

Young * Friends' * Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

VOL. VII.

LONDON, ONT., THIRD MONTH, 1892.

NO. 3

FROM SHELLEY'S "REVOLT OF ISLAM."

Reproach not thine own soul, but know thyself;
Nor hate another's crime, nor loathe thine
own.

It is the dark idolatry of self
Which, when our thoughts and actions once
are gone,

Demands that man should weep and bleed and
groan;

Oh, vacant expiation!—Be at rest:
The past is death's, the future is thine own;
And love and joy can make the foulest breast
A paradise of flowers, where peace might build
her nest.

THE PRESENT TENDENCY OF ORTHODOXY.

In an age of inquiry like the present, when throughout the three kingdoms of nature investigations are being made by the hand of science, and her keen eyes seeking to know the deep problems which only an All-wise God can comprehend, when even the greatest of problems—that of Life—is being investigated, even in its relation to the forces of the inorganic world, is it strange that in the realm of deepest thought, in Theology, "The Greatest of the Sciences," there is a spirit of inquiry and a tendency for change, calculated to well nigh startle the earnest seeker after truth.

The old, old question, "What is Truth?" which has puzzled the thoughtful through all ages, is pre-eminently the question of the hour, and "The Present Tendency of Orthodoxy" seems to be a willingness and desire to sweep down any cobwebs of superstition or accumulated dust of shattered dogmas, that to-day may cover the face of Truth, and many are fearful lest the over-zealous seeker may sweep down with the cobwebs and dust a part of Truth also. Plato said 'God is Truth, and Light

His Shadow." We know all Truth comes from God and we need not fear that by the puny arm of man it can be overthrown, and from whatever source light may come, we surely need not be troubled lest it will reveal aught that will harm us to know, from the nearest, that human language has succeeded in attempts to describe the indefinite lies in the sentence, "God is Light."

In the two hundred years and over, since the corruptions of the church compelled honest seekers after God to break away from ecclesiastical authority, there has been many changes, first a vain attempt to found religion upon mere human reason and morality, then a change based upon Protestant doctrine, then a great reaction towards the ancient belief in the authority of the church, and now in our own time an era of investigation.

It is a tendency in our age and generation to go to extremes, and especially is this the case when men, having left what they have found to be error, go from the one extreme of believing all things without any investigation, or use of the God-given faculty of reason, they go for a time to the opposite extreme of doubting all things until they can prove them true; so the unbelievers to-day, seeing the downfall of old superstitions, and the evident decay of faith in ecclesiastical authority, and even of Biblical infallibility, exclaim that the tendency of Orthodoxy is towards unbelief, but such is not the case. Every new discovery made by Science or History go to show that truth, whether from the hand of Science or the records of the "Written Word" are in accord, the only mistake in the past having been to place the authority for the Scriptures higher than their source, which was the Spirit of Truth itself—the Unwritten