

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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NO. 1

SHIPS THAT PASS.

As ships, from far and distant ports,
To distant harbors hurrying on,
Meet with each other on the deep,
And hail, and answer, and are gone.

So we, upon the sea of life,
Have met, as mortals of en will,
One from the prairies of the West,
One from the land of rock and rill.

So shall we pass on separate ways,
As vessels parting on the main,
And in the years to come our paths
May never meet or cross again.

Yet when life's voyage all is done,
Where'er apart our pathways tend,
We'll drop our anchors side by side,
In the same harbor at the end.

PHOENIX CARY

STUDYING THE QUERIES.

At Benjaminville Monthly Meeting held in Eleventh month it was decided to take up the subjects embraced in our several queries for consideration, to be opened by a paper prepared by some one appointed for that purpose.

The following was intended to embrace the subjects contained in the first query, which reads: "Are Friends diligent in the attendance of all our meetings for worship and discipline; do they avoid unbecoming behavior; and do they observe the hour for meeting?"

As all meetings for worship have a definite object in view it is well to consider first who or what it is we design to worship when assembled. And then, what is worship? We need, in considering these to be very charitable—as we, as a Society, differ very materially from most of the various religious organizations as well as among ourselves.

Who or what is God? We have heard and read and thought about Him from our first recollection. We have all had some religious experience;

we have opportunities for studying the religious history of the world for six thousand years; we have heard the expression of the best religious minds of our day. And after all, what do we know about Him or His identity? We are told we will find it all in the Bible, we search diligently but do not find Him; we find it a book that testifies of Him and is a finger-board pointing the Way. It tells us He is spirit and can only be manifest in man and is even then only known spiritually. There is no recorded instance where He has been seen by the natural eye. We read of His speaking to men, and issuing His commands in former ages. We believe He is unchangeable, and is the same to-day as in any former age, and even yet speaks and commands the willing and obedient. All this does not answer the question; we are not satisfied, and continue to ask, "Who, what or where is He?" We hear no responding voice. Is it not repeatedly promised the "pure in heart" shall see Him? It must come back to each one to answer for himself. If He can only be known spiritually and within, it is a knowledge that cannot be imparted to another. He has been known by humanity in every age, and is not far from any who diligently seek Him.

God is spirit, not personality, but omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent spirit.

"God is love, and they that dwell in love dwell in God and He in them." "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." Our highest conception of wisdom, light and love must then be to us God. If we believe the promises that we can find Him, see Him and know Him, how can the human mind contain a higher conception of an all-ruling power? We are prone to let superstition or a species of idolatry lead