

of our visiting friends were given, and a feeling prevailed that all who had been hungering after food of a divine nature had been fed. This meeting, and the Public Meeting on First-day, were largely attended. The latter was addressed solely by Isaac Wilson, who dwelt on the simplicity of the religion of Jesus of Nazareth—the important part we had in working out our salvation—and the importance of our being willing to faithfully fulfil our part.

Isaac Wilson had an appointed meeting at Union (five miles from Yarmouth meeting-house) at 4.30 p.m. on First-day afternoon. The hall in which it was held was full, and the meeting satisfactory—encouraging to the few Friends who live in that neighborhood.

Like rain falling in torrents upon the parched earth after long continued droughts come these outpourings of love and goodness, which are so often experienced by thirsting souls at these larger meetings, refreshing, giving new life and new hope. But we must remember that it is the gentle showers often repeated and the imperceptibly falling dew which gives all nature the proper conditions for right growth. So if we desire true growth we must place ourselves in a condition to receive each day the dews of Heaven or the showers of God's love and goodness.

S. F. Z.

Coldstream, 5th month 28, '86.

The following is the epistle of New York First-day School Association to that of Genesee; but coming too late, and containing much of interest, we give it space in our paper.—EDS.

Permitted again to assemble in conference upon the interests of the First-day School cause, our hands have been strengthened and our hearts warmed by the reports received, and by the evidences of the continued zeal in the work. There is certainly abundant reason for thankfulness in the thought that the work in which we are specially engaged has gradually commended itself to the favorable opinion of the Society, and that it has at length won for itself a sincere and cordial recognition. Henceforward hand-in-hand with other vital concerns of our beloved organization it will

receive the nurture and strength the body may give; and in return, we trust it may prove so true to its mission that it will so imbue the young people who come under its influence with a love of truth, of piety, and of the principles of our religious society as to make them active and earnest in the promotion and dissemination of these principles, and thus diffuse new life and vigor into the body. That the cause has so far prospered is due, not to "creaturely activity," but to an earnestness on the part of the teachers born of conviction; to an inspiration as real as actuates the true preacher—to a reliance, as we verily believe upon a Divine Power to direct and control their efforts, and their labors—to a devout and prayerful spirit. Now, as in times of Gamalial, the law still holds: "If this work be of men it will come to naught, but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it;" and upon this law must its future be based, and to this law, therefore, do we feel drawn to commend all who would labor among the little ones in the First-day School. But while thankful for so much, we nevertheless feel that so far our work has been in the main negative, preparatory, hardly more! it has been clearing away obstacles—overcoming opposition—removing indifference. It has been educating a part of a generation into a belief that, properly conducted, the First-day School is a useful supplement to the home and the meeting. The idea has just fairly become rooted, and the minds of parents are even now, but just realizing how important a function it may come to perform—how exalted a mission is within its scope.

Without complacency, without pride, we may claim that a good foundation has been laid—a good beginning laid—the real work is yet to come.

Beloved Friends to whom these words may come, we beseech you not to toss them carelessly aside. You believe in Quakerism—you love its simple faith—you admire its freedom from shams and ceremonies and needless forms, you cling lovingly to its traditions even. You would emulate the virtues, the sturdy and courageous zeal of the dear fathers and mothers in the Church; and while desiring all these things you too desire, no less, to push on the standard to make it worthy even more of your own and your children's acceptance. How