

goodness in these evil things, and no remedy can be found except by heroically going back to some first principles and beginning again. The commercialism of our day has struck too deep into our religion. It degrades our gift-making. It was the intense materialism of the seventeenth century that gave rise to the Society of Friends; they came to emphasize the truths of the Spirit, the Inner Light, the Christ within. Think you their mission is yet fulfilled? Can we not help to restore to this Christmas time its Christian dignity and Christ-like concern for the future? Can we not help to mature just habits, systematic discipline and thrift that makes for character, and to rejoice in the reign of the Christ-child, the blessed innocence of babyhood?

The early Friends entirely ignored all Holy Days - their duty was to live all days "as unto the Lord." The spirit of love or charity or friendly regard which should prompt the gift-giving should have all times and seasons for its own. In their fear of formal observance, and in their effort not to be worldly or to follow worldly ways, they have, to my thinking, missed many good things. Jesus said He came to fulfil, not to destroy—He asks us to take the world as it is, and fill it full of love and truth and goodness.

Christianity includes, it does *not* exclude. So on Christmas the old customs of all countries come and take part in our celebration. Let all join in the sacred carol, "Peace and good will toward men."

THE PEACE CONFERENCE OF THE CZAR.

(The following from New York Friends is self-explanatory.)

The Philanthropic Committee of New York Monthly Meeting desires to call the attention of all the Committees of the Philanthropic Union to the subject of the Disarmament Con-

vention, called in the Fifth mo. of this year, by the Czar of Russia.

We believe it to be an important step toward the abolition of war as a means of settlement for national difficulties, which is a reform in harmony with the fundamental principles of the Society of Friends.

We, therefore, urge that each of our committees do all in its power to awaken within its sphere of influence an enthusiastic desire for such conditions as shall reduce to a minimum the possibility of future war.

The work might be futhered by appeals through the press, and otherwise, to all religious and philanthropic bodies to lend their aid to strengthen public sentiment in this direction. What the voters of this country want will be heeded by its rulers. The sufferings entailed by war are fresh in our minds, and the time seems ripe for such a movement. It is but meet that we, a people pledged to peaceful methods, should be earnest and active in every effort that may be made to lead the nations to more enlightened and humane methods of settling international differences.

In this labor we shall follow the precedent of our forefathers, of whom a recent writer says. "There is no feature in the early history of Pennsylvania so striking or so suggestive of thought, as the efforts of the Friends, controlling the Assembly from 1681 to 1756, to maintain peace, to avoid war, and to keep clear of military responsibility."

Surely the Representative Committees of our seven Yearly Meetings will express themselves either unit or separately, to the authorities at Washington urging the hearty co-operation of the United States toward the desired end.

On behalf of the Philanthropic Committee of New York Monthly Meeting.

HENRY M. HAVILAND.
ELLA McDOWELL.

Clerks.