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Quotation

“ No age can live on the hoarded gleanings of the past ; it must earn the right to live under its own vine and fig tree ; none the less, that past has abundant lessons for those who have the insight and power of imagination to receive them. Of the lessons which we may learn of our fathers there is one which I feel to be precious above the rest—not to be ashamed of our aspirations. We must learn to believe that aspirations are capable of being linked to something universal, that beneath the most exalted conceptions of the human spirit lie the ancient harmonies of heaven.”

L. E. ELLIOTT-BINNS : *Religion in the Victorian Era*, 1936.

Editorial Note

A NUMBER of subjects of Quaker historical interest have been engaging attention during the year. Miss Altha E. Terry, of Columbia University Library, New York, has prepared a bibliography of the works printed by Giles Calvert, a London printer of Friends books during the Commonwealth period. Of a total of about six hundred imprints we understand over a third are those of Quaker works many of which have been located at Friends House. Dorothy Hubbard, in preparation for a London degree of M.A., is investigating the history of Quaker education, beginning with the many original Monthly and Quarterly Meeting records available at Friends House. Russell Mortimer of Bristol, now a student at the School of Librarianship, University College, London, is at work on an account of the records of Bristol Quakerism, one of the finest

collections of Friends' archives in the country. We welcome the issue first in America and, in the near future, in England, of Janet Whitney's life of Elizabeth Fry, towards which the Gurney MSS. as well as other papers in the library here have contributed. It will be fully noticed when the English edition appears.

Among facilities for Quaker research work special mention must be made of Woodbrooke Settlement, Selly Oak, Birmingham. There is a fine library of Quaker and other literature, and arrangements exist for the deposit there of other rare books and MSS. from the Library at Friends House, for the use of students engaged in original research. There are also Woodbrooke Fellowships to enable special studies to be undertaken.

In the present issue of the *Journal* C. B. Rowntree has thrown new light on that bizarre prophet of human freedom, Benjamin Lay (1681-1759). The recently acquired MS. volume by Thomas Laythes (1628-1701) is described by Henry J. Cadbury. Among documents are another seventeenth century marriage certificate, indicating a still primitive stage of our discipline, and William Edmundson's beautiful testimony of his wife Margaret, after her death in 1691. The outspoken criticism of the Meeting for Sufferings in 1743 appears to have been entirely ignored. No reference to it in Quaker history or record has yet been found.

The A. R. Barclay MSS. are continued and present this time several features of interest. In XLI George Fox has deleted and altered with his own hand words expressing too extravagant a regard for his qualities. Such expressions are fairly common in letters, but here we have the best evidence that he felt they were inappropriate. XLIII deals with the trials of a very early Monthly Meeting in Virginia (1687). XLV to LI, especially XLVIII from John Rous to George Fox, give a very clear impression of the corporate life of Friends in Barbados in 1681 and of the difficulties besetting them. Their close dependence on the leaders in London is illustrated; and the discussions as to whether meetings for church affairs should be open or select shows a state of affairs which cannot have been peculiar to distant Barbados. Another aspect is here shown of the church government question dealt with in Braithwaite's *Second Period of Quakerism*, 348-50. Discipline in a very different period is illustrated by Arthur J. Eddington's article on Norfolk Quarterly Meeting in the eighteenth century.

The annual Subscription, including this *Journal*, is 5s. a year and membership is open to all who are interested in Quaker history. All members who can take up any historical work are invited to communicate with the Librarian at Friends House.