

Young - Friends' - Review.

"Neglect Not the Gift that is in Thee."

VOL. XIV. LONDON, ONT., CANADA, TENTH MONTH, 1898

No. 10

THE OLDEST SONG OF ALL

"To the calmly gathered thought,
The innermost of truth is taught."

When life is youth, and skies are glad,
And everything is young,
Oh listen, lass and lad,
Unto the song that's sung!
When every sound you hear's a tune
That seems your heart to call,
When every gift of God's a boom,
And love's the best of all!
There's green around and blue above,
Wherever you are bound;
'Tis then that first you feel 'tis love
That makes the world go round!

But when your world grows grey and sad,
When care the heart has wrung,
Oh, listen, listen, lass and lad,
Unto the song that's sung!
When smiles have turned to tears and sighs,
When hands you clasped are cold,
And those whose love has been a prize,
Are weary, worn and old,
If one dear gift, the rest above,
Still by your side be found,
'Tis then you know, indeed, 'tis love
That makes the world go round.

—*London Mail.*

LIVING UP TO OUR CONVICTIONS.

[Read at the Union Young Friends' Association, in Friends' Meeting House at Sparta, Ont., 8th mo. 21th, 1898.]

The topic given me is applicable to the subject under discussion. Let everyone be fully persuaded in his own mind as to his relationship to the Young Friends' Association, the First-day school, and to the Meeting, and then be true to his sincere convictions. All are bound together in one common cause, and each should be helpful to the other. As reverent waiting upon our Heavenly Father is the highest act of man, to me our meetings for worship should come first. When sitting in silence, as a collective body, we realize with Whittier, that,

But my paper is to deal with our convictions in all relations of life. The dictionary defines conviction as "strong belief on the ground of satisfactory evidence, without any implication of previous error, as the convictions of an honest mind."

This leads us to inquire as to this satisfactory evidence. The Puritans who whipped and banished the Quakers. The magistrates of Salem who burned innocent people for witches, were convinced they were working for the glory of God. Many of the bitter religious persecutions between Catholics and Protestants were to stamp out so-called heretical belief coupled, however, with a desire for power. There are those now, who, in their zeal for the Kingdom of God, would place a ban upon men's consciences, and bind all with iron creeds and dogmas.

The Bible, without the illuminating spirit, which gave to the Prophets and Apostles the message to be uttered, is not sufficient. Men have found in its pages authority for persecution, slavery, and war.

Let me repeat the familiar words of Lucretia Mott, "Truth for authority, not authority for truth." This truth is the voice of God in the soul—the Inner Light, the Divine Immanence, which, if given heed to, will teach us our duty to our God, ourselves and our homes; it will enable us to see clearly what are our relations to those who touch our lives on every side. The Golden Rule and Christ's Sermon on the Mount will be a reality, and not ideals too high for man to reach.

This living up to our highest convictions of right involves the laying