

THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publishing Office: Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Communications should be addressed to the Editor at  
Friends House.

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## Editorial

THIS number of the *Journal* contains a paper on James Nayler's "Last Words" by Ormerod Greenwood, a note by Roger Thomas, librarian of Dr. Williams's library, on some letters which passed between William Penn and Richard Baxter, and one by Isabel Ross entitled "A Quaker Friend of Wordsworth" from her continuing researches in Lake District history. There is a brief description by Emily Blomfield of the Bevan-Naish Library at Selly Oak, Birmingham, one of the major collections of Quaker literature in this country. A further portion of the Barclay manuscripts, reports on archive deposits, brief reviews and the usual Notes and Queries complete the issue.

Among the Barclay MSS. Friends may notice particularly the laboured six-lined letter from the Leicestershire and Warwickshire women's meeting established at Baddesley Ensor in 1674 (No. CXXXIII, p. 216 below). This will bring to mind similar documents produced by early women's meetings up and down the country and still preserved among Friends' local archives. Women's meeting records often reveal that girls did not generally receive so good an education as boys even among Friends, and this may also account for the comparative scarcity of women's records as compared with men's meeting documents in many districts: the archive repositories which contain full runs of women's minutes and accounts from the first settlement of meetings for discipline must be rare indeed. There will be few who will read the letter (No. CXXXIV) from Gilbert Molleson to George Fox in October, 1690, without sensing the personal

loss which the family in Aberdeen and the whole group of Scottish Friends suffered by the death of Robert Barclay in the prime of life.

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The subscription for life membership of the Society has been raised by the committee to £10. In spite of rising costs, the minimum annual subscription remains at 10s.