

tude with the bread from heaven, which hath no connection with the letter, but is the genuine sap flowing from the Tree of Life through the instrument. An Oxford education is one thing, divine intuition is another—the former being an intellectual development, while the latter produceth celestial culture. Herein God's school becomes an established fact to all who acknowledge and receive His prerogative, permeating and clarifying the children of men, making them luminous bodies, becoming the children of God; while without God's kindling they are opaque. The light maketh plain. We need and must obtain oil for our lamps, which we are to keep trimmed and burning, ready to meet the Bridegroom and establish our identity at His coming.

H. G. M.

Sing Sing, N.Y.

WHAT SHALL WE SING?

Or perhaps it might be more proper to ask what are we singing? for it is a well-known fact that music has entered the homes of many Friends. It is not my purpose, at this time, to enter upon a tirade against music nor to advocate its introduction. But I have a word of caution for those parents who are thus indulging their children, as to the nature of the music introduced, and the influence it is likely to exert over the religious views of the child. I have no thought that Friends will countenance songs of a low or vulgar character, I will therefore say nothing upon that phase of the subject. But our religious views differ materially from very many of the "hymns" and "sacred songs" which are so common in our day. How many parents are thus weekly, yes, perhaps daily, teaching their children, or allowing them to be taught in this way, views altogether contrary to the principles of Friends. The child-mind is plastic, and we cannot guard it too closely from influences that may mould it into deformity.

Snatches of songs which I learned at

school in my childhood sometimes come drumming through my brain to this day, conveying views altogether out of harmony with my present feelings, and contrary to the teachings of Friends. I believe it is necessary for Friends to examine well into the character of the songs which are imprinting themselves, indelibly perhaps, upon the minds of their children. It is far easier to teach right, than to afterwards undo wrong teaching

S. P. Z.

AN ESSAY.

What are we living for? A question too dry to attract much attention and yet one most important, and should be asked in the presence of God by every individual even oftener than the morning, and answered at the close of each day by asking: "What have I done?" The record of every thought, word and action, as it left us, passed up to the recording angel, and "What are they writing down to-night?"

There are none of us but have more or less of life, time, talents, means. What are we doing with them? They are God's gifts. Are we using them as such and making them what He intended, a blessing to ourselves and to those around us? We who are older, whose feet are going down the hill, are we in earnest, and bearing as we go along the goodly sheaves to fill the garner of our blessed Master, and leave behind us the assurance of a life well spent? And you, young ladies! I would not chase away one rosy smile from your bright faces (God never meant that they should grow sad, but that living in obedience to His loving command they should be brighter as you pass on to the latest evening of life), but remember you have a work to do. There is not one exception. The Creator never intended His children to be idle. It may be in your own hearts and lives the work must first commence, and even in that you will be teaching to others a most beautiful les-