

A NOTED QUAKER.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE LATE
SUNDERLAND P. GARDNER.

(Correspondence of the Democrat and Chronicle.)

Canandaigua, Feb 15.—The death of the noted Quaker preacher, Sunderland P. Gardner, at his home in Farmington, at the age of 91 years, brings to mind many interesting reminiscences in connection with the life of this man, whose influence and religious teachings were so wide-spread and potent for the many years in which his remarkable personality and energetic, determined characteristics rendered him a conspicuous figure in the sphere of ecclesiastical work. The subject of the sketch was of English descent, and was born in the city of Albany, July 4, 1802. With his parents he removed to Ontario county, in the year 1810. His father, upon arriving at Farmington, settled upon the farm which he continued to occupy until his death, and which has since been occupied by Sunderland P. Gardner. Mr. Gardner's education was limited to what training was obtainable in the country schools of the period, but his thirst for intellectual development was so great as to lead him into the closest investigation of religious and spiritual questions, and he cultivated a liberal thought, coming to be recognized as a person of remarkable conception and extensive learning. His family were ardent believers in the religious teaching of the sect to which he afterward belonged, and although the son was raised as a farmer, upon reaching years of maturity, his intellectual culture and thoughtful qualities lead him to enter the ministry and he determined to devote his life to evangelical work and the teaching of the scriptures. Without having had the opportunity for theological training, he devoted himself to the pursuit of his mission, and soon obtained a familiarity with the gospels which became a matter of

wide comment, and brought him prominently before the public as a preacher of extraordinary ability. His eloquence rendered him a conspicuous character in another light and he came in a few years to be known as the ablest and most prominent preacher in the order of Friends in the United States, a position which he maintained undisputedly for many years. At the annual assemblies of the Friends he was the ruling influence in all deliberations pertaining to church matters and declarations of creed, and travelled in the interest of the belief over his own country and Canada, and visited various sections of North America as a missionary. He was known as an extempore speaker almost exclusively, never confining himself to notes, and delivering his address under the inspiration, as he said of divine direction endeavoring to please and influence the heart rather than delight the ear. Many of his sermons have been published and widely circulated, gaining great public favor. He was also an occasional contributor upon religious and philosophical subjects to the press. During the exciting period of the civil conflicts, Mr. Gardner was an active worker in the cause of freedom, the tenets of his faith making him a fine abolitionist. It is narrated that his conscientious dread and opposition of measures of war led him to refuse to participate in the regular "trainings" of these times, and he also refused to pay his "training tax." For this breach of law he was arrested and confined for a time in the county jail, where he found as some of his companions the well-known N. G. Cheesebore and other leading citizens of Western New York, who were at that time incarcerated upon the charge of having abducted the Masonic exposé, Morgan. Mr. Gardner became the confidant of his famous companions in chains, so that it is probable that by his death the last person perishes who has the secret of the remarkable affair which has become a tradition often revived in the fraternal world. Regarding war and its ac-