

GENESEE YEARLY MEETING.

Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends, which began its business sessions at Sparta, Ontario, 6th mo. 15th, and closed on the 18th, proved to be one of the most interesting which it has held for many years; rather fewer in numbers in attendance than usual, yet it lacked not in life nor interest. The meeting of ministers and elders was held on Seventh-day, the 13th, and also the first session of the First day School Association, both of which proved profitable occasions. The morning and afternoon meetings, for worship, on First day were largely attended, many coming from long distances. The order was exceptionally good, and the attention paid to what was said indicated that the gathering came not through curiosity, but to be helped; or, if "they came to scorn, they remained to pray." Under the baptising influence of the Spirit of Truth, both in the silence and in the spoken Word, all were tendered and Divinely fed.

In regard to the meetings, and especially the one on First-day morning, the following notice, which is fairly correct, appeared in *The Evening Journal* (St. Thomas) of the following day:—

"Once in three years the annual Meeting of the Society of Friends is held at Sparta. The other two years it meets elsewhere. Yesterday, it being only of a religious character, it is always open to the general public, at which times it has become the custom for great numbers of those living in the vicinity to meet with them, and it thus becomes an event of general interest.

"As is usual, there was a very large gathering yesterday in and about their plain, yet attractive meeting house, situated as it is in the midst of a natural grove. The weather was perfection itself, and lent an additional inducement for those at a distance to be in attendance. Many from St. Thomas had either driven down or mounted

their silent steeds, and were there in force.

"Not a few of our business men and women love the quiet and serenity of these religious meetings, and, for the while, lay aside the care and commotion of trade and enjoy the sedative influences within those favored walls. Neither is the youth and beauty of the land lacking, for there they are to add life and animation to the event of the year.

"The morning session was opened by an impressive prayer by Isaac Wilson, of Bloomfield, Ont. Joel Borton, of Woodstown, N.J., then arose, and, from the first, held the large gathering in perfect harmony, and not a person leaving to disturb the meeting. The speaker began by saying that our existence is not confined to the present, but means both life now and life hereafter. He desired that, if we had any other gods, let us lay them aside for the present, for He says: 'If ye love anything more than Me, ye are not worthy of Me.'

"It is because we are disobedient so often, that we do not succeed in life. This is why we do not live together in harmony. In our dealings with our neighbor, we impose upon them, too often treating them unjustly. If we will come to obey that 'voice within' we shall not only have the blessings of this world, but make a successful passage to that higher and happier one.

"The next speaker was Isaac Wilson, who discoursed from the passage, 'Neither do I Condemn Thee.' The speaker did not believe in coercion in a religious sense. We are not driven into the Kingdom of Heaven. If we are of a contrite heart we will cease doing evil, and love to do well. We shall realize a flowing in of the Divine Spirit into their hearts. But we must not be satisfied with ceasing to do evil. We must do good to others about us. This is what God asks and expects of us in this beautiful world.

"Miss Mary Borton, of New Jersey, in a few well selected sentences, sym-