

of the words of greeting and sympathy that come from the other Associations.

The spirit that breathes through them all is clear evidence of a constant and abiding interest in the work of the First-day School on the part of very many members of our Society in all the Yearly Meetings.

We are encouraged by reports of the lively interest manifested in all the Schools within our borders; of the reopening of one that had been temporarily closed, and the establishment of another, with flattering prospects of future growth in numbers and usefulness. In connection with this, it may be said that a few of the more conservative members, though filled with an earnest desire for the preservation of the young people and the growth of the Society, yet seem to lose sight of the changed conditions that surround the children of the present day, and look on the First-day School as an unnecessary innovation and a departure from the accepted order. Friends, as a rule, however, have come to a realization of the fact, that a steady decrease in the membership of our Society and its ultimate extinction as a separate religious body can be arrested in no way more effectively and speedily than by interesting the young people of the Society in the work of the First-day School, and, through them, reaching out to their associates, who may have, as yet, no religious affiliations.

Statistics show a gratifying addition to the membership of the Society, due to the influence of the First-day School.

Many adult members, heretofore irregular in attendance and lukewarm in interest in Society affairs, have been in-

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