

be waiting to receive the message. The First-day School is a powerful lever for doing the work which we see needs to be done.

George L. Maris heartily approved a paper which advocated an increase in our First-day Schools and Meetings. At one point in his most impressive remarks he said he had often thought he should like to have the Sermon on the Mount printed in pamphlet form as the "Principles of the Society of Friends" as promulgated by the great Head of the church.

Isaac Wilson said he felt that the missionary relationship existing between the school and the meeting was too much overlooked. In other societies where missionaries are sent out into various fields, money is raised to send them out. We should have as much zeal for our work, and if the coin in which we must pay is personal effort and zeal in the attendance of our schools and meetings, we should feel ourselves taxed to support them and to organize and maintain others.

This subject closed the exercise of Second-day afternoon. Those interested in the G. F. A. work were given a reception that evening at the home of Walter J. Hutton.

THE CZAR NICHOLAS AND HIS DISARMAMENT PROPOSITION.

The Universal Peace Union and all peace people are greatly gratified and interested in the proposition of Emperor Nicholas to call a conference of the governments of the civilized world to bring about international disarmament.

He does not talk about it. He does not parley, or wait for some other government to take the initiative, but promptly sends out the call to every foreign ambassador and minister at the court of St. Petersburg for the conference, declaring that militarism and the increase of armaments fail to se-

cure peace, and this on the date of the unveiling at Moscow of the monument to his illustrious grandfather, Czar Alexander II.

One cannot fail to see that some of the royal blood of this ancestor is coursing in the veins of the youthful Czar who is now guiding so well the imperial ship. In December, 1859, Czar Alexander II., freed by a ukase, or edict, forty million serfs in the Russian Empire. It created no war; there was no impelling force behind him to compel him to do this, but a grand impulse for the good of humanity moved his soul and the serfs went free. On that Mrs. Bella A. Lockwood wrote:

"Let a glad shout of joy ascend,
And echo to the courts of heaven
To forty million souls an end
To slavery now is given!

"The Czar has sent the mandate forth,
Urged on by spirits bold and free;
And from the regions of the North
Far southward to the surging sea,

"Will freedom's banner be unfurled
When the New Year shall be ushered in,
And with new life that empire world
A renovation will begin."

Now from the same source, the largest empire in the world and comprising one-sixth of the habitable globe, comes the request for the most important conference ever convened by any ruler of empire or republic for the purpose of a general disarmament, and to do away with war, and he does this, not only on humanitarian grounds, but for economic and intellectual reasons.

Russia is to-day one of the great powers of the world, although ruled by an absolute monarch; and this avowal of a future policy of peace means a turning point in history and possibly, at least let us so hope, the pacification of the world.

Many people will work like beavers in the church when they can do it where everybody will see them.