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The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society

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Editorial

WRITING in the first issue of the *Transactions of the Baptist Historical Society*, sixty years ago, Principal Geo. P. Gould said: "Unlike most first numbers it is not in search of a public, and has no need to disclose its origin and purpose. Its public—albeit a very limited public—is secured, and its purpose well understood." In some degree we could echo the second part of those sentiments today. The society has a loyal membership which understands and brings a good deal of enthusiasm to the special tasks which the society seeks to fulfil.

We cannot say, however, that we are not in search of a public and that we do not need publicity. It is disconcerting to find Baptists, good Baptists, who know of the society and the *Quarterly* only by name, and sometimes not even that. It is true, of course, in the very nature of the case, that our work makes its appeal to a limited public. Nevertheless, if we are to improve our service to the denomination we need to make our work better known and so win the support of many more members. This journal, for example, could well do to be at least the size of that first issue of the *Transactions*, which went to sixty-four pages, but to achieve that a broader financial backing would be essential and that means a bigger membership.

This is our Diamond Jubilee year. We have much to be thankful for and appropriate celebrations are planned. The biggest encouragement, however, would be a big increase in membership and every member of the society can help in this. The annual subscription becomes due this month and there could be no better moment to enlist another member. Will you please think of this as an effort in which you can be personally involved?