

## Editorial Notes.

IT has been no secret that these Notes have been, for some considerable time, the work of the Rev. Ernest A. Payne, M.A., B.D., B.Litt. He will, however, shortly take office as Secretary of the Baptist Union and, in that capacity, it would be inadvisable for him to continue to maintain as close an association as hitherto with the *Quarterly*. The Committee of the Historical Society at a recent meeting, while thoroughly appreciating the reasons which prompted it, received Mr. Payne's resignation from the Editorial Board with profound regret. Our readers will not need to be told how devotedly and with what skill and scholarship Mr. Payne has served this journal and the Society whose organ it is, and they will share our hope that the cares and burdens of high office will not prevent him from contributing articles to these pages from time to time. While bidding him a regretful farewell as one of our editors—though not from membership or Vice-Presidency of the Society—we extend to Mr. Payne our cordial thanks for his innumerable services and wholehearted good wishes for abundant success in that responsible office to which he has been called and for which his distinguished abilities so eminently qualify him.

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Ever increasing costs, apart from other reasons, make it imperative to increase substantially the membership of the Baptist Historical Society. It would be a tragedy if this Society were to go out of existence or if this journal—which, after all, is the only permanent medium our denomination possesses for the recording and study of Baptist history—were to cease publication. Wider support is, therefore, essential. An intensive campaign to enlarge the membership is being planned but, meanwhile, we urgently appeal to all members of the Society to do everything possible to introduce new members. Will ministers please bring the Society to the notice of their congregations, and will our other members please seek to interest their friends in its work? Donations to the Society's depleted funds would be gratefully received by the Treasurer, Mr. Allan H. Calder at 36, Marshalswick Lane, St. Albans, Herts. The situation is serious.

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Plans are well advanced, we understand, for the Commonwealth and Empire Baptist Congress which is to be held in London

from 3rd to 10th June. Subjects to be dealt with in its sessions and conferences include Baptist principles, our Baptist record, our doctrine of the Church, our place in missionary enterprise and in world spiritual advance. In addition to the Exhibition (at the opening of which it is to be hoped Princess Elizabeth will be present) a pageant at the Albert Hall, a garden party at Spurgeon's College, organised visits to places of interest and other events there are to be sectional meetings of various kinds. It is hoped that one of these sectional gatherings will take the form of a meeting at which representatives from the homeland and overseas may come together to discuss ways and means of being mutually helpful in compiling Commonwealth and Empire Baptist history. Such a meeting should considerably strengthen the ties that unite those at home and abroad who are interested in our denomination's history, lead to more frequent interchange of ideas and prove a valuable contribution to the success of the Congress gatherings.

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In *The Last Invasion of Britain* (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 21s.), Commander E. H. Stuart Jones has given a detailed and fascinating account of the landing in Pembrokeshire, in February 1797, of fourteen hundred Frenchmen under the command of the seventy year old American-born William Tate. The force consisted mainly of convicts and ex-prisoners with a few Irish officers. Its original object had been Bristol and Liverpool. Within two days all save a few deserters had surrendered, thanks to the prompt action of the local volunteers and the militia. There is reason also to think that there is good foundation for the well known story of hundreds of red-cloaked Welsh women mistaken by the invaders for soldiery. Commander Stuart Jones has provided a valuable footnote to history and one that has special interest for Baptists. After the collapse of the invasion, charges of treason were made against a number of Pembrokeshire Dissenters, who were quite falsely alleged to have fraternised with the enemy. Among these men finally brought to trial was Thomas John, a respectable yeoman farmer and a Baptist, who on the morning of the French landing had been attending a ministers' meeting. The charges against John and his companions collapsed. The only evidence against them had come from French prisoners, who later confessed that they had been bribed. The whole incident throws an unhappy light on the lengths to which some were ready to go in their hostility towards Nonconformists. It is of interest to find that the Duke of Rutland, who visited the area of the invasion in 1797 and saw John and his companions while they were in Haverfordwest prison, refers to them in his journal as "Anabaptists."