

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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NO. 12

THE BOWNE HOUSE.

1695-1895.

Read at the Flushing Commemoration.

O quiet house, that now reposes
So peacefully beneath the trees,
Mid clustering vines and fragrant roses,
And slumberous murmur of the bees.

No towering shaft,—no sculptured fane,
Records the deeds that here were wrought.
The workers pass,—their works remain,
The blessings of enfranchised thought.

There gathered round this ingle-side,
In sixteen hundred six y-two,
An earnest band, of sorely tried,
Reviled, proscribed, yet staunch and true.

They had left English hearth and home,
And all the world would reckon dear,
With Him they loved, content to roam
As strangers and as pilgrims here.

The woods had been their meeting-place,
Their temple's arch the vaulted sky;
A living silence filled the space,
Or prayer and praise ascended high.

But when upon this chosen site
His homestead rose complete and fair,
John Bowne had claimed a brother's right
With friends beloved, its cheer to share.

The fire-glow fell on faces pale,
Grave faces schooled in calm endurance,
Forms spent and worn in noisome gaol,
But eyes alight with hope's assurance.

The patient faith that naught could daunt,
Outlived at last the stern decree
Of Endicott and Stuyvesant,
And Jesus set his people free.

Hither came in love and power,
The King's ambassadors of grace;
George Fox himself in happy hour
Once tarried in this favored place.

Too long the tale, though sweet, to tell
Of all who wrought the blest increase,
Who labored in the vineyard well,
And passed to their eternal peace.

Fair lies the heritage they won,
These loyal, fearless pioneers,
For their Master's own "Well done,"
Comes echoing down two hundred years.

Let us, who enter on the fields
So dearly bought for our possessing,
Garner the fruit our birthright yields,
And seek in faith the promised blessing.

Sing softly, bird, on leafy spray,—
Spring green, O grass, around this door,
Breathe gently, winds from Rockaway,
Spare this old house a century more.

—MARY S. KIMBER.

1695—FLUSHING, L. I.—1895.

Abstract from paper on "Position of Women in the Society of Friends," by Marianna W. Chapman, read at the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, held 5th mo. 29th.

In speaking of the position of women in the Society of Friends very simple statements will cover the ground, but they are statements which involve a great principle. The position of the Society in regard to the public ministry of women was in advance of all other churches. To-day, girls who have been born in the Society of Friends recognize with surprise, as they grow older, the disabilities of women in other religious denominations. There has been no bar before their doors; no conscious restraint that did not extend to men and women alike. Their fathers never established a school for boys and none for girls. From the first Friends insisted on universal education. Somewhere between 1650 and 1670 a Friend named Christopher Taylor opened a boarding-school for girls and boys at Waltham Abbey, in Essex, afterward at Edmonton. Another striking departure was the omission of the promise of obedience from the marriage service. It occasioned no disasters. None the less were they loving wives and tender mothers. As early as 1655 there are records of women Friends as preachers. In the earliest history men only held meetings for business, but as early as 1691 the