

appeared fully to embrace the doctrine of peace on earth and goodwill to men, repudiating the spirit and maxims of war." \*

Two or three years later he wrote:

By this time the friends of peace in New York had so much increased, that early in 1812, they deliberated on the expediency of forming a peace society, wholly confined to decided evangelical Christians, with a view to diffuse peace principles in the churches, avoiding all party questions. Our object was not to form a popular society, but to depend, under God, upon individual personal effort, by conversation and circulating essays on the subject; . . .

At this juncture, there was much political excitement and war was threatened against Great Britain, and fearing that our motives would be misapprehended we judged it not wise to form a peace society openly, until the public mind was more tranquil. In the mean time we resolved to be active individually in diffusing information on the subject, and answering the objections of our friends. I was appointed to prepare an essay on the subject, stating and answering objections.†

The result was the preparation and publication, in 1812, of an elaborate tractate entitled *War Inconsistent with the Religion of Jesus Christ*,‡ which expanded and modified the views briefly set forth in the *Mediator's Kingdom*,‡ and which can at this day be taken as an authoritative exposition of the views of those who believe that defensive as well as offensive war is inconsistent with the Christian religion.

A further quotation from the autobiography shows not only Mr. Dodge's interest in the peace movement but the progress it was making. "The friends of peace," he said, "had two or three meetings relative to the organization of a society. In August, 1815, they unanimously formed the New York Peace Society, of between thirty and forty members, probably the first that was ever formed in the world for that specific object." Mr. Dodge's society, the first in the world for the specific object of promoting peace, was not long allowed to remain in undisturbed possession of the field

\* *Memorial of Mr. David L. Dodge*, 1854, p. 90.

† *Ibid.*, p. 95.

‡ In 1905 Mr. Edwin D. Mead published Mr. Dodge's two tractates and prefixed an interesting biographical sketch of the author.