

to have been lost sight of by the writer of the editorial, namely, the lesson of instant *obedience*. This lesson was sadly needed by the boys who live in the poor districts of New York. While the military drill is contrary to Friends' doctrines, still there did not seem to be anything else to supply its place.

The Chairman of the Current Topics Section, Franklin W. Noble, spoke to us very earnestly of the duty of all civilized governments to protest against a repetition of the recent atrocious Armenian massacres by the Turks.

The History Section presented three papers on the condition of England at the beginning of the ministry of George Fox. Mary Hutchinson gave us a very good idea of the social life of the times. The strict observance of the Sabbath under Cromwell, was contrasted with the merry-making and licentiousness during the Stuart dynasty. The political condition was referred to in Norman Stringham's paper, read by Amy J. Miller, in which the violation of the charter by the King, bringing his own downfall, was presented. William L. Dudley, chairman of the Section, told us of the religious aspect of those days. The laws against non-conformity during the reformation under Henry the VIII. became so burdensome that the dissatisfaction, first manifested itself in secret meeting, finally culminated in the open resistance, regardless of persecution, which won for us our present religious freedom.

Many interesting remarks followed on the origin of the customs and manners peculiar to Friends. Edward Hutchinson suggested an expression of opinion as to whether the conditions of the times influenced George Fox to begin his ministry, or whether his spiritual growth would have been the same in any age. Edward P. Rawson thought the latter was the case.

After the usual silence the Association adjourned, to meet in Brooklyn the second First Day evening in 12th month.

C. A. M.

YOUNG FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

The Trenton Friends Association was held 11th mo. 26th. There were present Robert and Esther Barnes, of Purchase Quarterly Meeting, Joseph Powell, of Darby, and other valued Friends, all of whom added greatly to the interest of the meeting and our encouragement—some by speaking and some by their pronounced interest in being present.

The literary exercises were opened by Anna E. Watson reading Robert S. Haviland's paper upon the "Inner Light." Much discussion followed. He had differing expressions upon the meaning of these words, but believed from all could be sifted the idea that it was the influence of God upon the individual—given direct from God—which taught them the right way of living; that it was always a true guide and if we were faithful it would ever lead us aright, was a natural inheritance, to be attended to and cultivated, and not to be a mystery—that we all possessed it, but too many selfish motives thwarted its work. The difference between conscience and this Light was not clear to all, but most of the expressions claimed a decided distinction, and that conscience was the instrument upon which the Inner Light worked. It was feared that Friends of the present err in adopting the light of early Friends instead of living in the light of to-day, as in this way we were liable to become dogmatic.

The next was a paper by Abram V. Robinson on "The Friend as a Citizen." He contended the man who did not attend to his duties as a citizen could not fulfil his duties as a Christian, and that "it was not sufficient for a Friend to stand by and criticise the conduct of others, and lament the condition of affairs. He thereby becomes his own accuser, but he must rather put his shoulder to the wheel and let his surplus energy be expended in effective work.

The discussion was limited as the