

But in promoting the enlargement of their own particular meetings, recent history, so far as my knowledge goes, proves that their efforts, as a rule, have not succeeded. My knowledge of these does not extend much beyond the limits of our own (Genesee) yearly meeting. Results may and perhaps do differ elsewhere, for in an article by "Penn" in *Intelligencer and Journal* of 11th month, 21st, 1885, entitled "Religious Meetings and After Meetings," I find the following sentence. "It is certain that the experience of Friends has been that silent meetings perish, and that to preserve the existence of a meeting needs the exhortation and exposition of a minister." If this is the case in the experience of Penn the very reverse has been the case with us.

It is not my province in this article to say upon whose shoulders this deficiency should fall. It may be for the want of a hearty co-operation of the members with the minister, or of the minister with the members, in all the affairs of the church. It may be caused by a domineering disposition in the minister or a want of sympathetic activity on the part of the members. The Christian religion is of a practical nature, and the work of the church is not preaching alone. "Faith without works is dead." "If ye hear the e things, happy are ye if ye do them. *Doing*, that is the word, not listening only. Every member has his particular work to do, and if he fails to do that work there is an incompleteness which no minister can remedy. If all our members were thus earnest in the performance of their duties our meetings, though held in silence, would never be dull. There would be activity and life, which would manifest itself even to strangers who might come and sit in silence with us.

I have not penned this article for the sake of encouraging silent meetings, but for the purpose of pointing out to our members, and especially to our young people who attend such meetings, their efficiency, their life and activity when properly held, and the important part they may play in the work of the whole church.

S. P. Z.

Coldstream, 1, 3, 1887.

THOUGHTS.

Now that the old year is near its close and the new close at hand, would it not be an apt time for those of us who have been somewhat careless of known duties, to begin the year with a more determined purpose to fill up the grand measure of life?

Have we been thoughtful enough in the past for all the blessings that have been showered upon us by an All-wise Father? In return have we at all times shown a grateful spirit for all these continuances? These are thoughts that would be well not only at this but at other times for us to often ponder. We are placed here for a noble purpose. God is never behind hand on His part of the labor. He gives us the power of choice. A justification for doing the right and a reproof for doing the wrong. What better Guide do we need? Can we obtain plainer and truer counsel from creeds, books, or from men? These may be right as auxiliaries, but are not *the* light.

The justification for doing a duty is, of itself, ample reward for us to mind the promptings and press forward towards others that are daily about our path. As we are willing to abide here I trust we will advance in the scale, that we each have in our choice to ascend.

Methinks by thus minding the promptings, or in other words the True Light, man's animal powers will be schooled to fill their proper places to serve us and realize that we are adding to our faith, virtue; to virtue, patience; to patience, temperance; to temperance, Godliness; to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

Let us come home to this Guide, and bring our every action to the bar of judgment; and what is opposed to our peace, cast out, and dwell in the Light, as God is in the Light. This is a known fact to all, then let us be more faithful in the future, to all that will be of peace to God and man.

JOSEPH FRITTS.

Macedon, 12, 21, 1886.

The man who went to the country for "rest and change," says the waiters got most of his change and the landlord the rest.