

## Recent Publications

*The Story of Quakerism, 1652-1952.* By Elfrida Vipont. London, Bannisdale Press, 1954. 12s. 6d.

We have been needing for some time a popular history of Quakerism. Elfrida Vipont Foulds, in the volume under review, has provided a very readable and comprehensive one that will appeal to a large circle of readers who want something rather simpler than the fully documented standard works we already have. Readers in their 'teens will also enjoy it. The author presents Quakerism as a way of life rather than of creed, in which Friends have been led by inward conviction and experience into faithful and sometimes heroic testimony and service.

The book is in three parts: Part I, which occupies over a third of the book, tells graphically of the formative period until the Toleration Act and the death of Fox, and brings to life for us the brave adventures in faith of the people who made the movement that became the Society of Friends.

Part II covers the two centuries from the first decade of toleration until the modern revival at the end of the nineteenth century. This tells of the period of solid faithful witness, of quietism, the revival of discipline after a rather decadent period, the coming of evangelicalism and the schisms, the growth of philanthropy and the emergence from peculiarity and seclusion into active reform and public affairs. The society's debt to its leading characters is well conveyed.

Part III, the last half century, sets the author a more difficult task, in the selection of material, in the account of events still remembered, and of tendencies still proceeding, yet whose real significance or effects we cannot ourselves assess.

The author has succeeded best with the first half of the history, but we are also indebted to her for this account of the later period, a valuable and useful survey not before made. Throughout the book the principal events and developments of Quakerism in America receive attention, as also does its more recent growth in other parts of the world. There is a useful table of the number of Friends throughout the world, and a good bibliography. All these matters, whether far or near in time, are presented by an enthusiastic Friend who is deeply imbued with the lore of our society and a skilful story teller.

Occasionally in the course of compression, which is admirably achieved, or through enthusiasm, clear objectivity of statement has been blurred. There are also a few minor inaccuracies which can be set right in subsequent editions. The publisher has produced a very pleasant and readable page, but page-headings, and even cross-heads would have been useful in a book with rather variegated chapters averaging eleven pages each. The table of contents does not mention the membership table or the bibliography, and the index also leaves something to be desired. We are glad to report that a second impression has already appeared.

*The Beginnings of Quakerism.* By the late William C. Braithwaite. Second edition revised by Henry J. Cadbury. pp. xxviii, 607; 3 plates. Cambridge, University Press, 1955. 25s.

In the series of standard Quaker histories by William Charles Braithwaite and Rufus M. Jones the volume of the greatest general interest, and one of the most readable, is Braithwaite's *The Beginnings of Quakerism*, which takes the story as far as 1660. First published in 1912 (reprinted 1912, 1923), the book has been out of print for some years. It has never been superseded. Every later history of Quakerism has been indebted to it for its multitude of facts, documents and memoirs, assembled to illustrate the humane interpretation of religious history which the author's spiritual insight enabled him to give. His interpretation of the writings of the early Friends is so reasonable and so well documented that, even where modern research may lay slightly different emphasis here and there, the older view still commands respect and in the main, assent. It is cause for congratulation that Cambridge University Press has followed up the 1952 edition of George Fox's *Journal* with a new edition of this, the standard first volume on Quaker history, and that we are promised the like for the *Second Period*.

In this new edition "about one hundred and fifty small alterations have been made in the text, the great majority being additional references or corrections in the footnotes." Forty-three pages have been added at the end, containing additional notes and bibliographical references. Some of these are from the hand of William Charles Braithwaite, but the great majority are by the editor, Professor Henry J. Cadbury, who is now actively engaged on the second volume.

In his notes, Henry J. Cadbury brings forward just the additions and correctives to Braithwaite's statements which research over the past forty years enables a modern scholar to supply. He discusses the origins of Quakerism, and gives references for further reading on the new views—putting fairly the points of disagreement. In his bibliographical references to literature published since 1912, the editor gives the critical papers and has wisely resisted the temptation to parade an unnecessary multiplicity of references. A star in the appropriate place in the text of the book indicates the existence of these notes. The student will be grateful for them.

The index has been reset to incorporate page references to the additional notes, and layout has been improved where large headings are subdivided. It is not yet free from blemishes: a dozen items are out of alphabetical order; and there are minor inconsistencies elsewhere, for instance in arranging places and persons of the same name. A ghost seems to have crept in, in the form of "Desborough, Major General Hugh", and at least one important additional note has been passed without a needed index entry.

The edition under review has a new foreword by L. Hugh Doncaster, Reader in Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke, but the twenty-page introduction in the original edition by the editor of the series, Rufus

M. Jones, has been dropped, because "recent studies have, in the minds of a number of scholars, put Quakerism in a rather different light." It is unfortunate that it has not been replaced by an introduction incorporating Rufus Jones's illuminating interpretation and shedding the new light which recent scholarship has made available, rather than leaving it to be dealt with piecemeal in the additional notes.

These are small points of criticism, and they cannot alter our welcome to this new edition of an essential book on Quaker history, now brought up to date, and well fitted to take the place of the old edition on our shelves.

For the benefit of students new to Quaker history, it may be mentioned that the abbreviation Dev.Ho. which is used in footnotes throughout the book to indicate material in the Friends' Reference Library at Devonshire House, the former central offices of the Society of Friends in Britain (see the Note on p. xi), applies to materials which since 1926 have been in the Library, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, where enquiries are welcomed and where research facilities are provided.

R. S. MORTIMER

*The Heir of Craigs.* By Charles Vipont. Oxford University Press, 1955. pp. 211. 10s. 6d.

Set among Quaker and Catholic recusant families in the reign of William and Mary, this is a thrilling story of adventure, peril and tragedy.

Nigel, a young orphan boy, heir to the family estate at the age of 8 years, is taken from the kindly home of his maternal grandparents, to his father's people at Craigs, near the desolate Lancashire coast, and the harsh and jealous treatment of his paternal uncle Askew. With his cousin Nicholas, a loyal supporter of James II, he sails for the New World, but is shipwrecked off the coast of Florida. The adventures described with cannibal Indians retell part of Jonathan Dickinson's story *God's protecting Providence, Man's surest Help and Defence*, 1699.

Before they return to Craigs, Nigel and Nicholas visit the court of the exiled King James II at St. Germain, where Nigel learns that his grandfather at Craigs has died and that he is now the head of the family. In a duel Nicholas is killed by Askew and Nigel finds himself bereft of a good friend. Nigel's liberty and perhaps his life are in danger from Askew, whose spy he refuses to be, but he is rescued by Tom Hubbersty, and leaves home again. The character of his cousin Nicholas, the calm influence of Robert Barrow and other Friends met in Florida, the casual meeting with Margaret Fox in a country lane, have developed in him a real dependance upon God.

The story is well told, and can be equally enjoyed by the young, and not so young. It asks for a sequel, for although Nigel escapes from Craigs his prospects are uncertain.

M.A.H.