

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

VOL. III

LONDON, ONT., THIRD MONTH, 1888.

NO. 3

YOUR HOUSE.

Be true to yourself at the start, young man,
Be true to yourself and God ;
Ere you build your house mark well the spot,
Test all the ground, and build you not
On the sand or the shaking sod.

Dig, dig the foundation deep, young man,
Plant firmly the outer wall ;
Let the props be strong and the roof be high,
With an open turret toward the sky,
Through which heaven's dews may fall.

Let this be the room of the soul, young man,
When shadows shall herald care ;
A chamber with never a roof of thatch
To hinder the light—or door or latch,
To shut in the spirit's prayer :

Build slow and sure—'tis for life, young man,
A life that outlives the breath ;
For who shall gainsay the holy word ?
"Their works do follow them," saith the Lord,
"Therein there is no death."

Build deep, and high, and broad, young man,
As the needful case demands ;
Let your title deeds be clear and bright,
'Til you enter your claim to the Lord of light,
For the house not made with hands.

—[M. A. K.

HOW SHALL WE BEST RETAIN OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS IN THE SOCIETY?

This seems a difficult question to answer in a concise manner, and yet one of vital importance if we wish to continue the existence of our religious organization.

In all seasons of growth in our own or any other religious denomination, there has been a general feeling of aggressiveness among the adult members, a sense of personal responsibility for the life of the body, and desire that

those outside its limits should be impressed with the truth or truths the denomination represents.

Assuming that whatever would attract and convince those outside our membership would be valuable in attracting and convincing the younger members who are within our fold by birthright instead of conviction, may we not say in partial answer to our query, that we lack a sufficiency of this spirit of aggressiveness and personal zeal? Our principles should mean more to us, who are supposed to be convinced and representative members. Until we really feel our hearts stirred by a continuing consciousness that our Society represents vital truths that accepted and acted upon will truly benefit us and all who live in their light, we will do little towards the spread of this light even among our children. We may ask them to attend Meetings and First day Schools, but if our advocacy is in the line of habit and our lives lack consistency and that zeal which attests our faith, it will be of but little force either with our children or with ourselves. As genuine conviction and consequent regeneration of heart and purposes, lies at the foundation of all successful religious labor, it appears to me the first and most important step for us to take in the effort to retain our younger members, is to endeavor to reach this foundation ourselves. We who are desirous that the children shall remain with us in religious faith must have dwelt so carefully and earnestly upon the principle or principles which constitute us a denomination, that we have become professors of the faith by sight and conviction of its truth and not as is so frequently the case, by inheritance of the traditions, habits and places of our predecessors. When the power