

QUAKERISM: A RELIGION OF LIFE

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Quakerism: A Religion of Life by Rufus M. Jones

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RUFUS M. JONES

**QUAKERISM: A
RELIGION OF LIFE**

Swarthmore Lecture.

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Swarthmore Lecture.

QUAKERISM:

A RELIGION OF LIFE.

BY

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PRESENTED

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Preface.

THIS book is the first of a series of public addresses to be known as the Swarthmore Lectures. The Lecture-ship was established by the Woodbrooke Extension Committee, at a meeting held December 9th, 1907. The Minute of the Committee provides for "an annual lecture on some subject relating to the Message and Work of the Society of Friends." The name "Swarthmore" was chosen in memory of the home of Margaret Fox, which was always open to the earnest seeker after Truth, and from which loving words of sympathy and substantial material help were sent to fellow-workers.

The Woodbrooke Extension Committee requested Rufus M. Jones, M.A., D.Litt., of Haverford College, Pennsylvania, to give the first lecture on the evening preceding the holding of the Friends' Yearly Meeting of 1908. In accordance with this decision, the lecture was delivered in the Central Hall, Birmingham, on May 19th.

The Swarthmore Lectureship has been founded with a two-fold purpose: firstly, to interpret further to the members of the Society of Friends their Message and Mission; and secondly, to bring before the public the spirit, the aims and the fundamental principles of the Friends. This first lecture presents Quakerism as a religion of experience and first-hand reality—a dynamic, practical religion of life.

Quakerism : A Religion of Life.

RELIGION has always been one of the supreme concerns of the race, and, so far as one may prophesy from the nature of the soul of man, it always will be a supreme concern of the race, though it will undoubtedly wax and wane as the central point of view shifts. There are vast bends and eddies in the onward current of progress. Sometimes one, and sometimes another, commanding interest sweeps into the foreground, and religion may seem, for the moment, to be a losing power.

**Religion
a Per-
manent
Interest.**

Discoveries of new physical forces and of rich raw material resources bring on eras of unwonted industrial expansion, and the drift towards wealth and materialism appears, for a time, to be the main current of human interest. The little prophets who mistake surface waves for the ground-swell set of ocean currents, begin prematurely to predict the exhaustion of religion and the drying up of its springs.

Scientific geniuses hit upon some central secret of Nature, and find a new clue to the meaning of the riddle. New methods of research are proposed with amazing results, and men gather to the quest with the keenest passion. Accurate knowledge, exact description, formulation of unvarying laws, become the foremost interests, and it seems