

object of attraction was the Lord Protector, Cromwell, in his coach. Oliver was now at the zenith of his glorious career. He had made England great and respected among the nations of the earth. Everywhere he was acting as the defender of the Reformed Faith, and even the great Mazarene trembled before him and ceased his persecutions when Oliver spoke, for he knew that the Protector's word meant something, and would soon be followed by the deed. No sooner did George espy Cromwell in Hyde Park, than, remembering the kind reception of former days, he rode towards his coach. The guards would have driven him off, but Oliver recognized his friend, and stopping his carriage, waved him to approach. The burden of George's message was the sufferings of the Friends, their imprisonments and cruel persecutions, and how contrary all this was to the spirit of christianity. Oliver listened patiently, and desired him to come to his house in Whitehall. Once more they stood face to face—the stern soldier who had, by the sword, overturned the throne of the Stuarts, and the meek Quaker, whose warfare was purely spiritual, and whose principles forbade him to take the sword even in self-defence. For some reason which is not stated, the Lord Protector's mood was not, on this occasion, so gracious and propitious as at their former interview. Their conversation took a theological turn, perhaps unfortunately for the object George had in view; and they got into a discussion regarding the Quaker doctrine of "the inner light." Cromwell seems to have suspected the soundness of the principle, and perhaps hinted that it might delude a man by leading him away from the written word. George's meek anger was roused, and he was moved to bid the Lord Protector "lay down his crown at the feet of Jesus," and over and over he repeated his exhortation. The Lord Protector pithily, and perhaps with too much truth, retorted on George that his enormous self-confidence was none of the least of his attainments, and at the same time, as Fox's Journal records, he came over to the table where George was standing, and sat down on the end of it, saying, "I was determined to be as high as the Quaker;" and spoke some light things to the grave and serious George, half-mocking, half-rebuking his "enormous self-confidence." Disconcerted and displeased, George retired; and when the Lord Protector went in his wife and other company, and described the interview, he said half-regretfully, "I never parted so from them before." One fancy that curious scene, more than two hundred years ago,—