

are to-day enjoying the benefits that flow from their Christ-like patience and endurance.

Quakerism, in this, caught the spirit of Fox and the early Friends, and the world is fast catching the spirit of Quakerism, and is coming to believe that "one man on the side of God is a majority against the whole world."

Fox was also the pioneer in prison reform. In his six months' confinement at Derby he became acquainted with the shameful abuses employed in the prison system. Instead of reformatories, where the erring are to be kept and brought back by love and kindly influence to a life of rectitude and virtue, they were considered as a sort of purgatory for the punishment of offenders, where the violated law can wreak its wrath and revenge be satisfied. Fox wrote to the authorities on this subject, pleading amelioration. This was the beginning of "prison reform" so nobly carried on by John Howard, Elizabeth Fry and other noted philanthropists.

A circumstance occurred at Derby which turned the attention of George Fox to the propriety, or right, of punishment by death. A young woman was indicted for robbery. When her trial came on, Fox wrote to the judges, showing them "how contrary it was to the law of God in old time to put people to death for stealing." "She was pardoned," says Janney, "and was remanded to prison, where she became convinced (to Quakerism) and yielded to the influence of vital religion." Of the vast number of crimes punished by death in the time of Fox there is only one remaining in most Christian nations, that of murder. The tendency is to behead capital punishment, and I have no doubt that many of us will see the day when all Christian nations will look upon it as a useless barbarity of the past. May it be so!

In many other things George Fox was in advance of his time. He sought to ameliorate the hardships of slavery. He saw the horrors of war, and declared that a true follower of Christ could not fight. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" was superseded by that higher injunction, "Love your enemies, and do good to them that hate you."

George Fox personally had a winning man-

ner. He was uneducated, but held the vast multitudes that flocked to hear him by his simplicity of expression and earnestness of purpose. The Father, Lord of heaven and earth, revealed many things to him that was hid from the wise and prudent of this world. Perhaps we would better understand the force of his preaching, the charm of his manners and the reasonableness of his doctrines when we learn that in 1680, thirty-three years after he entered the ministry, his followers in Great Britain and Ireland numbered 40,000. Truly he was a messenger of light sent into the gloom of the seventeenth century, and nobly and wonderfully did he disseminate that light. But we cannot estimate the influence of George Fox by counting the members in our own Society and the sweet blessings that flow to them from Quakerism; but nearly every society in Christendom, for its broader views, its tolerant spirit, and the spirituality of its worship, owes a deep debt to this modern reformer.

And now I ask the younger members of our Society, have not our lines fallen in pleasant places? have we not indeed a goodly heritage? Then let us, I entreat, endeavor earnestly to manifest to the world, not only that we inherit the pure religion of Fox, but also that we are children of the "Inner Light."

E. M. Z.

ERRORS OF LIFE.

B. H. B., MONTREAL.

In referring briefly and generally to this subject I do so believing that there are very few who have not cause daily to mourn the results of past actions, and have not reasons to regret that so many opportunities have been neglected and duties apparently trivial left unperformed.

I have a desire to stimulate greater faithfulness to manifested duty, for neglect of this gives rise to more difficulties than can be estimated; and I further wish to inspire *hope* in the erring, believing that out of the *error* of their ways they can learn certain valuable lessons, and be led therefrom into a high and noble sphere of life.