylvania, its 445 pages contain several extended biographical accounts of leading Dutch Friends.

still lack adequate accounts of Quakerism in several European countries, notably Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and France. In biography the want of a life of Richard Farnsworth (d. 1666) is noted. One of the leading "first publishers", he was the author of some fifty works and there are some scores of his letters, besides many MS. references to him, at Friends House.

Studies connecting Quakerism with public events or intellectual or social developments, whether as causes or effects, also offer an interesting field for research. In this direction we are indebted to Mr. Fulmer Mood for the article printed in this issue on the genesis of the Pennsylvania charter, which is part of an extended study of colonial origins. Another and larger piece of work in itself is the yet unpublished study by Miss Anne Gary of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, dealing with the influence of English Friends on American colonial life in the middle part of the eighteenth century. Rev. G. B. Burnett is just completing a history of Quakerism in Scotland down to 1850, drawn from all available original sources. Its publication is not yet decided upon but a copy will be in Glasgow University Library. Another unpublished work is *The Early Quaker View of the State, its nature, powers and limitations, with special reference to Isaac Penington* by Miss Ruth Armsby (Birmingham University).

As Henry J. Cadbury remarks, "much of the best historical work to-day on Quakerism comes from those who are not Friends." He is, however, shortly to offer us his own comprehensive account of the unpublished writings of George Fox, based mainly upon the *Annual Catalogue* of them preserved at Friends House. Nor must we omit to mention here two valuable works described later in this issue, viz. J. Travis Mills: *John Bright and the Quakers*, whose author is our president this year, and A. Ruth Fry: *John Bellers, Quaker, Economist and Social Reformer*. Emilia Fogelklou has published a life of William Penn in Swedish, and Elisabeth Brockbank is at work on Edward Burrough. Several histories of Quakerism in English localities and a history of Quaker education are in course of preparation. There are sources for Quaker history among non-Quaker records which would repay attention, whether for their facts or for their opinions. An example of the former is to be found in the reports made to Archbishop Herring, on the state of parishes in the Diocese of York in 1743, printed by the Yorkshire Archæological Society, from which information about the local distribution of Quakerism in Yorkshire might be gleaned. The systematic study of anti-Quaker literature has never yet been undertaken and awaits someone who will sort out the serious from the merely scurrilous and interpret it in connection with contemporary thought and life, shall we say as a "corrective to partisan views and narrow prejudices" (W.C.B.).

It is to be hoped that among university students in the Society of Friends some will take up researches touching upon Quakerism. They will be assured of such help as can be given in the Library at Friends House. Any who are engaged in such research are invited to communicate with the librarian.