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Edited by Alfred Edward Pease

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### The Diaries of Edward Pease

Edward Pease (1767–1858), who left behind extensive diaries for the years 1824–57, was dubbed the ‘father of English railways’ thanks to his backing of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which began operating in 1825. A prominent Quaker and woollen manufacturer in Darlington, Pease famously recruited George Stephenson (1781–1848) as the line’s engineer. His great-grandson Sir Alfred Pease (1857–1939) edited these diaries for private circulation only, but was persuaded to publish them in 1907. The work includes an introductory essay on Quakerism and biographical sketches of Pease and his wife Rachel. The diaries themselves reveal, as the editor mentions in his preface, a life devoted to public and private good works. The appendices include a variety of Quaker texts and other material relating to the Pease family and the founding of the railways.

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THE DIARIES  
OF  
EDWARD PEASE

THE FATHER OF ENGLISH RAILWAYS

EDITED BY  
SIR ALFRED E. PEASE, BART.

LONDON  
HEADLEY BROTHERS  
BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT E.C.  
1907

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HEADLEY BROTHERS  
PRINTERS  
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I dedicate this volume to my eldest son  
EDWARD PEASE born 1880  
the senior representative in the latest generation  
of the descendants of my great-grandfather  
EDWARD PEASE born 1767

*Integer vitae scelerisque purus  
non eget Mauris jaculis neque arcu  
nec venenatis gravida sagittis,  
Fusce pharetra,  
sive per Syrtes iter aestuosas*

\* \* \* \* \*

ALFRED EDWARD PEASE  
Pinchinthorpe  
1907

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## PREFACE.

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I ORIGINALLY intended this volume should be a private memorial of the life and opinions of Edward Pease. The introductory essay on Quakerism was an attempt to set forth the general meaning of Quakerism in his day, and of the peculiar system which developed, influenced and restrained his character. I have been persuaded to allow this book a wider circulation, in spite of the style being little adapted to public taste. The serious and tame records of an old time Quaker's life seem hardly likely to interest many outside the Society of Friends. I have hesitated before placing my prosy old ancestor in the public stocks, perhaps to be pelted by scoffers and critics. Yet Edward Pease's life, however uneventful, narrow and peculiar it may seem, was devoted to his conception of his duty to his God and to his neighbour. His public services, however small the value he desired to have placed on them, entitle him to kindly treatment by that great public who reap the fruits of his labours. For myself I am satisfied if the object of placing on record a truthful account of Edward Pease and of

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the singular system he supported and defended, is in the opinion of his descendants faithfully accomplished. Quakerism must be judged by its fruits. It is not for me to say whether its professors did their share towards alleviating the lot of suffering humanity, increasing the true happiness and virtue of mankind, and diminishing hatred and strife. If the verdict be in its favour, it may induce a course of reflection, leading some of my readers to find that this faith, divested of human imperfections, is anything but contemptible, and its old professors, not altogether ridiculous.

In the quoted passages throughout this volume the original spelling, as well as the old fashioned indiscriminate use of capital letters, has been generally adhered to. In the original diaries the date headings are printed and this explains the absence of the Quaker names of months and days in the extracts from the Journals. This is my reply to the otherwise reasonable criticism made by one who knew Edward Pease: "It would have set the good old man's teeth on edge to see 'Sunday 25th February' in his Journal."

Messrs. Headley Brothers have given me every assistance, and my grateful acknowledgment is especially due to the firm's Literary Manager, Mr. S. Graveson, who has, at all times and in the kindest manner, given me the advantage of his advice and experience.

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