

INTRODUCTION.

I, the writer, was born of Presbyterian parents in the county of Dutchess, state of New-York, in North America.

In the year 1801 I removed with my family into this province, and after a few years became a member of the society of the Quakers, at my own request, as I chose a spiritual people for my brethren and sisters in religion. But after I had been a member thereof about seven years, I began to speak something of my knowledge of God, or a Divine Being in the heart, soul, or mind of man, all which signifies the same to my understanding; but my language was offensive, my spirit was abhorred, my person was disdained, my company was forsaken by my brethren and sisters. After which I retired from the society, and was disowned by them for so doing; but several retired with me, and were disowned also, because they would not unite in the disowning and condemning the fruits of my spirit; for as I had been accounted a faithful member of the society for many years, they did not like to be hasty in condemnation. Therefore we became a separate people, and assembled ourselves together, under a separate order, which I immediately formed. After I retired from our former meetings, and as our discipline led to peace with all people more than any one in our knowledge, we called ourselves Children of Peace, because we were but young therein.

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