

MARRIED.

POULSON-VESTY—At the home of the bride's parents, Chicago, Illinois, 9th mo. 26, 1895, under the care of Chicago Executive Meeting of Friends, Mary E. Poulson to Percy Vesty.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING.

The warm hand-clasp of friendship and the pleasant, kindly smile greeted members of Benjaminville and Richland meetings, as on the 13th of 9th mo., they stepped from the cars onto the platform of the depot at Losti, at which place a few minutes later their number was increased by a large delegation from Iowa and Nebraska, which received the same kindly welcome accorded to the first arrivals. The many vehicles in waiting were soon filled and we on our way to the neighborhood where our annual gathering is always held, on reaching which we were assigned to our respective homes for the ensuing week. The weather was warm and rather sultry, but Sixth-day night a slight shower, layed what dust there was, and cooled the air, making a little fire necessary for the comfort of ministers and elders, as they gathered in their meeting the next day at ten o'clock, having the company of Lydia H. Price, of Birmingham Monthly Meeting, Penna., and Edwin L. Pierce, of Green Street Monthly Meeting, whose company and presence alone would have been inspiring, even without the encouraging and advisory words they uttered in our midst. Some of our members had been removed from among us since last we met. One, an aged mother in Israel indeed; one in the prime of life, an active and useful member; but we were reminded that while changes belong necessarily to this material world, yet, thanks to the inward principle of goodness, there is no discouragement because of our few numbers, as religion does not consist in *real* loss unless we *will* to have it so. We were advised not to give way to dis-

number, but is an individual thing. To make these meetings redound to our good, we must remember that it is sweet for brothers to dwell in unity, and that where the spirit of God is there is liberty, and that in God's holy mountain nothing can hurt or destroy, and that we should draw nigh to our Heavenly Father, remembering his precious promises, "Draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh unto you," also, that "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them," and the closer we draw to Him the more we are lifted to a condition to worship in solemnity. In the afternoon the First-day School Annual Conference met in its first session with quite a large attendance, routine work, reading the reports from the Quarterly Associations, epistles from other yearly conferences, appointing committees, &c., occupying the time principally. Its second session was held on Third-day evening, at which time delegates to the General Conference, to be held next year, were appointed, etc. First-day morning a large company assembled and were addressed by our visiting Friends very acceptably. Testimony was borne to the universality and efficacy of God's love in the human heart, with desires that we might come into his full life and liberty, being as children, willing to be instructed, and turn away from darkness into light, as we cannot turn to both and receive eternal life. Christian religion was shown to be progressive, and the more we journey in religious life the stronger we grow. A concern was expressed "that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth, and our daughters be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace." We will have to give up tradition, which may be a hard thing to do, but we *must* do it if we become earnest living Christians. The evidence of true, vital religion is not in profession, but in holiness of life. There was never a clearer exemplification of practical religion than Jesus taught. We