

**"FRIENDLY" SKETCHES;  
ESSAYS ILLUSTRATIVE  
OF QUAKERISM**

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"Friendly" Sketches; Essays Illustrative of Quakerism by John W. Steel

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**JOHN W. STEEL**

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BY JOHN W. STEEL.

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## CONTENTS.

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QUAKERISM, PAST .....	1
QUAKERISM, PRESENT .....	12
QUAKERISM, FUTURE.....	23
THE MISSION OF FRIENDS .....	39
THE OLDEST CHURCH PARLIAMENT .....	42
ROUND ABOUT SWARTHMORE .....	51
ACKWORTH SCHOOL .....	59
A HIDDEN PAGE OF YORKSHIRE HISTORY .....	71
EARLY DURHAM QUAKERS .....	80
THE ENGLISH PHILADELPHIA .....	92
" IN MEETING " .....	96

" The Word which the reason of Plato discerned ;  
The truth, as whose symbol the Mithrafire burned ;  
The soul of the World, which the Stoic but guessed,  
Is the Light Universal the Quaker confessed !

\* \* \* \* \*

Shall we learn in our ease to forget  
To the martyrs of Truth and Freedom our debt ?"

WHITTIER.



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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Most of the articles comprised in this little volume have appeared, in substance, in the *Daily News*, *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, *Sheffield Independent*, *Northern Echo*, and *English Independent*, from which, with courteous permission, they are reprinted and revised. It may be proper to add, also, that several were written when the author's acquaintance with the Society of Friends was solely through its historical publications.

J. W. S.

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## Quakerism :

Past, Present, and Future.

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### THE PAST.

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**T**O my mind, there is no more thrilling chapter in the history of the church universal than that recording the rise and growth of Quakerism. The records of the growth of Faith are at all times interesting, but this seems of transcending interest. The journals of Faith Founders surpass in their stories the wildest dreams of the novelist; but Fox's appears ever, to me, to be girt about with a double charm. Who can read the records of HUGH BOURNE without a higher appreciation of Primitive Methodism? Who can con the pages of WESLEY'S journal without a feeling of admiring wonder at the untiring journeys of the founder of Metho-