

(as we profess it); that obedience to all its requirements leads, step by step, to higher experiences, to grander conceptions of God and duty. He believes in Society, not as an end, but a means to an end. He recognizes a power within himself that makes for righteousness. That at times he feels down deep in his heart aspirations that lift his soul toward God in prayer for help in gratitude for the innumerable mercies and blessings conferred with this experience. With these convictions, does he owe no duty to society? Are not these the elements of spiritual growth in himself, and do they not contribute to the growth and uplift of society? That by living isolated from it he fails to give of the warmth of his own heart to the needs of others; for it is true that he or we grow in the truth, in the Grace of God, in his goodness and love, by helping others grow in giving them of the good things stored up in his own heart; by taking their hand in his and lifting them up higher, these beautiful truths are only seen in their grandeur and glory as the light of eternal day is permitted to shine with increasing effulgency by entire obedience to its teachings in each soul. I believe everyone that submits himself to divine guidance, that seeks to know His will from day to day, from hour to hour, and renders cheerful obedience thereto, will feel an increasing interest in religious association, will feel a helpful, prayerful spirit welling up in his heart, that when the hour comes that calls us from our various vocations in life to repair to the meeting-house for the purpose of performing acceptable worship due our beneficent Father, and that is so helpful to us, we will gladly embrace the opportunity and be thankful for the privilege.

I do not want to prolong my paper unduly. My heart is full, my interest unabating. To the many dear Friends scattered throughout the west my heart greets you in love. Our last Yearly Meeting, and also our Quarterly Meeting, held at West Liberty, were seasons

of Divine favor, and those of us who were permitted to attend them, may we be encouraged to renewed faithfulness; may the discouragements that at times darken our spiritual horizon be removed through faithfulness to the ever-shining Light. In His goodness is love, peace, and contentment.

THOMAS E. HOGUE.

LINES.

Written by Victoria B. Trueblood, Mt. Palatine, Putnam Co., Ill., 9th mo., 1895.

Our reward does not come for the stopping,
But just for the brave toiling on,
When our feet worn and weary would falter,
And the journey seems hard and so long.

When earth's shadows hang gloomy and heavy
As we are passing life's highway along,
And we earnestly plead with the Giver
For rest, and the last evening song.

We wonder when night will turn day,
And we shrink from bearing our crosses,
Forgetting the teaching of Jesus,
That our trials are blessings, not losses.

God's ways may look dark, his paths rough,
We murmur if friends prove untrue,
So unlike the Meek One who said,
"Forgive them, they know not what they do."

We forget all His sorrow and pain
When the cruel thorns pierce our tired feet,

We forget the crown He wore for us
That we might be for His service meet.

Let us scatter the sunshine about us,
And brighten with smiles the dark earth,
"I will never leave nor forsake thee,"
So why murmur? Our life can not all be mirth.

Perhaps loved ones are waiting and watching.

We'll meet them in the sweet by and by,
He keeps them all safe in His mansions,

We'll greet them beyond the sunset of our evening sky.

No! our reward can not come for the stopping,

Duty calls us to press bravely on,
Sorrows lose their sting in work nobly done,
The harvest must be garnered ere long.

Let us cling to the hand that will guide us
Till the last battle's fought, victory's won,
Earth's shadows and sunshine are over,
And the life never ending, begun.