

fied senior, who has been playfully dubbed the "autocrat of the P. & D. Club."

"Doubtless there is a work in the world for each one of us, but there are too many ill-trained workers in every field, and what we have to do now is to increase and enrich the talents in our possession. This is our gathering-time you know. Such articles as the one we have just read, urging us to action only in a general way, are not without their influence either. Strong feeling must lie at the root of vigorous action, and every word or thought tending to rouse the desire to do something accomplishes a mission. But in the first fire of our enthusiasm we run the risk of exhausting our energy and power for good before it has become fully developed. We must get ourselves well in hand before we attempt to revolutionize the world. Now here are six of us who mean to try to live our lives broadly and to as much purpose as possible. We do not expect ever to do anything very wonderful, but we mean to lend our influence to whatever is pure and of good report. As we love our country, we *mean* to set our faces against anything that debases it. Do you remember what Sam Jones said about Toronto being 'the cleanest city he had ever visited?' I don't know whether I was most proud or sorry when I read that, for I remembered that there were dark places and foul alleys full of intoxicating fumes in Toronto. If it be true, as some assert, that the moral character and refinement of a nation never rises above the level of those of its women, what a motive to bend every energy of word and thought and prayer to raising the standard, till Canada shall reach a height to which no nation has ever yet attained! How grand a thing it would be if we might be justly proud of our nation as the purest in the world? Don't accuse me of assuming that we are going to revolutionize even this little corner of the earth. However, we of the P. & D. C. are going to do what we can towards it.

One thing we are agreed upon, and that is to choose our associates only where we find, or think we have found, purity and nobleness of character independent of all other considerations. We will make it our first business to know that all whom we accept as acquaintances are honorable and true, and to have the courage to shun the whited sepulchre though found in the most delightful walks of fashion, of wealth, and of such refinement as these can bestow. It might be well, in order to avoid that feeling of vagueness and uncertainty which so discourages one, to sketch even now, as Samantha suggests, the outline of a plan; but what we do must be an outgrowth of what we are; so until we can judge our own power, until we have obtained a sufficient measure of strength to know that we can depend upon ourselves to carry out a plan of life, we must be content with character building and with the work which comes our way. I do not mean that we are to wait until we actually stumble upon something to do. We can keep our eyes open to find out what there is to be done around us, and we shall find our opportunities for doing good increasing in proportion to our own growth. But there goes the bell! We will defer further consideration of this 'labor' question for another meeting."

## THE SIMPLE CHURCH.

BY J. D. VALENTINE.

*Editors Young Friends' Review:*

The following I clipped from a paper some years ago, and I thought it worthy of repetition. The thought arises in reading it; if such is the impression of a Friends' meeting on the mind of a stranger, why are those who are brought up in such meetings so prone to wander away?

P. A. HOAG.

I've been to Quaker meeting, wife, and I shall  
 " " go again;  
 It was so quiet and so neat, so simple and so  
 plain,