

that the founders would not cordially endorse, if they were here with us to-day. The young have not taken the interest in our Society that they should, and are, in great part to blame. Professor Birdsall, at the meeting of the Young Friends' Association Yearly Meeting week, in Philadelphia, said, as he looked over the vast audience, that it seemed to him that there was going to be a revival in the Society. You who missed that Meeting missed a treat. The interest did not flag from beginning to end. There, the young man, the young woman, and those of more mature years, were on an equal footing. They discussed the subjects before them with vim and ability. The only trouble was to find time to speak. The next morning, I wended my way to the Yearly Meeting, and looked around for the young people, but they were missing. If you can tell me why, I will explain to you why our membership has not increased. At one meeting, they were part and parcel of the same body, at the other, they were not. As I said before, the young people are in a great measure responsible, but not wholly so. How would I interest them in our Yearly Meetings? First, by having all of our quarterly meetings appoint half of our representatives from our younger members. Then let the representatives be put on the committees. If there should not be enough for all committee work, increase the representation. By all means let an appointment mean something. Let an appointee have some responsibility, and he or she will return home with an interest in the Society such as was never felt before. You, who know anything about it, know that an appointment to-day as a representative in our different meetings, is an empty honor. As I sat in the Yearly Meeting, I heard reports on temperance, Indian schools, and freedmen of the South, etc., and committees were appointed to confer with the local committee, etc. Bear in mind that I do

not object to the appointment of these committees. Far from it. I applaud the efforts of those Friends who are trying to uplift downtrodden humanity. But I hold, when I hear the reports from the different Quarterly Meetings, that most meetings are held regularly, others not, some laid down or poorly attended and no committee appointed, that the Yearly Meeting has omitted the part which strikes at its very existence. There certainly should be a committee appointed to look after the spiritual and financial welfare of our different Meetings. This committee should receive attention first; the others afterwards. When we reach this stage we will see our different Meetings where there is but a nucleus, take on new life. We have a live First-day School organization to-day, and one of which the Society may justly feel proud. Yet it will profit us little if we do not keep the Meeting up in touch with it. For one, I am tired of hearing on almost every occasion we come together, that we are to be encouraged because the meeting has recognized the First-day School as its long lost child. Unless we have a rapid awakening in our Meeting, I would feel more encouraged if our Meetings were placed in charge of the First-day Schools. As I look around within the radius of my own Quarterly Meeting, I see Meetings which, a quarter of a century ago, were well attended, are now almost laid down. Where are those of the younger generation, that they have not taken up the work of those long since passed to their reward? They either stay at home, or have joined other religious organizations, where their talents can have full sway in the church, missionary and philanthropic work. Just as soon as you give a person work to do, then, and not till then, does his interest begin. In many of our Meetings, if they had any vigor, it was all spent in protesting against some ancient wrong, which had passed away some generations ago. Yes, our young