

Christian Church. After the resurrection the church advanced rapidly in numbers until to the Jewish persecutions were added, those instigated by the Roman Emperor, the ruler of the world. No persecution, however, could stop the advance of Christianity, and its adherents were so faithful to the teachings of its Divine Founder that many cut off their thumbs to disable them for the service of the soldier, and great numbers suffered death rather than take up arms. But the years pass by and at last, on the throne of the Empire, we see one who stands ready to embrace Christianity. Some think Constantine sincere in his motives; others believe he was actuated by policy, as a great number of his best and most useful subjects were now Christians, but whatever his motive it was a sad day for the early church when it was patronized by one so high in power that in return it must not only yield up its peace principles but adopt other customs equally at variance with Christ's teachings. I think we may call this the first fall of Christianity, and glancing down the ages, although many glorious references arise at intervals to purify the church, yet through it all we see the armies of so-called Christian nations arrayed against each other in mortal combat, and amid the din of battle as man strikes down his fellow-man, we hear the war cry shouted, often coupled with the name of the "Prince of Peace." But through all the centuries of conflict here and there were little companies of Christians, true to the commands of Christ, but the remnant was so small as to almost escape notice. Not until the rise of Friends was the banner of peace again held aloft to be seen of all men. We are all familiar with the sufferings the Friends endured on account of their peace principles, but I think few of us realize how much our testimonies have had to do with the growth of arbitration. When others have become discouraged and yielded to what they termed expediency, Friends have up-

held the banner of peace and arbitration alike in times of favor or disfavor.

We all know the striking instances of the superiority of arbitration over what otherwise would have been war, which the world has witnessed in the last few years; and in view of it I think we have much to encourage us, and may our Society be ever in the van of progress in all that will make the world better, until we may realize the blessed reality of the words: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

LYDIA J. MOSHER.

IN HOPES OF A RESURRECTION

Thy leaves are gone, oh, maple tree,
Each widening branch is stripped and bare;
And like a thing that's stricken hard
By cruel death—how standest there;
Keep up thy heart, oh, maple tree,
Thro' all the winter's grief and pain,
A splendid spring shall come to thee
And green thy crest with leaves again.

Where are thy leaves? Lo, are they not
The blanket that the Lord provides?
They make the thick and cosy cot
In which each helpless creature hides.
The little creeping bugs and beasts
Creep in beneath that shelter warm;
The harmless toad finds shelter there;
They keep the tender grass from harm.

Thou sheddest all thy splendid crown
To save them from the snow and sleet,
The tender creatures lay them down
And slumber safely round thy feet.
Cheek to cheek they cuddle deep.
They hear the tempest o'er them ring;
They close their eyes and go to sleep.
While murmuring: "We're safe till spring."

And thou my soul—a lesson learn
From tree and toad, from branch and bug—
From every little helpless thing
Which sleeps beneath that blanket snug;
That when the frost of Death divides
The leaves that to thy branches cling,
Remember that the Lord provides
For thee, my soul, eternal spring!
—The Khan, *Toronto Globe*.

"Forms are as essential as bodies; but to exalt particular forms, to adhere to one form a moment it is outgrown, is unreasonable, and it is alien to the Spirit of Christ."—Emerson.