

To my mind this is the truth that Jesus spoke of to Pilate, the Christ of God that speaks directly to the individual soul.

And what is the reward we are to receive for attending to the promptings of this Divine Truth? A consciousness of having obeyed our Maker, which brings peace of mind, that peace that passeth all understanding, the reward of "Well done!"

It seems to me that the greatest pleasure one can have is this peace of mind that attends well doing, especially when there is a struggle between right and wrong. When right triumphs then we can fully appreciate the promises made to those who overcome. But we are not simply to live for ourselves, to so conduct our own affairs that we may not transgress. No one can live unto himself alone; each one has an influence upon his fellow-beings for good or evil, and we should strive to make that influence the best, live our lives more for others, follow the example of Jesus, whom we find giving his whole life for others.

Christian people should be thankful that the Lord did not choose any of the wise and learned to be the first messengers of His blessed truth to men, but that He selected one from among the humble people not learned in the ways of the world, not of high degree among men, that His message and work He sent him to do might come with less suspicion or jealousy of human wisdom and interest, hence with more force and clearness, upon the consciousness of those who sincerely sought the way of Truth.

If we look at the signs of the times and note the amount of wrong doing in almost every part of the civilized world the conclusion is forced upon us that man fails to recognize and appreciate the great privilege of being, if he will, a subject of this kingdom of God within.

This shows the importance of members of the Society of Friends living so closely to their profession as believ-

ing in the immediate workings of the Divine Spirit, thus becoming beacon lights to those who stand by, warning them against discovered dangers and practically pointing out the path of safe access to the desired haven. A practical showing of the great truth that "the kingdom of God is within," would go far toward gathering all men into it, and we who make this high profession are surely accountable as stewards over a great gift.

Practical righteousness is a living testimony to the reality of this heavenly government, and is more powerful than any vocal testimony however eloquent.

Truth is immortal, and if the principles of Quakerism are in accordance with Divine truth they are immortal, and will ever find a response in the human heart.

#### A FIRST EXPERIENCE OF A FRIENDS' MEETING.

\*Read at an Informal Conference on the views of Friends, 4th mo. 1st, 1882.)

I have heard it said that the best way to be a Quaker was to be born one. That may be the best way, but there is another good way; and that is to be one from conviction.

Some of you may be saying that these doctrines are very good for those who have never known anything else, so it has been thought best for me to give a few of the reasons why I became a Quaker.

Never shall I forget the Sunday morning, when in response to an invitation, I, for the first time, attended a Friends' Meeting. I was sure there would be something done at which I should laugh; for laughter and tears come easily. Those of you who are in the habit of attending a Friends' Meeting, will realize that the laughter did not come; but I cannot say so much for the tears.

Elizabeth L. Comstock preached from the text: "The idols be shall utterly abolish." Had she known all about me she would not have dared to say the things she did, as it seemed to