

History of Friends, was given by Leah H. Miller. The report of the Literature Section followed. An article from the *Friends' Intelligencer* and *Journal*, entitled, "A story of a Plain Bonnet," was read, and selections from an article in the *Outlook*, in which W. D. Howells gives his views of marriage, and praises the customs of Friends' in regard to it. The reading of a poem, "No Sect in Heaven," closed the report.

Franklin Noble reported for the Current Topics Section. He spoke of the National Council of Women, recently convened at Washington, and of the death of Frederick Douglass, whose life is an example to all of us, showing what can be accomplished under the greatest obstacles. Mention was made of the arbitration between Brazil and Argentine Republic, concerning the possession of a large tract of country.

The report of the Discipline Section was given by Amy Scantlebury. Those portions of the advices regarding plainness of dress were read from the Disciplines of the different Yearly Meetings.

The subject of the evening was, "Have Friends' still a Testimony to bear in regard to Plainness of Dress?" It was opened by a paper by Helen S. Harris, read by Elizabeth Hallock. The animated discussion which followed its reading took up the remainder of the time. B.

### BELIEFS OF FRIENDS.

For the YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

The following paper was prepared and read by Amy J. Miller, of Brooklyn, at the Young Friends' Association of New York and Brooklyn, held on First-day evening, 1st mo. 13th, 1895, at Brooklyn Meeting-house, and is, I think, worthy of publication, and, with the writer's consent, I send it for your paper. I have often thought, and heard it expressed by others, when reading the Secretaries' notes of Associations in different places, and the

subject of papers read therein, that those who are not privileged to attend such Meetings would be much benefited if they were published in either or both of our Friends' papers.

ESTHER H. BARNES.

Purchase, 2nd mo. 28th, 1895.

### "RELIEFS OF FRIENDS."

My aim has been to give on different subjects the views or beliefs of the founders of our Society, as well as of some more modern writers. It seems to me that the fundamental principle or principles of the true Friend to-day are the same as at the rise of the Society. The answer very often given to the question: "What do Friends believe?" is "The Inner Light or the immediate revelation of God in man." These being phrases we who are members hear repeatedly, would seem to need no further explanation, although at a recent meeting of a Young Friends' Association almost a dozen ideas were given of this Inner Light. This being the foundation principle of Quakerism—I think all Friends grant this—all the beliefs, views or what would, if written and adopted by the Meeting, form a creed, must necessarily hang thereon. To formulate a creed, though, for a Friend to recognize would be an infringement of his rights (so to speak) as freedom of belief has always been a stronghold with the Society. Therefore, what might be written as a creed of the authors I have consulted may differ a little from what some others may say, although I think, upon the whole, they pretty generally unite. Friends believe that the immediate revelation of God in the soul of man has been from the beginning, and continues to the present day. In the Old Testament, God communicated with the Jews in the Holy of Holies. In the New Testament one finds corroboration of this in such verses as "If any man have not the Spirit of God, he is none of His," and "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Many of the ancients, as