

For a long time it continued to meet at their house every Second day evening until it was transferred to the meeting house, and became the regular Fourth day evening social religious meeting. The effort prospered, having from the first the cordial sympathy and fostering interest of the older Friends, and in its more central location the attendance increased, and the quickened spiritual life of the membership began to be manifested in more active mission work, carried on in premises in South Baltimore owned by Friends, for the acquirement of which her personal solicitation had done much.

Their home on the corner of Sharp and Lombard streets, which during the life of her husband's father and grandfather had long been a resting place for Friends travelling in the ministry, continued under her loving hospitality to open its doors to Friends from the various Yearly Meetings, and thus was the centre of much earnest work for the Society. Baltimore Meeting was then in some respects very different from what it is now. But few young people were interested in the work of the church, and as yet no organized mission work had been undertaken by the meeting. There was, however, love and unity among the members, and the development of her own spiritual life was in connection with that of others, with whom she found help and encouragement. The care of an increasing family of children kept her closely at home; so that her public labors were not until later. But her voice began to be heard in our meetings in testimony to the Lord's goodness and in earnest exhortation to others.

A severe illness of the nature of typhoid fever brought her in vision, at one time, very near to the borders of Heaven. She longed then to enter in, but it was clearly shown her by the Lord that she had work to do for Him, and she realized that the power of Christ could save His children to the uttermost while they were yet in the world. She always referred to this experience as her first imperfect realization of the Baptism with the Spirit. After her recovery, her testimony to the Lord was stronger than ever. Her home duties were always performed, her children were carefully trained, but she gave to her Christian work much of the time that would otherwise have been taken for visiting and social engagements. As her children grew up, and their education became a matter of care, she became interested in the cause of education in the Society of Friends in Baltimore and elsewhere, and through her effort and concern a commodious school building was erected and given to Baltimore Monthly Meeting through the liberality of a Friend.

In 1877 she was recorded a minister of the Gospel. The church which had helped her she had helped, and her experience of the blessing that results from loving sympathy between old and young was the experience of many others of her fellow-members and workers. There had been no divisions; all worked together in harmony and love. As time went on her ministry became more powerful and convincing, her earnestness more intense. In an entire consecration of herself at one of our series of meetings, she felt a fuller baptism of the Spirit, and welcomed the new call of the Lord to His service with reverent joy.

Her acceptance of the truths of the Gospel as held by the Society of Friends was not a matter of inheritance, but the result of deliberate conviction and prayerful study of the Scriptures, and her explanation of them, whether by word or pen, was clear and convincing, especially on Baptism and the Supper and the ministry. Two of her essays on these subjects, entitled "Foundation Stones" and "Baptism," were widely circulated, and the latter was republished by the Representative Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

She visited at various times in the service of the Gospel North Carolina, New York, New England, and Indiana Yearly Meetings, and in 1881 she and her husband spent the summer in Europe. They attended London Yearly Meeting, and had frequent opportunities for service amongst Friends and others. She was for fourteen years the Clerk of Baltimore Quarterly Meeting (Women), and afterwards for seven years the Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Women). Her sweet and clear voice, dignified and winning manner, and good judgment eminently fitted her for these positions. In the autumn of last year she attended as a delegate the Conference of Friends held at Richmond, Ind., and took an active part in the proceedings. Her service was, however, mostly in her own Yearly Meeting, and in Baltimore, and her voice was most often heard in her own meeting. She entered warmly into the work for the Lord in the great city in which she lived, and became a power. As president or member of a number of philanthropic associations of the women of Baltimore, she exercised a large personal influence over ladies of all classes, but her most thoughtful work and earnest effort was given to the cause of Temperance, the rescue of the fallen and degraded. In this work her words of loving entreaty met the witness for God in many a heart.

She devoted much time to Bible study, and had a gift for Bible teaching. For many years she had a large Bible Class for ladies every Fourth day morning at the meeting house, which was an inspiration and help to many of other denominations.

When suddenly called aside, by the development of an insidious disease, from all active work, she was found at her post of duty, and although realizing that it might be her last service, she acted with her usual spirit and sweetness as presiding officer of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Maryland during their annual convention, and as Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting in Eleventh month, 1887. This proved to be her last public service. The months that followed were marked by a gradual but constant decline of strength, with no acute pain and no decrease of mental vigor. Her faith was constant in her Lord, and her desire to depart and be with Jesus great. She said in several letters written at this time, that she felt herself sweetly surrounded by Divine and human love. One after the other she relinquished her many duties, earnestly desiring that others might consecrate themselves to the Lord for the work that was so near her own heart; and on the 2d of Seventh month, 1888, quietly and peacefully entered, as we reverently believe, into the fullness of the joy of her Lord.

It is with thankfulness to the Lord that this meeting records this testimony to the life of one of its members, and to the results of her service for Christ. Many have accepted through her the message of pardon and peace in Him. Life, righteousness, power and victory in the Lord Jesus Christ, were the keynotes of her preaching. Her testimony was clear to the Lord as the Saviour from the burden of past sin, and as a present Deliverer from its power. In dealing with individuals she was loving and plain, and her direct inquiries and definite counsel often proved the word in season to those who were discouraged or halting. She loved to dwell upon the necessity of the baptism with the Holy Ghost, upon the joy and victory of the resurrection life, and upon the ultimate triumph of the kingdom of God. So far from feeling her service to be a burden, she found such joy in it that she was accustomed to beg earnestly of the Lord the right word to say, the true message to deliver.

We cannot turn from the consideration of the life of Mary Whitall Thomas without an expression of the desire of this meeting that all of our members may be encouraged by it to surrender themselves wholly to the Lord, and working in harmony with Him, to advance by individual and united efforts the cause of the Kingdom of God. Her second day in Sixth month at 10 A. M., except the one at Deer Creek, at 9 A. M. Meeting on Ministry and Oversight same days and places at 10 A. M., at Hopewell. A. M., at Ashton, the third Second day in Sixth month at 10 A. M.