

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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THE HIGHER DUTY.

I saw the sun. He shone in splendor bright,
Casting his radiance over dale and hill.
And all creation joyed to see his light,
He shone, and thus fulfilled his Master's will.

I saw the moon and stars. They gave their light
To guide the sailor o'er the trackless sea,
To show the traveller his path by night.
They shone, fulfilling all their Lord's decree.

I looked to earth, and saw the plants and trees,
Each growing fitly to the pattern made,
And yielding proper flowers and fruits. And these
All grew, and thus their Master's will obeyed.

I looked around and saw my fellow-men,
Created by the same Almighty hand ;
A higher destiny was granted them—
To rule the earth, obeying His command.

And, as I looked, the vision grew less bright,
And only through the darkness could I see
That, in their power and God-given might,
Men ruled fulfilling half their Lord's decree.

Here was much chaos and confusion still ;
And here no perfect concord seemed to be ;
Each lived as best accorded with his will,
Men ruled, all heedless of their Lord's decree.

And, as I looked, deep sorrow filled my heart ;
"Oh, man," I cried, "In God's own image
made,
Shall sun, and moon, and trees all do their
part,
And thou alone fall short and retrograde ?

"Thou—greatest of all God's created things !
Thou—ruler, by His order, of the earth !
Shake off thy sin and on aspiring wings
Rise ! and be worthy of thy glorious birth."

I cried, and from the darkness forth there came
A voice which said in harsh and mocking
tone :

"Dost thou possess so undefiled a name,
Art thou amongst thy fellows good alone,

"That thou should'st vilify thy fellow-men ?
Thou art not innocent nor free from guile—
Thou too art man. Go, nor return again,
Sinful, thy fellow-sinners to revile."

It ceased. But as I turned to join the strife,
In milder accents spake that voice again :
"An humble heart, a pure and useful life—
And not vain words—will raise thy fellow-
men."

Toronto.

—P. L.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF QUAKERISM.

Quakerism being a belief that God reveals his will in the human soul *to-day* even as he made it known to man in ages past, differentiated in degree only according to the receptivity of the individual. Christianity, from the Quaker standpoint, must be somewhat different from the Christianity which is claimed to be "evangelical" by the majority of the Christian Churches, for it may be assumed that nearly all Friends, in every period of the history of the Society, have differed in belief from the majority of Christians in the following important particulars :

1. Quakerism does not maintain that the revelation of God's will to man has ceased, and that the Bible contains the only access to a knowledge of God's will.

2. Quakerism does not and cannot concede the "evangelical" doctrine of the origin of sin. All Friends subscribe to the view that sin has its beginning in a conscious departure from the known will of God in the heart, and that it can in no manner be imputed to the agency of another ; in other words, that it cannot be transmitted from one generation to another.

3. Quakerism does not demand a belief in the efficacy of the sacraments as practised by the Christian Churches. "Baptism," says Barclay, "is a pure and spiritual thing, to wit, the baptism of