

THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Communications should be addressed to the Editor at  
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## Editorial

THE Presidential Address for 1955, delivered by John M. Douglas at Friends House, on October 6th, is printed in this issue, which appropriately resolves itself into a number concerned with Irish Quakerism in the early period. Olive C. Goodbody, who is Secretary of the Historical Committee of Ireland Yearly Meeting, contributes a background outline of economic and social conditions in Ireland at the time of the Commonwealth, and a paper on Anthony Sharp, Dublin wool-merchant and one of the leaders in the Quaker community there.

At a well attended spring meeting of the Society held on March 1st, at Friends House, Amy Wallis gave a most enjoyable address on Darlington, under the title "The English Philadelphia", which the town was called by its local historian, Friend John William Steel. Its rapid growth as an industrial city in the nineteenth century took place very much under the leadership of a number of Quaker families. Its large and active Friends Meeting had also a strong social life. These activities and what they meant to her in her childhood were the main substance of Amy Wallis's address, which also included excursions into the early rise of Quakerism in the North and also some of the world wide services of various Darlington Friends in the nineteenth and present centuries. A report of the meeting appeared in "The Friend" for March 9th, 1956 (Vol. 114, no. 10), p. 205.

Olive C. Goodbody contributes the following note on Irish Friends' records in Dublin.

At 6 Eustace Street, Dublin, Irish Friends have a considerable collection of Records, and a Library, mainly of Quaker literature.

The MS. records number about 650 volumes, comprising minute books of the Yearly Meeting and of many Friends meetings in various parts of Ireland, records of sufferings in Ireland from 1656 and early registers of births, marriages, and burials, one containing dates as early as 1641.

The Historical Library numbers some 1140 volumes, many dating from the seventeenth century. It also contains a collection of some 3,000 letters, chiefly the correspondence of a number of Irish Quaker families, e.g. Grubb, Lecky, Newsom, Chandle and Shackleton. There are 12 volumes of MS. material on the life of Anthony Sharp, and a collection of correspondence on the following matters:—the Irish Famine of 1846-47, and measures of relief, the anti-slavery campaign, the schism of the White Quakers, besides some 1700 other MSS. in volumes. A thesis on Social Conditions in Ireland 1650-1750, by Isabel Grubb, and Extracts from the diary of Mary Leadbeater from 1769-1826 are also to be found there, besides photostat copies of a number of letters of early Friends relating to Ireland, whose originals are in London. An account of some items of particular interest in the collection was printed in this *Journal*, XXIV (1937), pp. 29-31.

### Accounts for the year 1955 and *Journal*, vol. 47

Expenditure				Receipts			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Journal of Friends' Historical Society</i> , vol. 47, 2 parts .. ..	192	13	8	Balance brought forward	312	11	8
Stationery .. ..	9	6	8	Subscriptions and Dona- tions .. ..	240	2	11
Expenses, including post- age .. ..	20	0	0	Sales .. ..	11	11	8
Donation to <i>Bibliography of Early Nonconformity</i>	2	2	0	Advertisements ..	4	10	0
Balance carried forward to 1956:				Interest on Post Office Account .. ..	6	3	6
Post Office Account—							
295	9	2					
Barclays Bank—							
55	8	3					
	<hr/>						
	350	17	5				
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	£574	19	9		<hr/>		
					£574	19	9
					<hr/>		

Examined with the books of the Society and found correct.

17.ii.56

(Signed) BASIL G. BURTON.