

Recent Publications

The Second Period of Quakerism. By the late William C. Braithwaite. Second edition prepared by Henry J. Cadbury, pp. xxxvi, 735. Cambridge University Press, 1961, 30s.

The new edition of *The Beginnings of Quakerism* by William Charles Braithwaite appeared in 1955. It was reviewed in this *Journal* (xlvii, 93-94), and Henry Cadbury's work has found wide acceptance as giving the kernel volume of the Rowntree Series a further lease of useful life. Now after six years, the promised *Second Period* is in print, and does not disappoint our hopes.

In his preface to this edition, dated June 1957 (although dates, and works noted, in the body of the book reveal that a later date can be assigned to the final preparation for the press), Henry J. Cadbury explains the procedure which has been followed. It is the same as that adopted for the earlier volume. The text (taken from the impression of 1921) has not been reset, but about 150 corrections or additions have been inserted in the original pages. Larger notes, emendations and additions, indicated by an asterisk, in the text, have been printed in the section for Additional Notes at pages 648-714, bringing the work up to date with new material accumulated since the first edition appeared in 1919.

Rufus Jones's introduction has been replaced by one of twelve pages by Frederick B. Tolles, dealing with developments in the past forty years, and changes in interpretation which have come about with the elapse of time and the accumulation of fresh evidence on Quaker development in the period 1660-1725. In the course of his introduction, Frederick Tolles says truly that,

"It is a measure of William Charles Braithwaite's achievement that in this altered climate of historical interpretation his two solid volumes are still the basic and indispensable works on the early years of the Society of Friends."

Workers in the field of Quaker history will be grateful that this work is in print again, at a very reasonable price, and with usefulness enhanced by the new notes and bibliographical references supplied by Henry J. Cadbury.

R.S.M.

Two Early Political Associations: the Quakers and the Dissenting Deputies in the age of Sir Robert Walpole (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1961. 30s.), promises from its title more for those interested in the history of Quakerism than in fact the author, N. C. Hunt, fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, can supply.

The title of the book is the key to the misapprehension with which the reader may come to the subject. It is a caricature of Quaker history to equate the society which early Friends formed, with a political association; but as a fringe study of the way in which Friends tried to influence politics and the political decisions of the government and

legislature of the day in the direction of toleration, it has value outside the period of fifty years from the Revolution of 1689 to the fall of Walpole in 1742 with which it is primarily concerned.

In the portion of the book dealing with Quakers, the author sets out to describe the Quaker campaigns for the Affirmation Act, 1696, and its renewal in 1702; for its modification in 1722, and the Tithe Bill campaigns of the 1730s. The balance of forces after the Revolution, and the unsatisfactory nature of aspects of the settlement of 1689, gave Friends the opportunity and the occasion for developing their political activities, which the author considers had been in abeyance since 1681 under the personal rule of Charles II and James II.

In certain respects the author's judgment is in question. He reads back to 1675 the organization of "preparative" meetings (p. 2); and real evidence is lacking for Walpole's "management" of the Quakers in the period after the failure of the Bill of 1736 to pass the Lords, but even if one may think that the evidence as a whole scarcely justifies the claim that Friends' political activities showed they were an important political association—for it must be remembered always that their influence on affairs was restricted to a very small sphere at this time and afterwards—as a study of the methods adopted to bring pressure to bear in the political field it is interesting and revealing. The author details the means to influence the course of legislation. They include, with the exception of the large public meeting, all the main weapons of the modern pressure group, ranging from the collection of evidence, wide dissemination of information, organization of petitions, lobbying, pressure on M.P's in their constituencies, deputations to the government, the preparation of draft legislation and the presentation and defence of the case before Parliament, and the final round of thanks to all concerned when success had been achieved.

However, against all this, the book shows how intermittent was this political activity, and more might have been made of the fact that Friends were only carrying over into the religious sphere methods of application to King and Parliament which any group of merchants or traders seeking some protection or some liberty had been wont to exert.

Quaker hesitations in the Tithe Bill campaign and deference to government opinion was due more, perhaps, to a reluctance to embarrass the government than to a sense of the omnipotence of the executive—the possible successors to Walpole might in the long run be far less well-disposed to Friends than the Whigs had proved themselves to be. In his account of the Tithe Bill campaign the author states the case for the Church of England attitude in calling for the retention of the Ecclesiastical courts and Exchequer procedures in tithe cases, and challenges the fairness (although the accuracy does not seem to be in doubt) of the figures of prosecutions which Friends published in support of their case. The author emphasizes the small numbers of Friends who were affected by Exchequer and Ecclesiastical Court prosecutions (between 1725 and 1735, the number had fallen to about 16 annually). He implies that Friends were not justified in trying to have the permissive summary procedure before Justices made obligatory—but the rising Tory tide of the later Walpolean period might well have

reversed the trend and taken the position back to that which obtained in the days of Queen Anne.

R.S.M.

Quakerism in west Montgomeryshire, by E. Ronald Morris, B.A., appearing in the 1959 volume (vol. 56, pt. 1, issued January 1961) of *The Montgomery collections: the transactions of the Powys-land Club*, is the opening portion of a detailed survey of the extent and decline of the Quaker meetings and the fortunes of the families who attended them in the western portion of Montgomeryshire, from the rise of Quakerism until its decline in that area in the nineteenth century. The author gives some details of the fortunes of the Welsh families who emigrated to America.

Isabel Fry, 1869-1958, portrait of a great teacher. Edited with a memoir by Beatrice Curtis Brown (London, Barker, 1960, 21s.), includes a small collection of Isabel Fry's own writings and recollections of childhood, with glimpses of family life in the household of Sir Edward and Mariabella (Hodgkin) Fry.

Among records of some political events recently published by the Royal Historical Society (Camden Third Series, vol. 91), from the *Diurnal* of Thomas Rugg, covering the years 1659-1661 (Edited by William L. Sachse, 1961) are some items purporting to deal with Friends. They include:

Nov. 1659. Statuers broke in Whit Hall Garden.

About this time their was a cooke that lived by the Pallace gate, Westmester, that in sermon time went into Whit Hall Garden and with him carried a smiths great hamer. Hee brake theire those goodly statuers of brass and marble which, report said, they ware the neatlest made and the best workmanshapp in Europe . . . This cook was in his judgment a Quaker . . . (pp. 10-11)

Dec. 1659.

The 15th day of this mounth the people called Quakers put forth a printed sheet of paper; it was called A Kind Exhortation to the Yong Men of London, for all action that was acted in the Citty went by theire names. (The work referred to appears to be Edward Burrough: *A presentation to London: being an answer to the young men and apprentices* (signed E.H. and dated London. 10th mo. 1659. 8 pp.), printed in Burrough's Works, 1672, p. 607. Wing H2661A (under Ellis Hookes, in error).) It was a very loveing and kind advice in such words as they alwayes use, that they held it theire duty to disswade them from those accions that they had so often acted and that it was the Lord alone that hindred them, else they would have beene destroyed altogeather in his wrath, and that it was not seemly before men that such headey and unadvised wayes ware in theire evill doings and that it was evill in them to slight the Mayor of the Citty in regard hee was for the peace of the Citty and it beeing a day that they ought to learne righteousness and not comply with unlawfull wayes. This was the maine of it.