

Young Friends' Review

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BY S. P. & EDGAR M. ZAVITZ

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THE BI-CENTENNIAL AT MERION MEETING HOUSE.

The commemoration of the bi-centennial of New York Yearly Meeting at Flushing, L. I., earlier in the season, and the one at Merion, Pa., 10th mo. 5th, were occasions of more than ordinary importance. Not before, since the separation of 1827-28, have the two branches of Friends united for a common cause and with a like interest. The papers etc., read by members of each branch were kindly and valuable.

Robert M. Janney, of Philadelphia, who was Chairman at the Merion

Meeting, offered the following introductory remarks :

"If any authority were needed for such an observation as this among Friends, I think we have it in this injunction of the wise man : 'Honor thy father and thy mother ; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.'

"In celebrating with simple, yet sincere and appropriate ceremonies the 200th anniversary of the building of this meeting-house, we are desiring to honor the fathers and mothers who founded it, as also the long line of worthies who, through two centuries, have worshipped the Father in spirit and in truth, and in so honoring them I feel that we are honoring ourselves.

"I trust that it is with no improper pride or spirit of self-laudation that we shall recount the past, nor with boastful confidence that we shall scan the future ; but that drawing inspiration from one, we may resolve to dedicate ourselves with singleness of purpose to a high fulfillment of the other. Believing as we do in the beneficial influences of Quakerism upon the world, and that it has a message to the people of to-day, let us keep always before us the simplicity and sufficiency of the faith of our fathers—the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints,—the faith which, if truly accepted, concerns itself not so much with naming the name, as with doing the will. For, hath not the Master said : 'Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven,'—and again : 'Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you.'

"How much it means to be a Friend indeed ! Friends, it is a most pleasant privilege to welcome you on the very interesting occasion which to-day has drawn us as 'with one accord in one place,' a place so fragrant with hallowed memories and so rich in suggestive thought.

"And there are many here who are