

the Spirit, which leads souls to breathe forth, either a sweet harmony of words, suitable to the present condition, whether they be words formerly used by the Saints, and recorded in the Scriptures, such as the Psalms of David, Zacharis, Simeon, and the blessed Virgin Mary. But as for the formal and customary way of singing, it hath no foundation in Scripture, nor any ground in true Christianity. Yea, besides all these abuses, incident to prayer and preaching, it hath this more peculiar: that oftentimes great and horrid lies are said in the sight of God; for all manner of wicked, profane people take upon them to personate the experience of Blessed David, which are not only false as to them, but also to some of more sobriety, who utter them forth."

For more than a hundred years views of Friends did not differ in this respect to any very great extent; and not until the present century did they see any necessity or reason whatever for the introduction of entertainment.

A case may be cited where a teacher of geography in a Friends' school, some fifty years ago, used the method of singing the lessons, putting to music the name of the state, together with its capital, and likewise the river on which the city was situated.

Such an innovation met with hearty approval among the children, who are said to have expressed sincere disappointment on learning that the committee, under whose care the school was operated, had concluded to bring the subject of singing the lessons before the Meeting, where it was decided that it was not in strict accordance with the views of Friends to allow it.

About this period, however, someone, in examining a Congregational Hymnal, found it to contain no less than six pieces by the American "Quaker Poet," Whittier, and two by his English predecessor, Bernard Barton.

We need not necessarily believe, though, that these poems were written

for such a purpose; on the contrary, it is more probable that the verses were unceremoniously appropriated by the composer of the music.

When the piano was first placed upon the market, at a price which put it within the reach of those in moderate circumstances, Friends were slowest to recognize it as a part of household paraphernalia. Young Friends are said to have taken kindly to the new invention, in one case at least.

A young woman, not at that time a Friend, but one whose mother held membership, very much desired that an agent be allowed to place an instrument in their house, and, upon seeking the consent of the parent, was told that she, herself, had no serious objection, but she did not know what other Friends might think. The piano was placed in the parlor, and used.

Some years later this same young woman made application for a membership in the Meeting. The committee who waited upon her at the time was composed of two plainest of Friends.

During their conversation with the applicant, mention was made by the latter, of the piano; she stating that she would occasionally want to play upon it. No objection was raised, although it is said, that one of the committee, in her youth, had pursued the study of music, and, on becoming a Friend, had given it up entirely.

(To be continued.)

### WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

He lived in a kingdom by himself. Few of the works of authors have ever approached his sublime creations. He died in 1816, and was buried in the church vaults at Stratford. A drinking fountain presented to his town by one of our great American philanthropists, the late George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, in 1887, was a fitting testimonial of the admiration felt by Americans for the work of the greatest of all dramatists.