

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Communications should be addressed to the Editors at
Friends House

Editorial

THIS issue of the *Journal* includes the text of the Presidential Address on Quakers in Victorian Scotland given by William H. Marwick of Edinburgh, at Friends House, London, on 31st October, 1969. William Marwick's survey is concerned with Friends' role in the religious and cultural movements influencing Scotland during the period.

Stephen Frick contributes a study of the Quaker deputation to Russia early in 1854. Friends sought to turn in the direction of peace the course of events—then moving swiftly towards the outbreak of the Crimean war. The author has used the Sturge Papers in the British Museum, and from them illustrates the view expressed by Richard Cobden on the venture. Cobden told Joseph Sturge: "We have too much to do at home to allow such diversions." Stephen Frick is currently working at the Institute of Historical Research, London, for the Ph.D. degree at Cornell University.

Another nineteenth-century item comes from David J. Hall, of Old Coulsdon, Surrey, who gives some preliminary findings on Friends' membership statistics and disownment during the half-century or so before 1860.

Alfred Braithwaite contributes a short article showing the impact on early Friends of the Militia Acts. This paper invites attention to the paucity of readily available evidence, which may have led scholars into some insecurely-founded judgements based on untypical instances and an incomplete survey of the facts. More work would be welcome in this

field, as also in that covered by Eric J. Evans, of the University of Stirling, who writes on Friends' tithe payments in the period 1690 to 1730, before the abortive Quakers' Tithe Bill of 1736.

Covering the first half of the eighteenth century and more is the discussion by George J. Willauer of the Department of English, Connecticut College, New London, of the scope and validity of the recorded reports which travelling Friends brought back to London Yearly Meeting after ministerial service in the American colonies.

This number also includes reports on Archives, Recent Publications and the usual features.

The Spring meeting of the Society was held on Friday, 2nd May, in the Library at Friends House. It was addressed by L. Hugh Doncaster on "The Fruits of Friends' peace testimony, 1660-1960".

* * *

We have to record with sorrow the death of Konrad Braun, who, it will be remembered, was prevented by illness from writing and delivering his Presidential Address in 1968. He was keenly interested in the work of this Society, and it will be recalled that his 1950 Swarthmore Lecture, *Justice and the Law of Love*, contained a masterly historical summary of the attitude of Friends towards the eternal dilemma between these two concepts.

We also record with regret the death of another Quaker historian, Lucia Beamish, whose work on the Quaker ministry from 1750 to 1850 formed the subject of an address to the Society in 1966.