

German overseas missions separately from the general peace settlement, and to call in the advice and assistance of independent neutral experts in the missionary field before taking irrevocable decisions. The book also mentions Rufus M. Jones and Henry T. Hodgkin.

---

COLERIDGE ON QUAKERS

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE'S *Lay Sermon . . . on the existing distresses and discontents* (1817) is reprinted in a recent volume of *Political tracts of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley*, edited by R. J. White (Cambridge University Press, 1953). Coleridge treats of Quakerism under the heading "Religion and capitalism" and a marginal note reads "Religion reduced to ethics, or prudential motives, consorts well with commercialism". Coleridge writes "Of all denominations of Christians, there is not one in existence or on record whose whole scheme of faith and worship was so expressly framed for the one purpose of spiritualizing the mind and of abstracting it from the vanities of the world, as the Society of Friends!" He then proceeds to use the instance of wealthy

Quakers to prove that Christianity has not put up effective resistance "to the cupidity of a trading people."

It is interesting to note that Coleridge says "though the Quakers are in general remarkably shrewd and intelligent in all worldly concerns, yet learning, and more particularly theological learning, is more rare among them in proportion to their wealth and rank in life, and held in less value, than among any other known sect of Christians". This he attributes primarily to the lack of provision for a trained ministry or a class of learned schoolmasters among Friends.

---

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

W. Alan Cole, 4 North Terrace, Cambridge, is preparing a study entitled *The Development of Quaker Political and Social Ideas, 1647-1660* to be presented as thesis for the degree of Ph.D., at Cambridge University, 1954. The author will attempt to reconstruct the Quaker attitude to the seventeenth century revolutionary movement, and discuss relations with the Levellers and the Fifth Monarchists.

---

PERIODICALS EXCHANGED

Receipt of the following periodicals is gratefully acknowledged:

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