

Young Friends' Review

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BY S. P. & EDGAR M. ZAVITZ

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WOMEN AS PREACHERS.

In a criticism of an article on this subject, which appeared in the New York *Herald*, and was copied into the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* of 1st mo. 11, which stated that "women ministers are distinctly a product of the advanced period of the nineteenth century, and it is a remarkably significant fact that thirty years ago there was not one ordained in the United States," David Wilson, of Wenona, Ill., makes the following statement :

"I see by this that the Religious Society of Friends has been utterly ignored, whereas they have acknowledged and practiced perfect equality in the ministry. And the truth is that they

have been pioneers in the work of elevating woman to her work in the ministry, believing that the God-given ability gives the warrant. For over 200 years Friends have had recommended and recorded women ministers, which amounts to an ordination with them. Mary Dyer was publicly executed on the Boston Common by Governor Endicott for her zeal in the Master's cause as a minister, and there was Elizabeth Fry, the great preacher and humanitarian of England, and Lucretia Mott, the great preacher and philanthropist; honest, truthful, and sincere, one among the grandest women of the century, who fought slavery with an 'eternal vigilance which was the price of liberty.' She lived to see the shackles fall from 3,000,000 slaves, and the nation to-day calls her blessed. No ordained women ministers, indeed, of an ancient date! Why, such women as Elizabeth Fry and Lucretia Mott, and a host of others that I might mention, were ordained of God, long before the puny arm of man acknowledged their gifts. The truth is, the Friends do not get the credit that is properly their due, because in their rise and progress they have taken the unpopular side of most every question that to-day is practical and popular, and the stand taken allowing women to preach the gospel was one of them.

DAVID WILSON."

The article referred to might as truthfully have said that the Society of Friends has never had a ministry. The amount of ignorance, and stupid indifference to the truth manifested by much of the secular press, is remarkable. And yet I have thought that the modesty of the Friends in pressing the justice of their claims as pioneers in the promotion of many reforms, which are often only acknowledged long afterwards, and the early workers are forgotten, is the cause of some, at least, of such unjust statements as those noted above. The statements are true, no doubt, outside of the Friends, for only