

winter, in the heart of a smoky city, in a solemn heavy meeting-house; and Friends mostly paid there own way, and slept in the comparative luxury of hotels. But the Swarthmore gathering was in a vast summer tent of elliptical shape, with the platform at one side; and in the warm days the canvas sides were lifted, and we looked out upon the lovely "campus" and its neighbouring woods, with the ivied walls of the great college as a background. There were 2,800 chairs on the boarded floor, and the aisles radiated from the platform. Often the seats were found insufficient, and a fringe of listeners crowded the outside or perched on the platform steps. Where attractions were great, seats were taken three quarters of an hour before. So that the gathering was twice as large as ours at Manchester, and young people were a larger portion thereof. For it was made very cheap. At all booking offices of all Railway Companies were posted the week before notices of fares there and back at two-thirds the usual price to ticket holders of "The Friends' Conference." And board and lodging for a week at the college were given gratis to Friends to the number of 1,442, besides private hospitality at Swarthmore, which accounted for 161 more; the number of dinners given daily at the college was over 2,000. 36,664 meals were given altogether.

It was done on this wise:—The Science Building was devoted to young men; the Girls' Gymnasium and the Lecture Hall to young women; smaller bedrooms were occupied by older Friends; cots with the mattress fixed to the frame, and pillow as part of mattress were laid on the floor as thick as they would lie; a hundred and twelve in one room. In the Chemical Laboratories men lay under rows of suggestive chemical bottles, and in the Physics department the dreaming must have been of dynamos. One blanket "covered" two cots, and nature's heat in a Pennsylvania August was ample for the rest.

The dining hall and a dining tent were filled with relays at meal times, and though the food was simple, the waitresses were a hundred Conference girls who took their turn at the work and made a commonplace meal superior thereby. Thus plain living and high thinking and generous hospitality, backed by splendid organization and lots of hard work for somebody in the background, carried the Conference through.

Indeed the electric light was almost the only external feature strikingly common to both gatherings. It might be said that the air of heaven was in both places, but that air is not a Manchester product, and what was a ventilator's draught with us came sweetly into the tent of the more favoured western gathering. And all day and far into the dim evening the college grounds, three hundred acres of sloping grass and grove, and wild woods steep down to the river, were dotted with groups in white summer dresses, bare-headed young men and girls who had been classmates at Swarthmore, and did not consider their "co-education" entirely finished.

The street of tents in the grove by the meeting-house was an enticing place to visit, and invitations were as free as, and more innocent than, from gipsies with less fair skins. "Dewdrow Inn" (*i.e.*, "do drop in," my non punning readers) was a favourite haunt of mine; in the next tent, "Sleepy Hollow," dwelt nine girls, belonging to that curious American institution, a fraternity. It would take too much of the valuable space of *the British Friend*, which already has two continents on its editorial shoulders, to tell what a fraternity is, but I may say that this was called Kappa Alpha Theta, and if this stands for Katharai the name fits, or even Kardiai apo Theou. What it does stand for, no outsider knows, and even an English visitor, to whom every kindness was shown, could not be told. And however correct may be one's views as to the mistake of overvaluing