



THE MARKET HOUSE, MINCHINHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(From the drawing by Estella Canziani, by kind permission of the artist. See notes on p. 59.)

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“ The story of the rise of Quakerism . . . provides one of the most exciting and revealing chapters in the history of the human spirit. Literally thousands of otherwise inconspicuous people were subject to two experiences. The first being a vivid sense of the immediate revelation of God, and the second being unflinching courage in the face of bitter persecution. Just as it is hard to account for the transformation of the first Christians. . . . except on the hypothesis that the experience at Pentecost was what it seemed to be, so it is hard to account for the transformation of Yorkshire dalesmen into spiritual heroes except on similar hypothesis.”

D. ELTON TRUEBLOOD: *The Trustworthiness of Religious Experience*,
pp. 85-6, “Swarthmore Lecture,” 1939.

Editorial Note

TWO presidential addresses form the principal matter in the present issue. Elisabeth Brockbank's address on Quakerism in Lancaster Monthly Meeting, was given at the annual meeting held 2nd March 1939, to a large audience at Friends House. The accounts for the year 1938, which were read at the meeting, are printed on another page.

This year marks the tercentenary of the birth of Thomas Ellwood. Beatrice Snell's presidential address on the character of Thomas Ellwood was therefore brought forward so as to fall within 1939 and was given on 29th November. It was not possible on this occasion to name a new President and Vice-President, but their appointment was left in the hands of the committee.

The continued threat and later the outbreak of war have diminished the amount of attention which is being given to historical research and led to some curtailment of this issue. We are glad to print a paper in which Henry J. Cadbury recalls to attention an old account of the rise of Quakerism in London, and an 18th century manuscript showing the embers of petty persecution, kindly lent by Anna L. Littleboy. The only illustration is Estella Canziani's delightful sketch of the old Wool Hall at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, which she kindly lent for reproduction.

We intend to publish shortly as the *Twentieth Supplement* to this *Journal* the full text of a number of Early Quaker MSS. now in America. Thirty-five MSS. have been here collected together by Henry J. Cadbury as having once formed part of the great collection of letters at Swarthmore Hall. Twenty-five, which have not been published before, are printed in full.