

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE Friends' Historical Society was founded fifty years ago, and for half a century now it has provided an outlet for publication of some of the research into Quaker history which has been carried on by many workers, both in the numerous local collections of records, and also notably in the Library of the Society of Friends in London. In the library at Friends House, books and documents are placed at the disposal of students working in the many fields of national and international life in which Friends play or have played a part. The fruits of these researches are many, and have appeared in many forms, but it is the privilege of the Friends' Historical Society to have published in its *Journal* and the Supplements much valuable and original work which might otherwise never have been made public. It is on this basis that Friends' Historical Society publications over the past fifty years must be judged, as contributions to scholarship.

The Historical Society has throughout its existence fulfilled a useful function in providing a medium for the sharing of historical interests between the comparatively few who pursue historical enquiries and the many Friends in every walk of life who are interested to read the results. In these days fewer Friends have imbibed the spirit of Quaker life in childhood, or grown up in its traditions. There is therefore an added value in reading of the past expression of convictions and the development of attitudes and practices which have gone to the making of the Society of Friends.

The commemorative features in this issue will be continued in our next with an article on the fifty years' work of the Friends' Historical Society. The next number will also include an article by Beatrice Saxon Snell on "Early Friends and the use of the Bible" and a notice of the Bible exhibition planned by the library at Friends House to commemorate the sesquicentenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, founded 1804.

Letter of Greeting from Friends Historical Association

7th April, 1953.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Learning that the Friends' Historical Society was about to celebrate its fiftieth birthday, I sat down to write a word of filial greeting and congratulation as from a younger society across the Atlantic devoted to the common end of promoting scholarship and interest in Quaker history. But upon a moment's reflection I realised that, for once, the shoe was on the other foot, that, our Friends Historical Association being now in its eightieth year, I must assume a different, a less familiar rôle, and administer, as it were, a grandfatherly pat on the head. This—though the rôle ill becomes me—I do with the greatest pleasure, wishing your Society long life and continued usefulness to the community of scholars and laymen interested in the history of Friends.

To us who labor in the common vineyard on this side of the Atlantic, the forty-four volumes of your *Journal* are an indispensable source of documentary materials and a model of historical and editorial craftsmanship. To me especially, who had the great honor last year to be your President—mostly *in absentia*—there is a peculiar pleasure in sending good wishes and congratulations on this fiftieth anniversary.

Sincerely your friend,

FREDERICK B. TOLLES, *Editor*.

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