

Reviews.

The Private Letter Books of Joseph Collet. With Introduction and Notes by H. H. Dodwell, M.A. And Appendices on Family History by Clara E. Collet. 246 pages, 10s. 6d. (Longmans.)

What a treat! The letters to family and friends, ranging over nine years, from Sumatra and Madras, in the days of Anne and George. The East India Company beginning to change from a society of traders, to a governing body; this lies in the background, and even Collet would have been surprised at the future of his company. How a man of enterprise and probity could restore order, regain the respect of native rulers, develop trade, and acquire a great fortune. A merchant-governor keeping in close touch with European theological thought, and with English ecclesiastical policy; deciding that his wealth was sufficient, and that his duty was to return and enter parliament. And more humorous than usual, a staunch Baptist superintending the public worship of the Church of England, turning out the garrison for a weekly church parade to escort the Governor to church! The book is excellently edited and well produced. Next quarter we hope to tell part of the story at length.

The Mennonite Quarterly Review for October tells how Mennonites went to America. In 1681 William Penn took 40,000 square miles there to satisfy a debt of £16,000 to his father; he advertised in Holland and Germany for settlers. Many applications were made, and in 1683, thirty-three Germans from Crefeld in the Rhine Valley left Gravesend and planted Germantown. Most of these were Mennonites, who not only obtained a new start in life, but were assured of religious liberty. Other groups came from Hamburg and the Palatinate. There was hesitation about baptizing and observing the Lord's Supper, as they had no bishop, and none would come from Europe. They did ordain preachers, then deacons, and in 1708 entered on full church life. From this little seed has spread the cluster, in two great groups and six small; they maintain thirteen schools and colleges, with 1,673 students enrolled. The German strain is still quite strong, though for sixty years there have been some publications in English. The Mennonites are quite distinct from the Dunkards, or German Baptists, who began emigrating to Pennsylvania in 1719; as also from the Baptists of Oncken's vintage, who trace from 1834.