

brains are strengthened to receive the higher thoughts and aspirations, with a keen discrimination between different kinds of truths. From that day, what can be said of the Friends? I will not answer this; let each one think it out for himself, for I fear I should be too harsh a judge. But how can we young people help imbibing the spirit of the day to a limited extent? How can we help holding advanced ideas regarding some of the old-time theories, when this age is teeming with liberality, everything conducive to a higher intellectuality; for civilization has made rapid changes in the last few years, and demands a higher, nobler field of thought and action, and with this advanced culture we must keep pace.

Now, if we make the most of the talents given us, then we must strictly adhere to the light manifested to us, and, if need be, deviate from a stereotyped form without feeling we are transgressing the laws of the Society. We must let the old dogmas and doctrines alone, lest they bias our minds unhealthfully. What the Friends have done in the past to spread the Gospel we are largely feeling the benefits of to day, but we cannot live upon their footprints; we must implant some of our own, that we, too, may add our mite to the wheel of life and help the future generation to still nobler ideas. The fundamental principles of Friends are intact, we can say very little regarding them, for it rests with the individual whether he will live in accordance or nay; so the old, old story so oft repeated still remains the same to the end of time. But why the Friends are declining seems to be one of the questions still to find a proper cause. The now silent Meeting Houses so filled with precious memories bring tears to the eyes as we recall that once they resounded to the liquid eloquence of many a speaker from those "gallery seats," while the patient throng silently and reverently awaited the words of wisdom which might fall from the lips of an honored Friend, whose consistent life had lead

him in the path of peace, and of that peace he now so richly rewarded his listeners. But where are the younger ones to take up the burden of free ministry? Must it become extinct and the almighty dollar come to the rescue as with other denominations? No, 'tis a sacrilegious thought, and not to be harbored for one moment. Our Heavenly Father meant that life should be equal, and the divine inspiration will never fail to reach the heart of man or woman, through their natural instincts, if they will heed it.

So let us heed it—we who have been educated amidst its sweet, refining influence, and living moderately, avoiding the rush and hurry of the outer life, will aid us materially in our endeavor. I have a great concern that Friends "shall live always."

SARAH A. DEGARMO.

SOCIAL PURITY.

Essay written by Almira Zavitz for the 4th session of Philanthropic work, in Friends' First-day School, Lobo., 3rd mo. 26, '93.

I have been asked to contribute my mite on this important subject. I feel my great weakness, and how little I can say to influence others.

In the best of all books we find these words: "Blessed are the pure in heart." If we are pure in heart, we shall be so in our daily lives, not only in words, but in actions as well. The very first stepping stone towards social purity must begin in our homes.

There is so much said and written on what a mother's duties are, that we are almost led to wonder what there is left for the father to do. Of course, in the first few years of a child's life, the mother has, or is supposed to have, it under her own control. But as the child grows older, what then are the duties of the father? Is he not equally responsible for the training of his children right from wrong?

Many a one, instead of doing this, sets a bad example to his children by spending his evenings in some store or