

*Howells & Italy* is a literary study of the effect of this stay in Italy upon Howells' literary creations. Woodress finds that five-sixths of Howells' novels have some reference to his Italian experiences.

The first chapter of the book is a resumé of the four years which so influenced Howells. Numerous letters he wrote from Venice to friends are cited; so are the references to Venice in the annual reports of the Department of State. But only one of Howells' dispatches to the department is cited.

Woodress apparently was familiar with the contents of Howells' dispatches, now in the National Archives. But they apparently did not contribute to his literary ends. Thus the book leaves one wishing that one might know something of the official activities of the young consul in Venice. That would have taken little space, since in one year only four American ships called at the port of Venice. But the literary scholar is not interested in political and commercial history, just as most historical scholars would not be interested in the material Woodress has used.

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Sexson E. Humphreys

*Walter C. Woodward, Friend on the Frontier: A Biography.*

By Elizabeth H. Emerson with a Preface by Errol T. Elliot. (Richmond, Indiana: Walter C. Woodward Memorial Commission, 1952, pp. 316. Illustrations and bibliography. \$2.00.)

The subject of this biography is well known to members of the Society of Friends as editor of the *American Friend* and General Secretary of the Five Year Meeting of Friends; to others he is not so well known, although state and local historians will remember him as the first director of the Indiana Historical Commission, organized in 1915 to direct the celebration of the state centennial in each community and county of the state.

Walter Woodward was a native Hoosier, born near Mooresville of Quaker parents in 1878. The family moved to the frontier Quaker settlement at Newberg, Oregon, when he was two, and there he grew to manhood. The author gives equal space to his preparation of life with its

background of Quaker influence at home, in the community, and in the academies and colleges which he attended in Oregon, Indiana, and California, and to his life work as teacher, editor, and executive secretary. The first period depicts the deep concern of Friends to set up schools for the education of their children, while in the latter period one sees through Woodward's life the entire panorama of Quaker activities in the United States and abroad.

The Five Year Meeting of Friends was instituted in Richmond, Indiana, in 1887 to bring together representatives of the Yearly Meetings for interchange of ideas and to bind the growing and scattered groups of Quakers into a closer union and thus better preserve the common perspective and observances. The *American Friend* became the organ of the Five Year Meeting in 1912. By this time Woodward had returned to his native state as professor of history at Earlham College, and it was from this post that he was called in 1917 to become General Secretary of the Five Year Meeting and editor of its weekly magazine with headquarters in Richmond. He continued to hold these offices until his death in 1942. As secretary he tried to get the mind and spirit of the Yearly Meetings and other Friends' meetings and to present and interpret them to the church as a whole through the pages of the *American Friend*. He shared with each subscriber his wide acquaintance and friendship with Quakers around the world and the thinking and contributions of the many meetings and conferences he attended. The editor's life was not an easy one; wartime and depression brought many problems; Quakers in Oregon and Kansas especially rebelled against Woodward's methods and policies. The author quotes extensively from his writings to portray his thinking and manner of meeting crises. A bibliography is included, but there is no index. The volume was prepared under the direction of the Woodward Memorial Commission. Indianans in general as well as Quakers should be grateful to have this biography of a noted Hoosier whose life should be better known.

*Indiana Historical Bureau*

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