

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

Seeing there are sundry reports circulating through the newspapers, calculated to injure us, as a people, we have thought it right to issue, in our collective capacity, a short refutation of such as the following :

First. "Gen. P——— is encamped near Richmond, Indiana, with two Regiments of Quakers."—*Richmond Whig*

Second. "The Lincoln forces, in their advances towards Maassas, obtained, as guides, a number of Quakers living in the neighborhood of Accotine Mills, about eight miles from Alexandria. One of these, a man of the name of Stiles, a New Jersey Quaker, for the sum of three dollars a day, was engaged to pilot companies of pillagers to every house where plunder might be obtained."—*Richmond Examiner*.

In reference to the *first*, we would inform our readers that many portions of the West are thickly settled by Quakers, some of whose sons may have departed from the faith of their fathers, so far as to join the Army ; (as we know a few have in some of the Confederate States,) but their so doing only proves that they have forsaken the principles of Friends ; for the taking up the weapons of a carnal warfare is expressly contrary to the rules of our Discipline, which requires disownment therefor, unless the offender recants ; as we believe in the declaration of Holy Writ. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;" remembering that our holy Redeemer in his last command declared : "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." (We here take occasion to say that several years ago a number of our members in the West withdrew from their connection with us because the body of the Society would not unite with them in taking an active part in the Abolition movements

of that day. There are several other bodies of people calling themselves "Friends," with whom we have no connection, and for whom we are not responsible.)

As "every tree is known by its fruit," we have no hesitation in saying that "Stiles" was no Quaker : had he been one, his principles would have restrained him from any act in the slightest degree connected with war ; and we ask that we, as a people, may not be charged with the acts of those who prove by their acts that they are not Quakers, and if not already excommunicated, it is only because their former brethren have not had the opportunity of doing so since the act was committed. We would further add, that we know there is no member of the orthodox Society of Friends living near Alexandria or Accotine Mills, and has not been any for a number of years ; but there is near there a body of people (many of them emigrants from the North) calling themselves Friends or Quakers, with whom, as we have already said, we have no connection.

In order that our position may be better understood, we declare—we believe in one God, who has been pleased to reveal himself to His creature man, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We believe in the Son as that Jesus, who walked about Jewry and Jerusalem, healing the sick, cleansing the Leper, and preaching the Gospel to the poor : that in the fullness of time He offered Himself in that prepared body a sacrifice for sin, and by that offering purchased for his creature man the gift of the Holy Ghost ; being at the same time that Eternal Word of God "by whom all things were made, and without whom was not anything made that was made ;" the same who was prophesied of as "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," under whose government "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks ; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shalt they learn war any more ;" and who came to proclaim "Peace on earth and good will to men ;" and in his memorable sermon on the Mount, cited the old law of "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," for the manifest purpose of repealing it, and substituting in its place the *Law of Love* ;