

Baptist Historical Society.

Report for the year 1934, presented at Saltash,
1st May, 1935.

THIS year we meet by waters which have great associations. Some of these we have recalled, starting from the quay which commemorates the voyage of the Pilgrims from Plymouth to New Plymouth, visiting the island which celebrates the great Admiral Drake, and which for us is hallowed by the imprisonment of Abraham Cheare and General Robert Lilburne. We are now assembled in a church due to the enthusiasm of the early B.M.S., which felt that it must preach the gospel at home as well as abroad. Here we recount our work for 1934.

Frequent enquiries come from many quarters; we are glad to help all engaged in research, and could welcome more who will qualify to answer. To one important American correspondent we were able to reveal the importance of the libraries at Rawdon and Bristol, where our own librarian would appreciate more use made of our stores, as well as of those begun by Dr. Gifford.

Last year we supplied to our guinea subscribers the reprint of Carey's Enquiry, as foreshadowed in last report. This week we are supplying a photographic facsimile of a 1612 book, the first in English to claim full religious liberty, by a Baptist, Thomas Helwys, squire of Broxtowe; it is illustrated with maps and pictures, and introduced by our President. The book is reproduced by the same firm which reprinted Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, in the same style and size; and it will be sold generally at 10s. 6d.

The Quarterly continues to give modern articles commissioned by Mr. Seymour Price; some deal with great problems always recurring, others appeal to preachers in various relations. Of historical matter there is no lack. Contributions have appeared as to Kent and Surrey, also as to Poland, Madras, Jamaica, Argentine; and account was given of the Congress at Berlin. Thus we have maintained the wide tradition shown in the letters of Isaac Mann, edited by Mr. Hastings. Fresh surprises are always awaiting the student; last July we found that in 1716 a Baptist was governor of Madras, promoting missions in Sumatra and India; last month chance discoveries showed that Andrew Gifford of the Kingsgate Chapel had presented a portrait of Henry VI to the British Museum, where he was sub-librarian, whence it has now passed to the National Portrait Gallery; and that Gifford had led the way in studying

the activities of the Premonstratensian Canons. Would that to-day we had more men of his type in our Society! Many results of other investigations, especially on our own early story, are awaiting publication.

The Society has lost during the year the services of Dr. Blomfield, Dr. Thirtle, and Mr. Blight, to all of whom we owe great debts. The Committee recommends that for the new year Mr. Calder shall continue his care of the treasury, that Mr. Price and Dr. Whitley shall change offices, the former taking over the duties of Secretary, the latter acting as Vice-President. They will jointly complete the current volume of the *Quarterly*, which will be the seventh, closing twenty-eight years of the Society's work. The Committee will welcome younger men, who will take up the mantle, and develop the traditions, perhaps considering new advances.

Submitted on behalf of the Committee,

2nd May, 1935.

W. T. WHITLEY,
Hon. Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

(For the Year ended 31st December, 1934.)

					£	s.	d.
INCOME.							
Balance from 1933	...	...	...	...	12	19	2
Balance from 1933 for Subscriptions paid in advance					4	3	0
Subscriptions received	...	...	...	...	103	13	0
Sales of Publications	...	...	...	...	2	3	2
					£122 18 4		
EXPENDITURE							
Printing and publishing <i>Baptist Quarterly</i>	...	...	...	...	74	12	5
<i>Carey Enquiry</i>	...	...	...	...	5	12	0
Codex Sinaiticus—Subscription	...	...	...	...	5	5	0
Friends' Historical Society—Subscription	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
Printing, Insurance & Expenses	...	...	...	...	3	17	2
					£89 16 7		
Balance to 1935	...	...	...	£29 16 9			
Ditto—subscriptions paid in advance				3 5 0			
					33 1 9		
					£122 18 4		
Cash at Bank for Life Members	...	...	...	...	£20	15	8

18th April, 1935.

A. H. CALDER, *Treasurer.*