

**THE MESSAGE OF
QUAKERISM TO
THE PRESENT DAY**

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The Message of Quakerism to the Present Day by Evelyn M. Noble

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EVELYN M. NOBLE

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BY
EVELYN M. NOBLE.

"Let your lives preach."— *George Fox.*

LONDON:
EDWARD HICKS, JR.
14, BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT,
AND
2, AMEN CORNER.
1893.

TO
RICHARD AND CAROLINE J. WESTLAKE,
IN MEMORY OF A
MOST HELPFUL FRIENDSHIP,
AND
IN THANKSGIVING FOR MUCH SPIRITUAL LIGHT.

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INTRODUCTION.

INSPIRATION.

"Let each of us sit still, and keep watch for awhile in the silent house of his spirit. . . . As near as is the light to one sleeping in the light, so near is Christ, the Awakener, to every Eternal man, deeply as he may be asleep within his outer man."

JOHN PULSFORD.

IF we consult a dictionary, we shall find two meanings given to explain the word *Inspiration*: "a drawing in of the breath;—an infusing into or stirring up in the mind, something above the natural ability of man, by the influence of the Holy Spirit of God;" these, or some similar explanations, will be given of Inspiration. But if laying aside the dictionary, we consult an inspired soul, he will tell us it is the Breath of God, which is the true life of man. A man, for instance, like John Pulsford, with whom the thought-transference between God and his own spirit has become the most blessed reality of daily life, will explain to us that Inspiration is not something transcending the natural ability of our minds; not something given once to certain Jews, and afterwards withheld; but is the true and ever present atmosphere of healthy spiritual life. In the beautiful words quoted above, "as near as is the light to one sleeping in the light."

"God is as clearly calling Christians," he will say, "as, in a former age he called Jews, out of their old limits into broader places. . . . Whoever, therefore, abides by his own, or his forefathers' stereotyped conceptions, may be a worshipper of Christ's tomb, but he has parted company with the living Christ."

Those, therefore, to whom Inspiration means only something pressed between the covers of their Bibles, know little of its reality. To them, Christ's promise that He