

From a private letter to the Managing Editor :

ESTEEMED FRIEND,—I am led to address thee at this time by an allusion contained in thy article on "Lectures" in last number of YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW. Thee refers to "Friends on the other side of the imaginary line that divides us," and I infer that thee means the line between us and Orthodox Friends.* Am I correct? O, my friend, I hope so, and that I can in spirit reach across the blue waters of dear old Ontario and clasp hands with a kindred spirit. For I am persuaded by the light of recent revelations that the line is indeed wholly imaginary, that the different beliefs held by each body upon disputed points of doctrine are identical in their effect upon the human soul. That this can be proved, and that a few earnest ones laboring in love under that conviction can close up the breach and reunite the severed cords that once bound us together—a consummation for which my heart earnestly, longingly prays, and over which I believe God and his angels would rejoice, even as they must have wept over the sad rupture. It may be that this cannot be fully accomplished until the older members of each party who took active part in the events of separation, and, perhaps, some of our leaders who were born soon after those times of disturbance shall have passed from the stage of action. But on us, the middle aged and younger members of the Society, I feel that the duty is laid, and to us the privilege is given to enlist without delay under the banner of the Great Prince of Peace in the glorious work of healing and reunion, with the divine approbation and assurance that even if we ourselves do not live to witness in the flesh the grand consummation, yet our posterity will undoubtedly have that blessed privilege. And

[* The *imaginary line* referred to in the article mentioned was intended to mean the national boundary, but the above inference and comment was thought to be in accordance with many Friends' feelings in respect to unity among the branches of the church, and we have taken the liberty of publishing that part of the letter which bears on the point.—
Ed.]

who that is generous would not work joyfully for the benefit of posterity? And if, as I think probable, some of the younger, more liberal and unprejudiced ones of the other branch of the Society can be found willing to enlist under the same banner, in the same all-worthy cause, what a mighty power we might wield in the Lord's service! Especially if all would be guided by the following command of the Great Prince: "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote that is in thine brother's eye." I have been led to write at greater length than I expected when I began this letter, but my great interest in the cause I advocate will, I think, be sufficient apology if any is required.

SILENT MEETINGS.

The thought I wish to convey on this subject was beautifully brought out by an expression of a young lady lately, who, in company with others, was about to attend a Friend's meeting for the first time. They were to accompany us. The writer of this made the remark that our meeting would perhaps seem dull to those who were not in the habit of attending Friend's meetings, as it was quite often held in silence. *Quiet*, perhaps but not *dull* was her thoughtful reply. This thought that a *silent* meeting is not necessarily a *dull* meeting, should be better understood even by numbers of our own Society.

Joseph Cook once said that there was but one religious society, the Society of Friends, which rightly recognized the power there is in silent worship. That the present condition of the masses is fitted for such worship I do not believe, but those who have attained to its full enjoyment, know of its efficiency, its sweetness, its opportunities for learning of Him who declared He would be the teacher of His people Himself. Such, like Elijah, find God, not in the whirlwind, nor in the earthquake, but in the still small voice.

That our ministers have done much for the Society in spreading its principles in giving encouragement to meetings they are called to visit, and in other ways, I gladly acknowledge.