

GEORGE FOX.

calamity, where have we turned for support? If we turn to that Heavenly Father believing that He is near, His spirit giveth witness to our spirits and we rely upon Him. And when He manifests Himself to the world it will be the same as it was when Jesus manifested Himself on the plains of Judea.

The words are as binding to-day as they were then. "Seek first the Kingdom of God."

Some may think it a condition that we are to arrive at after death, when we will be in a joyous kingdom. I apprehend that there is a more immediate understanding of that kingdom to every soul that will seek it.

If thou realise that thou art a child of God, and that He is implanted in thy nature, seek to know of Him. Seek for the Kingdom of God, and when thou seekest Him and He says to thee, "Obey and I will be thy God," turn to Him when tempted. When trials come, fly to thy Heavenly Father in prayer. That is worship, when we realize that our Heavenly Father is near. When we turn to Him for strength, for help in the hour of trial. When He comes near we resist temptation, we obey His voice, and His Kingdom is in our hearts.

Seek first the Kingdom, obey His voice, and find light and life. There is a blessing to those that seek, for they shall find, and there is no way except through the spirit, for that is the way effectual worship is performed.

"They that worship must worship in spirit and in truth." Christ is the way unto the Father. He declared to the children of men, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," and "No man cometh to the Father but by me." So we must come to this spirit of the Father, given to men, enabling us to come, and it is important that we not only become acquainted with the Father and be at peace, but that we may be more watchful, more prayerful, and have a daily concern to become more intimately acquainted with things divine.

Essay read by Bertha E. Bailey at the First-day School entertainment, held at the time of Half Yearly Meeting, at Sparta, Ont.

Two hundred and seventy years ago George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, was born in Leicestershire, England. His parents were members of the English Church, and trained their son in accordance with its views. But he was observing and enquiring, and would not blindly accept the doctrines of any church.

So, seeing many of those around him, who professed to be Christians, to be without true piety, he began to wonder if the doctrines and beliefs of the Church were not at fault. Desirous of finding light and life he lived apart from men and spent his time in studying the Holy Scriptures, seeking to find in the written words the way to life eternal.

He did not find it there, nor could the parish priests to whom he went give him any help. At last, when almost despairing of finding peace, he heard the voice of the Spirit saying, "There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition." And from this "still, small voice," he heard the way of life and was filled with the peace which "passeth all understanding." He now saw that a true believer was born of God and had passed from death unto life, that the temple of the living God was the house not made with hands, even the heart of his child, and that a true minister of God received power from on High. Finding these views conflicted with the English Church he left off attending their services and went to the fields to read his Bible, that Bible he could now understand, because he was "in the spirit which gave it forth."

Having now found life and peace he desired to impart to those around him the way of life eternal. He found a people who were dissatisfied with the doctrines of the churches then in existence. These people were known by the names of "Seekers" and the "Fam-