

**THE SOCIETY OF
FRIENDS AND
ITS MISSION**

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The Society of Friends and Its Mission by James Wood

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JAMES WOOD

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Book

The Society of Friends



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AND ITS MISSION

BY

JAMES WOOD

Read at the World's Congress of Religions,
Chicago, Ninth Month, 22d, 1893

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

AND

ITS MISSION.

The Religious Society of Friends is so small a portion of the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth that it becomes us to speak very modestly of her and her mission. But other and much larger branches of the Christian Church have recognized that she has had an important place in the body of Christ and has been instrumental in accomplishing much good for mankind, and it is proper in speaking of her on this occasion that we should unite with modesty, perfect frankness. She has stood almost alone in the world in upholding portions of Gospel truth that she has believed to be clearly

taught in the Holy Scriptures and peculiarly important to Christian believers. She has not claimed to receive anything more than is given to others, but, having been enabled to see some precious truths in their simplicity and beauty, she has felt it to be her duty to her Master and to those whom He has redeemed to maintain them before the world. These have made her a peculiar people and have given character and direction to all her religious and philanthropic work.

The key of her position as a separate branch of the Church is the great truth taught by our Saviour when He said: "If a man love me he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know

Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." This truth was strikingly emphasized by the Apostle Paul when he said to the Corinthians, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" This is the most exalting truth ever announced to man as pertaining to his existence in this life. He who fails to know and realize it comes infinitely short of the glory God offers to him here.

This was no new truth that George Fox announced to the world. The Church knew of it theoretically, but it had been lost sight of as a practical reality. George Fox believed, and in his own experience found, that our Saviour's words were the clear and simple statement of a great reality, and that to every converted soul that completely surrenders to the dominion of Christ He comes, by the Holy Spirit, to abide; there, as faith