

WILLIAM BLAIR
NEATBY Born 1864.
Died 20 viii. 1938.

WILLIAM BLAIR NEATBY was a scholar. He was brought up among the Plymouth Brethren, but eight years after leaving Cambridge he became a Baptist Minister and spent fourteen years in this service. He gradually became dissatisfied with what he regarded as the narrowness of the Brethren and the one-man ministry among the Baptists, and, having read extensively the writings of the early Friends, he joined the Society in 1912.

His gift in the ministry was soon recognised at Birmingham (where he lived for about nine years) and later in Charlbury, Poole, Bristol, Bradford, and Ackworth, in which places he also lived for varying periods. He also visited many other meetings in England, Scotland and Ireland, and twice he visited America—once with A. Kemp Brown as a representative to the Five Years Meeting in 1917, and nine years later with his wife. He also helped considerably with some of the work done in preparation of the All Friends' Conference in 1920.

He was the author of three books—*The History of the Plymouth Brethren*, *The Programme of the Jesuits*, and *The Message of Jesus*, as well as occasional articles in *The Friend*, and elsewhere.

Blair Neatby's ministry was always scholarly and yet had the compelling power of sincere convictions. It revealed him as a man who was both broad-minded and tolerant, critical yet always courteous, and his prayers in some of our Meetings for Worship were singularly impressive and helpful. His visits to Friends in their own homes in which he was usually accompanied by his wife—were very highly appreciated as he had great pastoral gifts. Blair Neatby's life adds one more to the many of those who joined the Society through conviction and threw themselves whole-heartedly into its service, enriching its work by their special training and experience, comforting those felt the burden of life to be great, cheering those who were depressed, enlightening those who were prepared to study—either alone or in Study Circles and in other ways, and presenting the age-old message in new ways which were both interesting and convincing.

He looked not to them that are mighty in this world to help him, but made his one aim the service of Him who had called him.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Witney Monthly Meeting, held 11th of 2nd month, 1939,

J. KENNETH MARSH,
Clerk.

This testimony prepared by direction of Witney Monthly Meeting, within the compass of which Blair Neatby lived for about eight years, is endorsed by Brighouse Monthly Meeting where he also lived for some time near the end of his life. A Memorial Service was held at Bradford Meeting House shortly after his decease.

Endorsed by Berks and Oxon Quarterly Meeting held at Banbury, 25 iv. 1939.

MARGARET C. GILLETT.
Clerk