

## Recent Publications

*Gilletts in the London Money Market, 1867-1967.* By R. S. Sayers. pp. 204; 8 plates. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1968. 35s.

In Volume 51, Number 2, of the *Journal* we gave a brief notice of the history of the former Gillett Country Bank, centred in Banbury and Oxford, written by Miss Audrey Taylor. The present volume deals with the second chapter of the Gillett family's adventures as bankers, and traces the story of their London discount firm, which from small beginnings a hundred years ago, grew into the flourishing public company of today.

Professor Sayers, like Miss Taylor, is not a Friend, and his main interest in his subject lies in the light it throws on matters of general monetary history, rather than in any consideration of the impact of Quakerism on business. He does find room incidentally, however, for some sympathetic appraisal of three generations of Quaker bankers, and Friend readers will find much of interest in this volume, as in the preceding one.

*Jordans: the making of a community.* By Arthur L. Hayward. With an introduction by John Macmurray. pp. 186, 5 maps. Friends Home Service Committee, London, 1969. £1.

To commemorate the jubilee of Jordans Village, this history of Jordans, written some years ago by the late Arthur Hayward, has been published, and many will be glad to have it, as a record of a unique piece of Quaker endeavour and witness over three centuries.

The fact that for nearly half that time no regular meetings were held at Jordans serves only to highlight both the period of intense activity at the beginning, centring round world-famous names, and its recrudescence at the beginning of the present century.

Those who still accept as proven Rendel Harris's theory that the barn at Jordans Hostel was built out of the timbers of the *Mayflower* would do well to study Arthur Hayward's dispassionate appraisal of the very insufficient evidence.

*Quakers and Politics: Pennsylvania, 1681-1726.* By Gary B. Nash. pp. xii, 362. Princeton University Press (London: Oxford University Press). 1968. 81s.

The difficulties that Friends encountered in reconciling ideas and institutions fashioned in England with a completely new environment in Pennsylvania, are the primary concern of this book. It is sometimes supposed that disagreement on matters affecting military

preparations was the chief reason why Friends failed to achieve the solid Christian polity that Penn had dreamed of; but, in fact, as Professor Nash shows, there were, from the beginning, fundamental differences on other matters as well.

His material is drawn largely from official records and from collections of letters, which may give a somewhat distorted picture of the degree of disunity prevailing among Friends; and it is likely that in their worshipping groups (apart from the disturbance caused by George Keith and his adherents) much greater solidarity was preserved. At any rate, it is comforting to remember that the Quaker tradition and influence emerged in the end strong and enduring, in society if not in politics.

There is a six-page bibliographical note at the end of the volume. In all, the book forms a most valuable addition to our knowledge of the period.

*The Journal of West Midlands Regional Studies*, published by Wolverhampton College of Technology, Vol. 2, 1968, includes a long article by John D. Hunter entitled "The Early Years of the Birmingham Friends' Reading Society". This describes in detail the early history of this Society, from its foundation in 1829, and contains full lists of its members, and of the books purchased or proposed to be purchased. It is hoped to publish at a future date an account of the Society's later years.

*The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 26 (3rd series), no. 1 (January, 1969), includes papers by Richard S. Dunn (University of Pennsylvania) on the Barbados census of 1680, and William Howland Kenney, 3d (Kent State University) on "George Whitefield, dissenter priest of the Great Awakening, 1739-1741".

The Barbados census paper notices the presence of Quakers. The location of Friends Plantations can be seen outside Speights Town (Little Bristol) on Richard Ford's *New Map* which is reproduced, almost exactly full size. The influence of Whitefield among Friends is noted in the article by W. H. Kenney; he quotes from a letter in Fulham Palace, from Alexander Howie in Pennsylvania. Howie says, "all our Quakers flock to hear him, and one of their preachers say that there never appeared So Powerful a Preacher since the Days of George Fox".