"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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LOVE MUCH.

Love much. Earth has enough of bitter in it; Cast sweets into its cup whene'er you can. No heart so harsh, but love, at last, may win it; Love is the grand primeval cause of man; All hate is foreign to the first great plan.

Love much. Your heart will be led out to slaughter,

On altars built of envy and deceit.

Love on, love on! 'tis bread upon the water;

Aye, it shall be cast in loaves at your feet,

Unleavened manna, most divinely sweet.

Love much. Your faith will be dethroned and shaken:

Your trust betrayed by many a fair, false lure.

Remount your faith, and let new trusts awaken; Though clouds obscure them, yet the stars are pure.

Love is a vital force and must endure.

Love much. There is no waste in freely giving;

More blessed is it even than to receive. He who loves much, alone finds life worth living.

Love on, through doubt and darkness; and believe

There nothing is which love may not achieve.

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

AN ESSAY.

Read in Woodstown F. D. School, 10 mo. 29, 1893. The other evening, while reading over our First-day School lesson, my mind dwelt upon the thoughts contained therein, and, to-day, I would claim your attention for a short time to look with me upon a few questions that are of vital importance to young and old who are recognized as members of this religious organization. For years, a dark and a very dark view has been taken as to the future of our religious Society. We have been told that a few more generations will pass away and the old places of worship will know us no more. Is this true? If so, why? And what is our duty? Just

how your members, as members of the present, compare with the past, I am not prepared to say. But I do say every religious denomination within the borders of our own country, has stamped upon it the principles of Quakerism. And, if as a distinct Society we cease to exist, our principles never will, for they are the principles of truth. If our Society has declined, it does not necessarily show any unfaithfulness upon the part of those who are laborers therein to-day. I do not believe, as some do, that the principles of Quakerism died with Geo. Fox and Elias Hicks. I believe to-day we have men and women just as faithful, just as true, and just as great ones, who are just as ready to stand by every conviction of right as they were. But I do believe the Society of Friends owes it to itself, that we, as its members, take a more cheerful aspect of our own situation. The poet says: "Laugh, and the world laughs with you, Weep, and you weep alone." And so I would urge upon every one present that they look not upon our future with doubt and distrust. True. we who are in the younger walks of life may oft times err, oft times dothat, which in after years we may regret, oft times wish for misspent hours, but at heart we are true Friends. We love our Society, and as years go by, and one by one the workers are laid to rest; fear not fathers and mothers for the sacred trust you have committed to our keeping.

One cause for lack in numbers, if such be the case, is, that in the early rise of this organization other churches were not built, but as they gradually worked their way in they reached another class: they immediately began with the training of the children. It was years before we recognized