

in which the Quakers associated themselves with anti-slavery, abolition of wars, prison reform, and the treatment of the insane. Throughout the whole history of the Society of Friends, from its earliest foundation to the present day, the practice of charity may be traced in a singularly clear and beautiful manner. It commenced with the small committees, appointed to aid those of their numbers, who were enduring persecution for their religious and political opinions; and afterwards expanding, grew larger and larger until it embraced the whole human race.

Appearing at a time when all England was embroiled in a sanguinary civil war; when rival parties, notwithstanding their bitter animosity and murderous intent, claims to be the disciples of peace and the defenders of the Church and Kingdom; yet, amid the jarring passions and heated party feelings that surrounded them, bore unswerving testimony against war. The polemical strife was little less bitter than the military contest had been. The uncharitable and intemperate feelings fostered by excited discussions on controverted points of doctrine, led men to judge each other, under the impress of prejudice and sectarian predilection, rather than by the standards of revealed truth and the dictates of a sound mind.

The spirit of intolerance and persecution manifested itself stronger than ever, but the indefatigable fanatic was undaunted. To die at his post and at peace with God, was to garner life's richest harvest. It was the patriotism of Leonidas, sacrificing his life for Grecian independence; the inspiration of John Huss battling against the Romish Church; the long and patient suffering of Washington during that cold and cheerless winter at Valley Forge. It was thought crystalized into action; bravery immortalized; principle made Godlike. For with the flight of two centuries of suffering, and persecution, was seen a partial triumph of his untiring energy and perseverance.

In 1855 the Crimean war had drawn to a close. Russia for more than a year had withstood the combined forces of England and France. But the fall of the Asiatic fortress at Kars, was the final blow to all her ancient vanity and glory. Protesting against war and capital punishment, they had constantly labored to bring national disputes before a tribunal, as personal contests are brought before courts, there to be settled by established rules and right reason, not by brute force and the accidents of war.

"No honors of war to the Quakers belong.
Their plain stem of life never flowered in song.
But the fountains they opened still gush by
the way,
And the world for their healing is better to-day."

Scarcely had the great powers met at Paris to settle the terms of peace, when a deputation of Quakers hastened to the spot. Now was the time to put forth their most earnest endeavors. Lord Clarendon was persuaded to use his influence to have a clause inserted in the treaty, that in case of another war the parties shall be bound to refer the matter to arbitration. It was accomplished. A victory for humanity was won; and of such a victory the Geneva arbitration and the general tendency on the part of all civilized nations, to settle their disputes without war, are the fruits.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Friends First-day School General Conference, composed of delegates and other interested Friends from the seven Yearly Meetings of our Society in America, convened this year near Pendleton, Indiana. Its first session was held 9th mo. 6th, and was followed by three sessions on the 8th and 9th.

The seven yearly meetings were quite fully represented, and love and good feeling prevailed throughout.

The result of the deliberations will be felt through our school for the next two years at least, and cannot be but