

# Young Friends' Review

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## THE AWAKENING.

He that is engaged in life's work cannot justly estimate his true bearing and influence on the world; yet there comes at times a vision let down, as it were, from the upper world, revealing it truthfully to him. Neither does a society, if it is active at all, see the full extent of its influence upon the world, save as God grants it the seer vision. And how does such a vision reveal the state of the Society of Friends to-day, and its hope for the future; There are many minds among us that are indifferent; many that are despondent; some that even say that the mission of Quakerism is accomplished, that the

light and the life is passed from us, and that the dying body is even now wrapping around it the grave cloths of conventional custom to be laid away in the gloom of oblivion. I invite all who entertain any such judgment of the Society to discard it as untrue. The Society has had a wonderful influence towards liberalizing and spiritualizing the religion of the world in the past. This influence is not unfelt to-day; and if we are faithful to the requirements of God our influence will be felt in this line more and more until the whole world shall come to worship Him in "spirit and in truth." All Christianity is becoming less tenacious in its belief in an *angry, wrathful and revengeful* God, as has been so often pictured, and is coming to see Him as Jesus Christ represents Him, as a God of love—eternal love.

Christian nations, no doubt influenced greatly by the belief and example of Friends, who ever bore testimony against war, and who could not be made to fight when put to the test, are becoming awakened to the wrongfulness of all wars, that they originate in the lusts of man kind, and are contrary to God's nature and wish, who commands through His anointed Son that we should "*love* our enemies, and do good to those that hate us." A high standard indeed, but unless we practice it we cannot be the "children of our Father which is in heaven." Our Society has always recognized this fact, and are foremost to day in urging the nations to settle all their disputes by the peaceful means of arbitration. They early caught the strains of Isaiah's prophecy and sing it over again: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The Society has its testimonies to bear and its duties to perform in these lines yet, and in others more numerous than our predecessors had. But all of these may be summed up in the doctrine of the "Inner Light" of "immedi-