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GEORGE FOX AND QUAKERISM.

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PART II.

IT seems to be the order of procedure in our world that all new truths shall, on their first introduction, be welcomed with blows, hatred and persecution. Such has been the reception of almost every new truth that has blessed the world. It finds itself, in the outset, in a minority of one; and the supporters of established opinions assail it, and endeavour to stifle or annihilate it and its supporters. So, then, there must be, in every age, martyrs for the truth. The man who believes and preaches anything new must be prepared to do battle with the world, to toil and suffer for his truth, and to do so in the assured confidence that, if a real truth, it will one day be crowned with victory. What we want in this and every age is men who will boldly and courageously speak out the truth that they believe, fearless of consequences:

"All conviction should be valiant,
Tell thy truth, if truth it be;
Never seek to stem its currents;
Thoughts, like rivers, find the sea;
It will fit the widening circle
Of Eternal Verity."

Early Quakerism met with blows enough, and was not without its stout-hearted martyrs. One of the most noted of these evangelistic martyrs was James Nayler, whose story is deeply pathetic. He had been one of Cromwell's Ironsides, and had risen to the