

following year after a "fruitless seeking of fortune in America." It seems probable that Mrs. Lewis came into contact with Friends in Pennsylvania, for her novel *A tale without a title* is laid partly in Philadelphia, where the heroine (Laura) became acquainted with some Quakers. "In *their* company and conversation she generally found her mind tranquillized; the simplicity of their habits was a pleasing relief to the bustle which constantly prevailed in the house of Mr. Belcroft, where it was erroneously believed that happiness could only be produced by a tumult of what is misnamed pleasure."¹ Friends were also commended for not being officious "in making proselytes to their own opinion," and the "spirituality of their worship" is considered superior to religion based on outward forms.²

In *Vicissitudes in genteel life*, issued in 1794, Mrs. Lewis drew a contrast between Mrs. Stanhope and her niece, Maria Lewis, two Quaker ladies, and "the affectation and snobbishness of two ladies of fashion." One character goes so far as to say: "There are good and bad members of all societies, but when a Quaker acts up to his profession, I think he draws very near to a primitive Christian."³ A clergyman declares: "Mrs. Stanhope is of that sect which deserves respect from both church and state; as the general tenor of their principles forbid them to disturb either."⁴

Dr. Williams's Library in Gordon Square owes more probably to the forward policy of its trustees over the centuries than to the initial bequest of the founder in 1716. It is now one of the foremost repositories of material on nonconformist history, as well as a valuable lending library of religious literature available to readers in all parts of the country. The inaugural lecture by Stephen Kay Jones, *Dr. Williams and his library*, to the newly formed Friends of Dr. Williams's Library gives an interesting survey of the history of the foundation from earliest times to the present day.

Periodicals Exchanged

Receipt of the following periodicals is gratefully acknowledged:—

Bulletin of the Friends' Historical Association (Philadelphia).
Wesley Historical Society, Proceedings.
Presbyterian Historical Society, Proceedings.
Presbyterian Historical Journal (U.S.A.).
Unitarian Historical Society, Transactions.
Mennonite Quarterly Review (U.S.A.).
Institute of Historical Research, Bulletin.

¹ *A tale without a title*, I, 204.

² *Ibid.*, II, 130.

³ *Vicissitudes in genteel life*, I, 246.

⁴ *Ibid.*, IV, 195.