

# Young - Friends' - Review.

"Neglect Not the Gift that is in Thee."

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## NEW-YEAR.

I saw on the hills of the morning  
The form of the New-year arise ;  
He stood like a statue adorning  
The world with a background of skies ;  
There were courage and grace in his  
beautiful face,  
And hope in his glorious eyes.

"I come from Time's boundless forever,"  
He said, with a voice like a song.  
"I come as a friend to endeavor,  
I come as a foe to all wrong ;  
To the sad and afraid I bring promise of  
aid,  
And the weak I will gird and make  
strong.

"I bring you more blessings than terrors,  
I bring you more sunlight than gloom,  
I tear out your page of old errors,  
And hide them away in Time's tomb.  
I reach you clean hands, and lead on to  
the lands  
Where the lilies of peace are in bloom."  
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in Poems of  
Pleasure.

## OUR MINISTRY.

(Read at a meeting of the New York Young Friends  
Association.)

When the Society of Friends took  
its rise in the seventeenth century,  
there were in the churches in England  
grave abuses which had aroused the  
condemnation of all thoughtful men.  
Religion had grown with some to be a  
matter of forms without the spirit, and  
among those who professed to be  
priests, or ministers of the gospel, were  
men who had adopted that calling as  
they might have adopted medicine or  
the military as their profession. These  
men were educated, knew the formal  
duties of their occupation, and per-  
formed them according to their abili-  
ties, but the frivolity, sometimes even

to immorality, of their lives was in-  
compatible with a belief in the sincer-  
ity of their religious pretensions.

Among those who were outspoken  
against these abuses were George Fox  
and his Friends. They saw that a re-  
ligion consisting of forms alone would  
not purify a life, and, according to the  
conception of the Supreme Being cur-  
rent in that day, would not be accept-  
able to a just God who sees and knows  
the thoughts and intents of the heart ;  
nor would bodily genuflections and  
lip-service without the spirit be a proper  
ministry, however intellectual and well  
educated the minister. They there-  
fore taught that the form was nothing,  
but that the attitude of the heart  
was everything ; that even in the ab-  
sence of every form acceptable worship  
could be performed if the spirit of  
worship were present ; that it was not  
the outward form but the inward intent  
of the worshipper that made true wor-  
ship ; and that the ministry of any  
man, however ignorant, if moved and  
animated by the right spirit would be  
more acceptable, would be a truer  
ministry than that perfunctorily per-  
formed for hire or for ambition and  
hope of promotion. That education  
at Oxford or Cambridge would not  
make a man a minister ; that it was  
the spirit which animated him in his  
work which alone could qualify him,  
and it was only as he felt called to the  
work that he could perform acceptable  
service.

Therefore, the Friends, desirous to  
have the spirit without the form,  
established their meetings and gathered  
in them for religious worship and  
meditation, with no other set form or  
ceremony than that of waiting in  
silence for such results as might come  
from earnest seeking after truth, and