

nations, neither shall they learn war any more."

GOD IS LOVE

Read by Edgar M. Zevitz at the Philanthropic Session of Friends' First-day School, at Coldstream, on Christmas Day, 1892.

In the beginning was Love, the source of the world,
 And of all things that are ; and the mighty sustainer of all.
 By its power the planets are held on their orbits unerring,
 And the myriad worlds are suspended in limitless space ;
 By it too are the species of earth reproduced in succession
 After their kind, from the animalculæ up to man.
 In its own image and essence Love made man ;
 And gave itself to be the main-spring of all action.
 And while men are ruled by its beneficent influence
 Harmony reigns supreme, like music in harp-strings ;
 But in time man lost this impress of his Creator,
 And with it his peace, and joy, and honor and goodness ;
 And grating discord into the harmony came,
 And all was wrangling like from harpstrings broken or slackened.
 But Love so loved the world that it sent its influence down,
 That all might receive it and be transformed to its nature,
 And thus regain possession of life everlasting ;
 For Love is the only thing that endureth forever ;
 Love, and the things it endows with its own endless life.
 Creeds and beliefs, and grand ceremonial pomp,
 Rites and rituals, followed ever so closely,
 Are outweighed by the gift of a cup of cold water, through Love,
 To a stranger in need. Pure religion is prompted by Love,
 It visits the widows and orphans, and soothes their affliction,
 It clothes the naked, and feeds the hungry and poor,
 It tends the sick, and comforts the lone and forsaken,
 It blossoms in generous thoughts and fruits in good deeds,
 The first and the chiefest commandment to men is " to love,"
 And the second is like unto it and repeats it, " to love,"
 And the essence of all the commandments is summed up in " love."
 If we love our brother how shall we steal his goods ?

How speak to him falsely, or of him unjustly, unkindly ?
 How shall we take his life, on the public gillows,
 On the field of bloody war, or in some lone wood ?
 How shall we chain him and make him our slave for life
 Because his skin has a different hue from ours ?
 Or because his religion is worse or better than ours
 How shall we make him recant, or burn at the stake ?
 Love envieth not, and is kind, and thinketh no evil.
 It was purely love that *Jesus* came to reveal :
 It was this that made his life-course worthy to follow ;
 This that made him for *all* men a worthy example.
 This above all things he taught as the *summum bonum*,
 The supreme gift ; and the greatest thing to covet.
 " Love your enemies," banish hatred and envy,
 Did he not teach to the children of men when among them ?
 " Put up thy sword, my kingdom is not of this world :"
 " This is my body," he says to Judas Iscariot,
 Meaning the love that ministered to the betrayer.
 And when nailed to the cross it was love that caused him
 To plead for his enemies, saying " O Father ; forgive them."
 This love was the life-blood he shed from Calvary's mount.
 'Tis the only power that can ever redeem the world,
 Redeem it and save it with an everlasting salvation.
 Lo ! it is better to lose our life than our love
 Better a few brief years to miss, than eternity.
 " God is love " and if *we* have retained the impress
 With which we were endowed we shall be also love ;
 And never a thought of envy would lodge in our minds,
 And never a plan of hate would be fashioned there,
 But each would esteem another as good as themselves,
 Since all are sprung from the common fountain of love.
 Love is God ; not the selfish love of the world,
 But love that loves our enemies as ourselves ;
 Love that carries comfort to all that feels ;
 Love that thinks no evil or ill of any ;
 Love that speaks no word to wound a brother ;
 Love that does no deed to injure another ;
 That Love that fruited rich in the life of *Jesus*,
 And said within him, " I am the Way, and the Life."