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# Church History



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# CHURCH HISTORY

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## EASTWARD—A STORY OF ADONIRAM JUDSON

By STACY R. WARBURTON. New York: Round Table Press, 1937. 240 pages. \$5.00.

Probably nothing did more to arouse missionary enthusiasm one hundred years ago than the romantic story of the perils, persecutions, joys and sorrows of this pioneer family, laboring for thirty-eight years to plant the Kingdom of God in Burma. A succession of biographies and memoirs, both of Judson and of his three remarkable wives, came from the press and was widely read. Warburton seems to have made careful use of this and also of unpublished material, a full biography of which is given.

No serious and complete study of the life of Judson has appeared within the last fifty years. Former works are out of print. Furthermore, only the passing of the years will give that truer perspective which is necessary for the more discriminating evaluation of personalities and life work. There were many sides to Judson's personality. Wayland has given us the picture of a man of God, conscious of his divine commission to preach the gospel to dying heathen. Others have paid more attention to the human side of the man, his social qualities, his wide cultural interests, and the general attractiveness of his nature.

Judging from past attempts, it is not an easy matter to write a missionary biography. Some accounts are so romantic that they cease to be true; others are so prosaic that they cease to be interesting and significant. Warburton has succeeded in avoiding these extremes and has given us a picture of the rich and composite personality which Judson himself seems to have been. The story is well told. It is written for the general public. One lays the book down with hesitation and picks it up with eagerness. The author has the knack of interspersing a vividly descriptive narrative with paragraphs which interpret the meaning of these events and their bearing upon later missionary policy and outcome. The reading of such biographies as this is a powerful stimulant to self-sacrificing devotion to missionaries or to any other worthy cause.

Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

Archibald G. Baker.

## LYNCHBURG'S PIONEER QUAKERS AND THEIR MEETING HOUSE, 1754-1836

By DOUGLAS SUMMERS BROWN. Lynchburg: J. P. Bell, 1936. 180 pages.

Lynchburg, a town of approximately 40,000, in the Virginia Piedmont, was settled largely by Quakers, moving south from Pennsylvania up the Shenandoah Valley. The first Meeting developed about the family altar of Sarah Lynch (whose family gave the town its name) in 1754. Three years later the first log meeting house was built. From this time till about 1800 the history of Lynchburg is closely knit with the Quakers of South River. Even now it is estimated that about one-third of the native born population of Lynchburg is connected with this group either by

direct descent or by intermarriage. At the turn of the century the trek of the Quakers from Pennsylvania southward came to an end, and shortly thereafter the South River Meeting began to decline. Some members were disowned because they supported the Revolutionary War, others (including Sarah Lynch herself) because they married "out of unity." It was the slavery issue, however, that finally drove the Quakers from Piedmont, Virginia. From 1800 on, in Virginia, every Friend had to make a choice of one of three things: (1) hold his slaves and be expelled from the Meeting; (2) free his slaves with the possible result of financial ruin, loss of caste, and becoming an object of distrust and suspicion among his neighbors; (3) pack up and go west. The great exodus (to Ohio) occurred about 1835-37, owing probably to a new outbreak of feeling on the part of the anti-abolitionists. When the Civil War broke out only a small remnant was left anywhere in Virginia, the old South River Meeting House had already been abandoned, and was fast falling into ruins.

It is the story of this group of Quakers, and their old meetinghouse, that is told us in this book. The author has gone back into the ancient records, utilized every other source of information, and woven the whole into an interesting and valuable historical narrative.

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.      Ernest Trice Thompson.