

of dress or speech, or following in some one's footsteps just because they walked so, but examine for ourselves, hold fast only to that which is good—right for us; *let* the light shine in our hearts, and reflect in our countenance and actions. Seek to know God's will and do it, and leave the results with Him; He will take care of them.

A. B.

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### RETAINING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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An eminent minister of New York, whose parents belonged to different denominations, was once asked how it was he had followed his mother and became attached to the Society to which she belonged. His answer was in substance: "When I was a boy I sometimes went with my father and at other times with my mother, and when I accompanied my mother I always had the satisfaction of having some cakes to eat during service, but when my father I had none, and I soon found I had much rather go with my mother, and I did so, and that is the reason, I presume, I became attached to my mother's church." In the great majority of cases, I believe, the members of the different churches become so by mere accident of birth or by some trivial circumstance. All denominations have their peculiar excellencies as well as their peculiar weaknesses. I do not believe that merely belonging to any church makes any one a Christian in the true sense. Neither do I consider it a necessity for all to become members of any church in order to walk in the Truth. Yet I am convinced that all may be benefitted by having a religious home within the fold of some denomination. Each church should have a certain care over its children and over the children of others, who, by circumstances or by choice, come within its particular influence. We would suppose that these children when they grew to manhood

or womanhood, would naturally and rightfully attach themselves to the church which had thus cared for them. It has often been acknowledged, I think, that our Society was not receiving its legitimate share of these. The question is: Why not? and how shall we secure these?

There is another class outside of the present influence of any church with which it is perhaps our duty to have to do. Of these I may say something in a future article. Recent writers in the REVIEW have covered some very important points on the subject of retaining our younger members. For the sake of emphasis I shall repeat a few of these, but I more especially wish to bring out one or two more which have not been dwelt upon. I am persuaded that above all the influence which we can bring to bear for the retention of our young people is that of the *home*. Were the example and precepts of home ever in the right, and due encouragement given our children to become interested in our Society and its principles, we would hear but little of this scattering. Religious excitement outside, the results of which in so many cases are but temporary, would have no effect. The First-day School, too, is a powerful influence for holding the young, if only followed up by a proper encouragement by the church. We have placed too little confidence in our young members. We have in too many cases given too little work to them in our church affairs, and they have gone where they can find work to do. I once heard an aged and much respected Friend say that he had been clerk of their Preparative and Monthly Meetings for the past 25 or 30 years. Well, I thought to myself, it may be a credit to him, but it is certainly not to the meetings which made the appointments. While the work had become, I had no doubt, a burden to him, the young members of these meetings were becoming indifferent for lack of such work. I am happy to see that in the recent past in many meetings a change