

## MUSIC.

Read by Willard Yeo at a meeting of the N. Y. Young Friends' Association.

Continued from Seventh mo. 1st.

The change in feeling was gradual, and, no doubt, some of those of more liberal views, were, and are yet cautious not to mention, when in the presence of an elder Friend, that a little dancing constituted part of an evening's entertainment at their home a previous week. For there are yet those among us who continue to maintain that same sweet simplicity of dress and habit that is so delightful to behold. Such instances, however, are growing fewer, as years roll by, and not many winters need pass until we will notice additional vacant places in the galleries of our meeting houses.

It is certainly to be hoped that young Friends, either do, or will come to realize the grave responsibility that is rapidly coming, and will eventually rest upon them, as a body. With profoundest respect for our elders, we can but feel that music is one of the greatest of the arts, it being that which is imparted from soul to soul, by means of the harmony of sound. No longer do we associate it with things that are worldly, but look upon it as that capable of great achievement, and the more are we convinced of this, when, by a single tune, artistically rendered, a composer may convey to us a certain condition of heart felt by him.

Says Karl Merz: "Music is a means of culture. It is one of the greatest factors, and perhaps the greatest factor, in human civilization. Not until men shall use the art with the spirit of reverence, will it exercise those powers for which it is designed."

Even in the light of this, and the testimony of Barclay, few of us, if any, would endorse the idea of the introduction of song as a part of our devotional worship.

The meetings, we are glad to find, remain the same, and suggest nought but sweet simplicity.

We would doubtless all agree with Samuel M. Janney, in that most valuable work, entitled "Vital Religion,"

when he says: "The practice of employing musicians to perform, and a choir to sing for them, appears to me not to be consistent with true spiritual worship, but is sometimes so conducted as to render a service of God into a musical entertainment, adapted only to please the ear and satisfy the taste of an audience. Congregational singing is less questionable, but even in this, words are often uttered that do not express the feelings, or suit the condition of the singers, and, in such cases, cannot be considered spiritual worship. There can be no doubt that sincerity of purpose and devotional feeling are always acceptable in Divine sight, whatever may be the form of worship employed; but the more simple the form the less there will be to draw the mind away from the inner sanctuary of the heart."

The attitude of some Friends differs, of course, from that of others, upon the subject we have touched, and one Meeting will not always act in close accordance with another; but it is safe to say that Friends, as a rule, are in sympathy with students of music, and when a talent is shown in that direction, they think it wise to cultivate such a gift, as it is common to build to any of the other gifts of God.

## THE QUAKERS IN HISTORY.

Delivered in the Waynesville Union School Hall, at the Wayne Township Commencement, on Sixth-day evening, 5th mo. 21, 1895.

Quakerism is as old as humanity. The rise of the people called Quakers is one of the memorable events in the history of man. The Quaker doctrine is philosophy summoned from the cloister, the college, and the saloon, and planted among the people. These people taught that we must obey a Divine Light within as superior to all other guides, and that we must think lightly of external forms and ceremonies. Its first messenger was George Fox, distinguished, even in his boyhood, by deep religious feeling. He was of humble origin, the son of a Leicestershire weaver, and his mother being descended from the stock of