

deep learning in things both divine and human, the quick warmth of his sympathy, his daily dedication to the highest good of others and his lively humour endeared him to all who knew him.

Besides his service in the Society of Friends he was a social worker and reformer, and an educationist. He sat in Parliament some seventeen years in all, including both great wars, and did invaluable work in defence of the rights of conscience. A Friend has written that his qualities "gave him as an M.P. a moral authority in Parliament unequalled since John Bright."¹

Edmund Harvey left to the Library at Friends House a bound volume of MSS. which he had collected. These papers were entered individually on the catalogue of the library in or before 1925. The 93 MSS. in the volume include the following:

An autograph letter by Richard Farnsworth (undated and unsigned) to William —.

An autograph letter from Ellis Hookes to Margaret Fell, 5.iii.1667.

A letter (contemporary copy) from Margaret Fell to Ambrose Apleby, [1654], endorsed in George Fox's hand.

Two letters (contemporary copies) from William Penn to the Meeting for Sufferings in 1696 urging that a paper on a form of words in lieu of oath be not printed.

Several papers in the handwriting of Thomas Ellwood.

A large number of 18th c. certificates relating to ministers, and some letters of interest mainly as autographs.

Ernest E. Taylor, 1869-1955

ERNEST EDWIN TAYLOR, who died 15th August, 1955, aged 86, was president of Friends' Historical Society in 1921. His presidential address, *The First Publishers of Truth*, was a study of the occupations followed by those Friends who first spread Quakerism through this country. It was printed in our *Journal*, vol. XIX (1922), pp. 66-81, and was later incorporated in *The Valiant Sixty*. Ernest Taylor was a constant and active member of F.H.S. from its foundation. He not only made himself familiar with the lives of the first Friends and the places from which they came, but linked them with the revitalization of Quakerism in our own day, and younger Friends were attracted by his presentation of the romantic realities of early Quaker life and

¹ *Scottish Friends Newsletter*, Summer 1955.

spiritual achievement. L. Violet Holdsworth once told the present writer that it was Ernest Taylor who, in the early years of this century, discovered to her the romance of the early Friends and redirected her interest towards Quakerism at a time when L.V.H. was becoming inclined towards another communion whose way of worship and whose saints appealed strongly to her. Her *Book of Quaker Saints*, and other works, therefore owed their impulse in some degree to Ernest Taylor's influence. To her as to many others he gave invaluable help and advice on all literary matters.

He was the first secretary of the Yorkshire 1905 Committee (now the Yorkshire Friends Service Committee) and he constantly urged the value of the printed word in the "publishing of Truth." Besides two books, *Cameos from the life of George Fox*, 1907, and *The Valiant Sixty*, 1947, he wrote a number of biographical and other pamphlets. Woolman and Whittier were among his favourites and he did much to keep their writings available. He also made a hobby of writing handy guides to the dales and other north country districts, often with special attention to their Quaker interest.

Presidential Address

ON Thursday, October 6th, a well-attended meeting held at Friends House, heard John M. Douglas of Belfast give his presidential address on "The Early Quaker Movement in Ireland". John Douglas is the third Irish President of F.H.S., having been preceded by J. Ernest Grubb (1913) and Isabel Grubb (1934). Friends there have always been a minority in the Protestant minority and many of the converts made by William Edmundson and other "First Publishers" were English ex-soldiers settled on land which they had received in lieu of arrears of pay, land whose Irish owners had been dispossessed and driven to the West. There were other conditions touched upon by the speaker, differing from those in England, which influenced the amount of persecution Friends suffered at the hands of their fellow Protestants. We hope to print John Douglas's address in the spring *Journal* which, with an article by Olive Goodbody on Irish conditions in the days of early Friends, will furnish an issue of special Irish interest.