

a memorial of Baltimore Monthly Meeting concerning our late dear friend James Carey Thomas was read, and with slight additions approved, and was directed to be forwarded to the Representative Meeting, as follows.

MEMORIAL OF BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,
CONCERNING JAMES CAREY THOMAS, A MINISTER.

The following memorial of our late Friend, Dr. James Carey Thomas, is placed on record, in the hope that by this means his life may continue to be an inspiration to many who can no longer feel the influence of his voice and presence. The head of a large family, a beloved physician, a public-spirited citizen, and a Christian worker and minister of the Gospel, he consecrated his personal gifts to the service of his day and generation:

He was born in Baltimore the 8th of Seventh month, 1833. His father, the late Richard H. Thomas, was a leading physician in the city and a prominent minister in our religious Society. Travelling Friends from other parts of the country and from abroad were always welcome in his old-fashioned family mansion, and thus the boy was early brought into contact with strong and varied Christian influences. His mother, Martha Carey Thomas, who died when he was very young, also had a deep religious experience, and he used to say that the memory of her parting blessing shortly before she died remained with him through his life. After attending the best schools in Baltimore, James Carey Thomas spent about three years at Haverford College, where he was graduated in 1851. While there he formed many lasting friendships with companions of his own age, and one at least with an older friend, Charles Yarnall, a prominent Friend of Philadelphia, who was attracted by the enthusiasm and literary interests of the young student, and did much to foster the love and knowledge of the best authors, which broadened and enriched his after life. On returning to Baltimore he studied medicine in the University of Maryland, where his father was a professor, and after receiving

the degree of doctor of medicine, began the practice of his profession in 1854. In the autumn of the following year he married a member of our religious Society, Mary Whitall, the daughter of John M. and Mary Whitall, of Philadelphia. Their union, which lasted until her death in 1888 was full of happiness and blessing. They had ten children, eight of whom survive him. In the midst of the brightness and joy of his early manhood the failure of his father's health threw upon him the cares and responsibilities of a large practice, and on the death of his father in 1860 he became the chief guardian of his four half brothers and his half sister, all of whom were then minors. The sorrows and responsibilities of this period of his life had a profound effect in the development of his religious character.

In speaking of his earlier years, Dr. Thomas was accustomed to say that he had never known a time when he was without the conviction of the Holy Spirit, showing him when he had departed from what he knew to be right and leading him to long for communion with God. As a young man, however, he did not at once yield to these admonitions, and although always without reproach in his outward conduct, he was much absorbed in social pleasures; even in his later

life he never lost his enjoyment of society, and within the limits which he believed a Christian should observe, he remained in warm sympathy with all forms of innocent amusement and social pleasures, in which his varied interests and personal attractiveness peculiarly fitted him to take part. In the beginning of his religious life he experienced, like so many others, uncertainties and hesitation; the change from this condition to one of clear faith in Christ came to him very definitely. He was sitting one afternoon in a silent meeting in our old meeting-house on Courtland and Saratoga streets, when he seemed to see distinctly the Lord Jesus Christ as crucified, and crucified for him; he then and there accepted the gift of salvation, and never afterwards had a doubt as to his acceptance with the Lord.

Soon after their marriage his wife also came into a clear experience of reconciliation with God through the Lord Jesus Christ; so that he and she were united in the desire of service and worked together to bring others into the knowledge of Christ's love in which they themselves rejoiced. It was a time of great discouragement for Friends in Baltimore, for the meeting had recently been deprived by death of many who seemed essential to its strength; in addition to this, the excitement in the country incident to the Civil War greatly increased the difficulties of the situation. In this emergency the ministers and elders met together from time to time at one another's houses to wait on the Lord for his blessing, and we may believe that the new life that soon began to show itself in the membership had a direct connection with this earnest looking unto the Lord for His help.

The influence of Dr. Thomas and his wife on a number of the younger Friends at this time was very great. They started a Bible Class at their house, which was attended by a number of persons. Mission work on Federal Hill was begun with the Boys' Meeting, started by Dr. Thomas as a union effort in 1857, and continued by him until his death. Later the Girls' Sewing School and other forms of mission work were added by one and another of the workers, until in course of time, the present commodious building, situated on Light street, was erected, and a meeting for worship established. Dr. Thomas was often cheered by meeting men in unexpected places whose lives had been permanently changed and blessed through the influence of the Boys' Meeting. After his death an active and successful Christian worker in Baltimore remarked, "Dr. Thomas never knew of it, but I owe all that I am to him. I used to attend that Boys' Meeting years ago, and was there brought to know the Lord, and the whole course of my life was changed." This is only one instance among many.

Very soon after his father's death, Dr. Thomas began to speak as a minister in our meetings for worship, and though what he had to say was at first very brief, and his manner rather abrupt, his gift rapidly developed and he became a minister of much power. He was recorded in Twelfth month, 1866. His active mind, kept by social intercourse and reading constantly abreast of current thought, had an unusual grasp of the needs and possibilities of the present age. Those who heard him the most frequently were the most impressed with the variety and interest of his communications. He had a strong sense of the need of receiving a real message every time that he spoke, and he never forgot the importance of leaving to others in the meeting full opportunity for the exercise of their gifts. His sermons were remarkable for forcible presentation of truth combined with brevity of expression. His travels as a minister were not very frequent, but they were rather extensive. He visited