

been successfully carried on for two years here. They have been well attended, and considerable interest has been created in the subjects taken up. We are satisfied that such work can be successfully carried on in connection with our F. D. Schools. It adds variety, and it is said that "variety is the spice of life," and it is so largely with children. It promotes and perhaps creates in the child mind a love for and a knowledge of a branch of duty, which, in later years, should be useful, and beneficial to the individual and to mankind. S. P. Z.

LIFE THOUGHTS.

Is it not curious how some little things will put to flight some of our noblest and best thoughts? I have often, when on the point of transfixing some exquisite gems of the mind, had them dissipated and, perhaps, forever lost, by such trivial things as the ringing of the door bell, etc.

The comparison comes to me that it is very much like a beautiful landscape. Have you not noticed, sometimes, especially in the evening, when the shadows are lengthening over the land, and the setting sun is shedding an effulgent glow over the scene. Have you not observed how the beauty of the scene is continually shifting? One instant the sun strikes an arrow of light on some distant water, transforming it into a bar of silver apparently. Then its golden beams are flashed athwart some old ruins, daintily touching it here and there with a gilding that is Divine. The king of day gives a parting shot with a golden arrow at some gnarled old oak, and then sinks to rest, leaving a halo of glory behind him. And what magnificent sunsets! a foretaste of the glories that are to come. The beauty of it is indescribable. And then the twilight comes on, so softly that it rivals even the footsteps of a gentle maiden. I feel very humble, at times, when I realize that I am standing, merely on the threshold of

unbounded worlds of knowledge, and to know that this earth is only an atom in the universe and, that worlds without end are perhaps just as beautiful as ours and possibly more so, that a feeling of solemnity and awe comes over me that seems to swallow me up in the love of the Divine.

And so it is with my thoughts, they come flitting before me when I am about my daily business, linger for awhile, and then are gone; sometimes they can be coaxed back when I get paper and pencil ready, but the freshness and crispness is gone. At night our thoughts are unusually prolific and, oftentimes, clothed with a nobility of expression that is sublime. I think to myself I shall surely remember them well enough to write them down in the morning, but when the light of day comes, they usually vanish as with the morning dew. Our thoughts seem to be the children of our brain, and their birth requires instant attention if we would keep them with us.

WM. W. COCKS.

Mendon Centre, N. Y., 3, 15, 1894.

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT.

The term "spiritual gift," like the term "inspiration," seems to carry to most minds something of mystery in its meaning. When we use it as applying to the ministry among Friends, we mean that those who possess it are chosen people through whom divine messages are sent to those not so gifted. I cannot think there is anything mysterious or supernatural about it, for, after all, the supernatural is only that which we in our shortsightedness fail to understand.

Hence, it seems to me, that the spiritual gift, by which I understand that power which gives one a keen perception of the feelings and needs of others, and enables him to administer advice and comfort, is no more rare or remarkable than other gifts. I should, however, call it greater than those, in that its influence for good is more far-reaching.