

tion it has had throughout the English-speaking world. We appreciate its value in our sanctum, and can recommend it to our readers and Friends everywhere.

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For the YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

UNBECOMING BEHAVIOR IN RELIGIOUS MEETINGS.

Whether it is the outgrowth of so many meetings of the Auxiliary Associations attached to our Society, or whether it is owing to the general decline of a reverential spirit, I shall not attempt to decide, when I call attention to the prevalence of unbecoming behavior in our meetings for discipline.

The religious character of these assemblies seems to be lost sight of by many who, from their deportment when thus assembled, appear to regard them as secular conventions for the transaction of business, without the necessity for getting into the quiet, or for waiting to have the direction of the Holy Spirit, in order to arrive at a true judgment, or as Friends have been wont to express it, "the sense of the meeting." This idea of secularity seems to be quite compatible with levity of manner, and much conversation with smiling and some laughing while the weighty affairs of the church are under consideration.

An aged man, an elder, recently told me that in the Monthly Meeting, of which he is a member, there is much caucusing while the meeting is in session. Three or four will get their heads together and carry on a conversation, or hold a conference in a whisper, while someone is speaking *audibly*, or while only the clerk is reading. In many other meetings there is much of the same kind of behavior.

Another practice, which has a bad effect upon the meeting, is that of going, unsummoned, to the clerks' table, and

leaning over it to converse with the clerk or assistant, without informing the meeting as to the subject of the conversation. It would seem eminently proper that if a member has anything to communicate to the clerk, he should do it audibly, and thus making it a part of the business of the meeting. The clerk and his assistants may have occasion to confer with each other, and may do so with entire propriety; but beyond these the occasions should be few and far between "that admit of anything being said in the meeting that is not said to the meeting."

Every person in a meeting for discipline that takes a vocal part in the proceedings should bear in mind that when he indulges in whispering and smiling between his speeches—however good these may be—he places a large stumbling block in the pathway of those silent ones, who greatly desire the welfare of the Church, and who regard our meetings established in the order of Society as religious assemblies.

H.

A PAPER.

Read at the First-day School Association of White-water Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held at Duck-rock, near Greensboro, Indiana, 3rd mo., 1895.

This is a great age in which we live; it is a great age intellectually, politically and morally; it is an age when great scientific questions are agitating the minds of great men and women of all civilized nations; it is an age when the political world is seeking enthusiastically after those factors which constitute the best form of government and the best Government; and nevertheless true, it is an age when the moral world and the religious powers form a potent factor in this universal investigation; therefore, it is an interesting age. We find ourselves living in a time when we may do a great amount of good; or failing to perform our duties we may do an equal amount of harm, for we are all participators in some degree in the great congress, be-