

## The Emperor Alexander I in Sussex, 1814

Readers of Maude Robinson's book of stories, *The Time of Her Life* (1919), may remember the one which is entitled "An Emperor's Visit". The following extract from a diary (now in the possession of L. Brindley Marten of Kingston-on-Thames) recalls the same event.

The diarist, William Marten was born at Barcombe, near Lewes, Sussex, 25.v.1764, and died in Lewes, 6.i.1823. He was a draper in the town, a minister and prominent member of the local meeting. William Marten married Jane Cruttenden, of the Cliffe, Lewes, in 1790, and both are buried in the burial ground in front of the Friends' meeting house, Friars Walk, Lewes. The diary covers events during the years 1789-1822, and the following extract tells of the visit of the Emperor Alexander I of Russia and his company in the summer of 1814.

26.vi.1814. Been to Meeting this morning. This day the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, his sister the Duchess of Oldenburg, passed through this town on their way to Dover. A great concourse of people assembled. We were at Meeting when the Emperor and his sister went through. He expressed at Portsmouth his predilection in favour of the Society of Friends and felt a strong inclination to visit a family of that persuasion on his way from Petworth to Dover to have friendly conversation for half an hour. The names of J. Glaisyer of Brighton and —— (name not given) of Lewes were given him but he did not call on either. It is said he attempted it at Brighton but the crowd was so great he could not conveniently get to the house. With regard to Lewes he did not know he had passed through it, the route being made to go by Newhaven. After he had got a little from the place, he enquired what town it was. When they got to Nathaniel Rickman's the family were standing at the gate. The Emperor or his sister observed they appeared like Friends and he desired the coachman to stop, got down from his carriage and asked Nathaniel whether they were Quakers.

Being answered in the affirmative his sister alighted and took hold of Nathaniel's arm and the Emperor offered Mary Rickman his arm and walked into the house, took wine and cake, went over the house, made enquiry how far they had to Meeting, etc. etc. They stayed about 20 minutes, took notice of the children and took an affectionate farewell and told Nathaniel and his wife they should never see them again but should remember them, and he hoped they would not forget them. When in London the Emperor and the Dutchess were at our religious Meeting on a first day at Westminster and were much pleased therewith.

J. Wilkinson, Richard Phillips and John Bell appeared in testimony. J.W. also in supplication. They sat in a very solid manner and when Meeting broke up shook hands in a friendly manner.

The Meeting for Sufferings had drawn up an address to the Emperor which was after this presented to him by Wm. Allen, J. Wilkinson, and Stephen Grellet. They had a very satisfactory opportunity with him in conversation on various subjects.

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## Then and Now

*Then & Now*. Quaker Essays, Historical and Contemporary by friends of Henry Joel Cadbury on his completion of Twenty-two years as Chairman of the American Friends Service Committee. Edited by Anna Brinton. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1960. \$5. (Oxford University Press. 40s.)

This volume of essays, prepared as a tribute to Henry J. Cadbury, includes, as is proper, a number of studies on Quaker history, in view of his outstanding achievements in this field and his position as the doyen of Quaker historians.

The biographical sketch of Henry J. Cadbury by his niece Mary Hoxie Jones, with which the volume opens, contains some account of his historical work, particularly that based on his realization that much untapped source-material was to be found in the MS. Catalogue of George Fox's papers at Friends House and in its index. Henry J. Cadbury's discoveries in this field were the more remarkable when it is remembered that much of his work had to be done from the other side of the Atlantic.

Among the other essays in the volume, there are eight of historical interest, as under—

<i>1652 in History: Changing Perspectives on the Founding of Quakerism</i>	Frederick B. Tolles
<i>Penn and the Poets</i>	Elizabeth Gray Vining
<i>Early Friends and the Doctrine of the Trinity</i>	Margaret B. Hobling
<i>Robert Barclay and Joseph John Gurney</i>	D. Elton Trueblood
<i>The Letters of William Leadbeater</i>	Olive Goodbody
<i>The Influence of John Woolman on Joseph Nichols and the Nicholites</i>	Kenneth L. Carroll
<i>The Other Branch</i> [Addison Hutton's relations with Hicksite Friends]	Elizabeth Yarnall
<i>Quakers and Animals</i>	Howard H. Brinton

There is also a useful series of five papers on the manuscript resources of five Friend libraries in England, Ireland and America.