

**JOHN H. DILLINGHAM,  
1839-1910, TEACHER,  
MINISTER IN THE SOCIETY  
OF FRIENDS, EDITOR**

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John H. Dillingham, 1839-1910, teacher, minister in the Society of Friends, editor by J. Henry Bartlett

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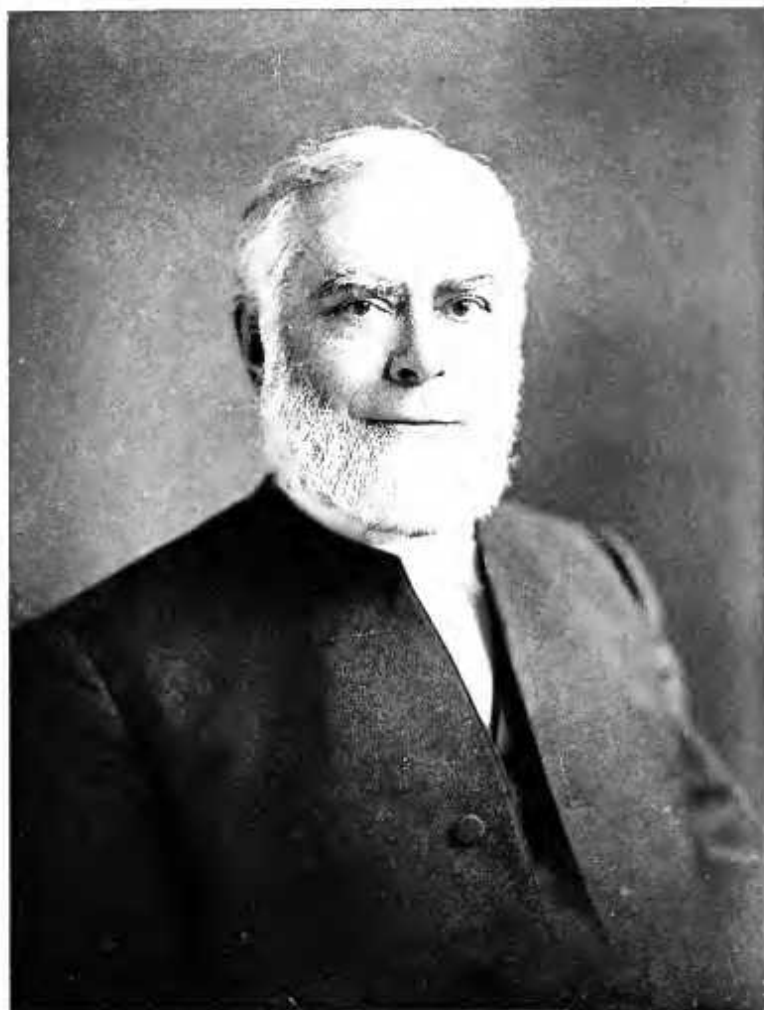
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**J. HENRY BARTLETT**

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*John H. Dillingham.*

# John H. Dillingham

1839-1910

Teacher, Minister in the Society of  
Friends, Editor

By

J. Henry Bartlett

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INSCRIBED TO THE MEMORY

OF

LYDIA BEEDE DILLINGHAM

THE SELF-SACRIFICING MOTHER

WHO WAS ALWAYS AN INSPIRATION TO HER SON



27X480

## INTRODUCTION

So far as possible it has been the effort in this volume to make John H. Dillingham write his own life. He left little if any material designed for that purpose. The habit of his Harvard training to have a "common book" in which he wrote a first draft of every exercise, theme, or letter, clung to him in measure through life. These books have been preserved and although there is one hiatus of nearly fifteen years in which there is no record, each distinct period of his life is represented. In addition, his mother preserved the bulk of his college letters, and of those received in the four or five years following his graduation. All this material has been most kindly entrusted to me by Mary P. Dillingham and her daughters. They have very properly retained those records that relate to themselves. Thus, it is possible to present material of greater value even than an autobiographical record would be. Having been written without a view to publication, it is perfectly natural and spontaneous.

There need be no apology for printing such a life. In the circle of the Society of Friends where his activities were known, John Dilling-

ham was a unique figure. Naturally well endowed, he had the best education his time afforded; for several years after his college course he was in close touch with the most brilliant intellectual and social circle in the country; under a prompting of duty and encouraged by prophetic utterances of gifted ministers as to a future of usefulness, he entered Haverford College as an instructor. There, in face of a previous judgment against it, he embraced conservative Quakerism "as a conviction," and during nearly forty years of his life found in it a greater measure of spiritual freedom than any of all the other forms of Christianity (he had tested them nearly all) seemed to contain. This choice was made in no narrow sectarian spirit. The following letter by one *not* of his chosen faith—a summer resident of the Cape and a neighbor of his—indicates very fairly the breadth of outlook compatible with what some might seem to regard a narrow path to walk in.

"LITTLE NECK,  
"WEST FALMOUTH,  
"MASSACHUSETTS,  
"July 16, 1911.

"MY DEAR MRS. DILLINGHAM:

"It is fitting that the life of a man like John