

their sick; and their children are better educated in their colleges than in the public academies.

They neither pay taxes nor bear arms. But as every law may be evaded, so they found an expedient during the war for their independence, to unite their religious principles with the duties of society. When a collector of taxes enters a Quaker's house, he finds upon a table a bag of money, from which he takes the sum required, and departs without leaving any receipt. No one is permitted, under pain of excommunication, to assist at any public spectacle, frequent taverns, or plead. All their disputes are settled by their brethren, before whom the causes of complaint or accusation are laid. Their marriage is as simple as their other ceremonies. It consists in a simple declaration of their mutual intention to live together as man and wife, without being fettered by any vows or oaths. Their marriages are mostly the effect of reciprocal inclination, and the records of their society are said to furnish no instance of a divorce. This society bestows many considerable charities, and sends out a number of missionaries to civilize the Indians of the continent.

The Methodists are as tumultuous as the Quakers are silent; they take in a literal sense the words of scripture, "The kingdom of heaven must be gained by force; cry unto heaven, &c." Their prayers are noisy, and their singing, although agreeable, is remarkable for repeated ejaculations. Their ministers use most outrageous violence of gesticulation. They practise the most furious contortions, and walk up and down a sort of gallery which they mount instead of a pulpit, in a state of delirium. When the preaching is ended, the most zealous of the fraternity utter with a loud voice some of their imaginary inspirations, and the congregation bear witness to the celestial oracles. But the impression is gradual. From gentle expirations, they proceed to sighs, sighs are succeeded by sobs, sobs by loud lamentations, when each abandons himself to every species of extravagance which delirium can suggest.

I cannot forbear describing one of their ceremonies, which will enable us to judge of the elevation to which the human mind may be raised by religious enthusiasm. This ceremony, which takes place every three months, is appointed to receive into their society all those who are convinced of the superiority of Methodism over that which they formerly professed. Twelve women, and as many boys, being presented for admission, all the members began to entreat the Holy Spirit to illumine them. Some cry out, and agitate themselves in the most dreadful manner; others, imagining themselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit, testify their gratitude by immoderate fits of laughter. The new converts soon partake of their delirium, and give themselves up to every extravagance. I could not prevail on myself