

the Divinely illumined pathway which leads to God.

LEMOYNE DILLINGHAM.

### A WORD WITH A SKYLARK.

If this be all, for which I've listened long,  
O spirit of the dew!  
You did not sing to Shelley such a song  
As Shelley sang to you.

Yet, with this ruined Old World for a nest,  
Worm-eaten through and through,—  
This waste of grave-dust stamped with crown  
and crest,—

What better could you do?

Ah me! but when the world and I were  
young,

There was an apple tree;  
There was a voice came in the dawn and sung  
The buds awake—ah me!

Oh, Lark of Europe, downward fluttering  
near,

Like some spent leaf at best,  
You'd never sing again if you could hear  
My Blue Bird of the West!

—Mrs. Piatt.

### WHAT IS THE GREATEST NEED OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS TO- DAY?

This is the question which is claiming the attention of our Society at this time, as perhaps never before; and it is to be hoped that each succeeding answer may contain a little more of truth.

In considering this question, I shall view it in the light that all things here on earth are but a *means to an end*. It seems to me that in our love for the Society itself, we have often fallen into the error of making the 'preservation' of our organization the *end* of our work, rather than the *means for accomplishing work*.

In the Divine order of things nothing will continue to exist which does not serve some purpose. If the Society is dying out, it is because it is not serving a sufficient purpose in the world. Is it not apparent that our Society at its rise applied itself most marvelously to the world's needs? It

germinated, and grew, and flourished, because it met the dire necessities of human needs at that time. It was an organization in which people could unite and *did unite* in maintaining the right, and opposing the wrong. What right thing did they unite in maintaining? Liberty of conscience and individual responsibility to the Most High. What wrong thing did they unite in opposing? Everything that tended to detract from honest, self respecting manhood and womanhood. Refusing to take oath, or to take off the hat in the presence of so-called superiors, or to pay tithes or to purchase peace at any price, all come under this head. The early history of our Society shows that its members were united as one man in these things.

So the question arises, what important thing are we united in to-day? If there is *one* principle or practice of real worth and value to the race, which no other organization has the light and the power to hold up to the world, and which we can unite in maintaining, we shall most assuredly live.

I am convinced that there are to-day an increasing number of earnest, intelligent minds, who fail to find that which satisfies and sustains their soul's life in the dry bones of creed, and ceremony, and theology offered by the Evangelical churches. Now, if Friends could show to these that our simple and reasonable religion can furnish us to-day with light and power sufficient to *unite* us in *doing*, at any cost, *something* for the help of our fellow creatures, we would have a reason to ask, and to expect, such people to come to us. As it is, what are we *doing* to warrant anyone in coming to us? I emphasize "doing" because, "by their fruits ye shall know them."

So far I have only considered general principles, but now I shall illustrate by mentioning something that waits to be done. The temperance question waits to be settled. We profess to "mind the light," and to have power to do its requiremgs. If our profession is