

# **A HISTORY OF THE ADULT SCHOOL MOVEMENT**

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A History of the Adult School Movement by J. Wilhelm Rowntree & Henry Bryan Binns

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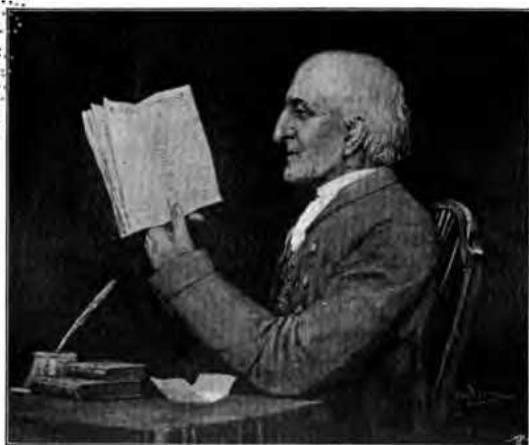
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**J. WILHELM ROWNTREE & HENRY BRYAN BINNS**

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By

J. Wilhelm Rowntree

and

Henry Bryan Binns.

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## PREFACE.

*THE appearance of this little volume requires a brief note of preface. The chapters which follow were printed, practically in their present form, as a series of articles in the PRESENT DAY PAPERS, during the latter half of 1902.*

*They are the joint work of the Editors of that journal; the purely historical chapters having fallen to the share of Henry B. Binns.*

*The papers, now amended and published in book form, do not pretend to any lofty historical ambition. They are professedly slight in character, being designed to throw light upon a little understood, but deeply interesting, phase of religious work, and to serve as an introduction and stimulus to the knowledge and support of the Adult School Movement whose characteristics they discuss.*

*The writers desire to express their great indebtedness to Frederic Taylor, the Secretary of the Friends' First Day School Association, for his valuable assistance in supplying the necessary statistics and in the criticism of the proofs.*

*Their cordial thanks are also due to all who have rendered help by their valuable suggestions, or as proof readers have contributed to the accuracy of this little historical sketch.*

*J. WILHELM ROWNTREE.*





CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF THE ADULT SCHOOL MOVEMENT  
AND ITS RELATION TO THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, &c.

[Adult School dates in large type, events in Quaker history, &c., in italics].

1782. Robert Raikes's first Sunday School established.
1791. Death of John Wesley.
1798. Nottingham Adult School opened.
1804. Bible Society founded.
1806. Abolition of Slave Trade.
1808. British and Foreign School Association founded.
1810. *Friends' Sunday School (boys), at Bristol.*
1811. Adult Bible Classes at Bala opened by Rev. Thos. Charles.
1812. Adult Bible Classes at Bristol opened by Wm. Smith and others.
1813. *Elizabeth Fry first visits Newgate Prison.*  
*Regular Morning Bible Reading introduced at Ackworth School.*
1815. Period of international reaction following the humiliation of France.
1816. Adult Schools at Leeds and York.  
*Peace Society founded.*
1822. Adult Schools opened by Thomas Cooper at Leicester.
- 1824-5. *Publication of J. J. Gurney's Distinguishing Views and Practices of the Society of Friends, and Essays on Christianity.*
1828. Women's Adult School (Friends') at Bristol.  
*Hickite separation (U.S.A.) Death of Jonathan Dymond.*  
*Repeal of Test Act.*
- 1829-30. Revolution in France : followed by period of reform.
1830. *Publication of J. J. Gurney's Biblical Notes and Dissertations.*
1833. "Tracts for the Times" begin to appear at Oxford.  
*Admission of Friends to Parliament.*  
*Yearly Meeting Committee unable to recommend formation of Foreign Mission Society.*
1836. *Beaconite controversy and separation.*
1837. *First Meeting of Education Society.*  
Emancipation of British West Indian slaves.
1842. Joseph Sturge in Nottingham.
1843. *Death of William Allen.*

1845. Severn Street Adult School founded by Joseph Sturge.  
*Friends' Sunday School, Sheffield, opened by Jas. Hy. Barber.*  
*Death of Elizabeth Fry.*
1846. World's Temperance Convention in London.  
Repeal of Corn Laws.
1847. Formation of Friends' First-day School Association. Joseph Storrs  
Fry, hon. sec. School for Adults and Boys at Middlesborough.  
*Death of Joseph John Gurney.*
1848. William White in Birmingham (aged 28).  
Revolution in Europe.  
*Flounders Institute founded.*
1850. Young Men's Class at Sheffield.
1851. Religious Census. *Decline in Society of Friends noted.*
1856. First visiting deputation of F.F.D.S.A.  
Huddersfield Adult School.
1857. Bristol Adult School. York Adult Scholars "meet in a separate  
room," (Lady Peckitt's yard).
1859. Death of Joseph Sturge. Leeds and Dewsbury Adult Schools.
1860. Hitchin Adult School.  
*Yearly Meeting collects and publishes statistics of the Society.*
1861. Plymouth Adult School.  
Leicester Adult School.\*
1862. Luton Adult School.  
Melbourne (Australia) Adult School.
1863. William White reads a paper on *Senior Scholars* at Leeds F.F.D.S.A.  
Conference.
1865. Severn Street Meeting for Worship, once a month, and  
"Reading Meetings" at Leeds.  
Birmingham scholars visit Bristol.
1866. Scarborough Adult School.  
*Bedford Institute Association for London Mission work.*
1867. Darlington and Colchester Adult Schools.
1868. *Friends' Foreign Mission Association founded.*
1869. Norwich and Leeds (York Road) Adult Schools.  
*The Monthly Record, a Journal of Foreign and Home Missions, First-day Schools, Temperance  
and other Christian work in the Society of Friends,—published at Birmingham.*

\* A writer in *One and All*, 1898, gives the date as 1858, and the locality as Elbow Lane,