EXPERIENCE.

It was during the closing days of the great Civil war,(1865) when the air was filled with the dreadful reports of battles fought and thousands slain that the Lord captured my soul. There was, I am sure, an *unconditional surrender* on my part. All plans of life, all my ideas of right and wrong were at once made subject to the one great question '*Lord what wilt thou have me to do?* I at once realized a change of heart. That old hatred to the Rebels was gone and in its place a willing, loving sympathy sprang up, that made me desire to lend a helping hand to even our most wicked enemies wherever found in distress. The questions, 'Will you still encourage your friends to enlist, as you have been doing? Is this war business consistent with your new-found peace and joy of the soul? I I could not answer, for it seemed that a lad under twenty years ought not to decide so grave a matter without serious and prayerful consideration. However I told the Lord, that whenever he chose to teach me that war was contrary to his will, I would listen, and by his help learn the truth, and obey. Four years passed; then I met an earnest pastor and in our conversation one day we recounted the awful waste of the war, the loss of life and treasure and evil effects following. Said he, 'how much better it would have been if we had bought the slaves and set them free.' After figuring a little I answered 'Yes, the North could have paid $1,000. each for all the slaves, large and small, and still have expended less than was spent for the war. During this conversation the minister went to his library and selected two small pamphlets, saying, 'Here is something on this very subject. I will lend them to you.' They were 'An Appeal to Ministers in behalf of Peace' and 'The Peace Cause, its Aims, Means, and Measures'. I took these home with me, and read them very earnestly, and it is plain that God began then to teach me PEACE PRINCIPLES. I saw a great field of Philanthropy that was almost totally neglected. I learned that the true Peace-reformer had the precepts and examples of Christ on his side and that the Quaker view of war was opposite to that held by us Methodists and either we or they must be wrong. For three years this matter lay upon my mind as an unsettled question. What *do I believe*, and what *ought I to teach* concerning this subject? Then I became aroused and determined to give the whole matter a thorough examination and find out what God would have *us* do about it, for I had now become a husband and father, and we were anxious to do *all* the will of the Master. Wife and I then spent several months reading tracts, books, and papers; talking with aged Christians, ministers and teachers; praying and studying the Bible with these questions in mind 'Lord, what wilt thou have us to do? We must not make a mistake here; we *must know* thy mind concerning this work before we can enter upon it. Then we began to see the way only a step before us, but it was very NARROW and STRAIGHT. The only ground for our feet to rest on was the Quaker view of literal obedience to Christ, using only those weapons which are spiritual for the defense of life or home. Together wife and I went down into this experience and chose the reproach of being known as crazy on the Peace question. Just at this time the College in our town introduced a military department, which required each male student to spend an hour a day learning the trade of war. This led us to publish our views in the local paper, and led to many serious talks on the subject both in public and private.

Some two or three years after this we were on our way to attend our first holiness camp-meeting at Cedar Rapids. Then the question of a full and complete surrender of every DESIRE, PLAN, and THOUGHT came to mind. In going over the ground of our consecration we met the question 'will you give up your peculiar views about war? will you acknowledge before all the people that you have made a blunder and acted like a fool?' To this sharp thrust of the enemy we were able to say, Yes, Lord we will bear the shame; by thy help we will turn back if we find that we are in the wrong.

For ten days we entered heartily into the work of God along the line of thorough consecration and came from the meeting with our faith strengthened in the belief that our call is to teach a Gospel of Peace opposed to all carnal war. Twelve years have gone by since then. We dare not turn aside or go back. Praise the Lord! we know of a few near friends who have accepted these views through our instrumentality.

We wonder how our forefathers could have thought their liquor customs were sanctioned by the Word of God. We wonder how such ideas as that men could be bought and sold could ever have found a place in the minds of men who read the words of Jesus. But a greater wonder is this, that the mass of active, working Christians in Christendom have no words of condemnation for the custom of war, but rear their sons to look upon the soldier's trade as a business worthy of highest honor, and not in any wise contrary to the teaching and example of the Prince of Peace.

ED. DAY-STAR. Mt. Vernon, Ia. 1888.

Let your voice, wherever you are, be lifted up to spread the principle of 'Peace on earth.' Blessed principle! You *can not* err in trying to spread its influence. You *can not* err in lending your aid to banish war from the earth, a monster of pride, corruption, destructiveness, misery, and murder. Take your stand as the advocate of peace. Give no countenance to a system which could not continue a moment were the spirit and precepts of Christianity to prevail on earth. Let all around you understand that you are as conscientiously *peaceful*, as you are honest or pure. *Howard Malcolm.*