36 FRIENDS' RELIEF WORK

I think I told you the Meeting was very satisfactory at Hammersmith. T. Foster, who is their staunch friend, told me I ought to have been there, it would have done me good to my heart's core! Rachel [? Christy] says she never sat in a more agreeable meeting. E. Hanbury also said it was all that they could wish. I sincerely hope they may be blessed in their union.

20th. The Bride and Bridegroom came before 10 to pay us a morning call, so they do not stand on much ceremony. G. A. enquired very particularly after you all and was glad to hear of your welfare. It sounds so odd to hear "Cousin W.A." converted into "Husband."

An account of Y.M. 1827 states:

W. and G. Allen have lodgings in Leadenhall Street, which leaves Plough Court to Cornelius Hanbury, etc. We hear that Wm. and G. Allen have had many visitors at their lodging. Their marriage is much more leniently treated by country Friends than by Londoners. A good deal has been said on tale-bearing in our meetings.

Friends' Relief Work

"The other bright gleam on the dark sky-line of European politics in these years will be the Society of Friends. The Quakers have done infinite things for the relief of distress in Europe. A gallant young soldier told me of the strength he received whenever he saw set up on a hut somewhere in France, "Société des Amis." In every big city and in countless little villages of Europe their work has been quietly and persistently carried on without noise and self-advertisement, with no looking for praise, and no expectation of reward. It began with the war. It has been carried on during the peace. Many workers have died of their labours, poisoned with typhus germs or collapsed from overwork. Hundreds of thousands of sufferers will live to bless them, who would have died but for their work. Countless little children have been saved alive or preserved from stunted manhood or womanhood through them. Their selfless devotion has softened the cruel impressions made by the war. Their presence amongst the defeated has saved from utter hate and despair many of those who pictured the foe to themselves as wholly given up to revenge. To the Friends must be given the credit for the preservation of such little faith and idealism as may still be left in Europe."

From A Political Pilgrim in Europe, by Mrs. Philip Snowden, London, 1921.