

"Shy yearnings of the savage,
 Unfolding thought by thought
 To holy lives are lifted,
 To visions fair are wrought ;
 How races rise and cluster,
 And evils fade and fall,
 Till chaos blooms to beauty,
 God's purpose crowning all."

Then it is but a step to the completed thought that

"Revelation is not sealed,
 Answering unto man's endeavor,
 Truth and right are still revealed,
 That which came to ancient sages,
 Greek, barbarian, Roman, Jew,
 Written in the heart's deep pages,
 Shines to-day forever new."

THE FUTURE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

EDWARD CORNELL.

Read at New York and Brooklyn Y. F. Association,
 5th mo. 22, 1898.

It is a very true saying that "The child is father of the man." In a very few years the life and growth of the Society of Friends will depend upon those who are now children, and on Friends' children almost alone, for we cannot look forward to much strength from outside sources. It has too long been an accepted idea that we do not proselyte.

Inconceivable as it may be, that we should possess the great truth of Christianity—that God is in the heart of all his creatures, and yet make little or no effort to spread that truth; still it is so, and so it will remain until some new George Fox shall arise among us and call us back to our first principles.

Any one who will read the history of the early Friends will perceive that they were perhaps the most active sect in spreading their news of the truth that has ever appeared. We are now perhaps the most inactive.

While this condition continues we must depend for accessions to our membership in the most part on those born into the Society.

It might be said that with such views I should address myself to the more

important topic—the spreading of our principles abroad in the land. But that object is one which under present conditions cannot be fully realized. We have no George Fox; nor are the times opportune. In Fox's day religious controversy filled the air. Men would rather discuss theology than eat a dinner. To-day there is not such vital interest in religious topics, though there is, I am sure, more practical Christianity, notwithstanding the world's readiness for war.

I have therefore chosen to speak of a direction in which I feel sure we can increase our labors and make them effective.

Every Friends' child ought to have the Society of Friends put before it in the most attractive light. Our religion is essentially a grown-up's religion. It enforces a dependence on self and one's own relationship and nearness to the almighty power. There is little of that blind unreasoning faith which is so suited to undeveloped minds.

There is so much in life that a child must accept as true without reasoning from the alphabet on, that it becomes accustomed to accepting without question whatever is taught it. It has been found by experience that childhood is almost the only time when implicit faith in creeds can be instilled.

Our creedless religion appeals to the reason and not so much to faith, and we have necessarily to wait until the child's reasoning powers are developed before we can be successful in instilling it.

Of course much can be done long before this period is reached. A child can be taught that it is right to do good and wrong to do evil long before it can reason that out for itself.

That for some cause or other, we have failed to hold in the Society many Friends' children is evident. How often one hears the statement that so and so came of a Quaker family. There is usually some little pride, or at least complaisance in this. A Quaker family