

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

VOL. IX.

LONDON, ONT., NINTH MONTH 15TH, 1894.

NO. 18

THE TENDERNESS OF GOD.

BY PRINCIPAL B. F. AUSTIN, M.A. B.D.

Of all the thoughts that come to us
On Mount or plain or sea,
The thought of God's great tenderness
Brings most of joy to me.

He made the stars that shine on high,
His sceptre rules o'er all,
And yet He hears the raven's cry,
And marks the sparrow's fall.

Each morn His light o'er land and deep
Awakes the birds and flowers;
He giveth His beloved sleep,
Thro' all the evening hours.

He paints with skill the desert flower
In most entrancing hue,
And gladdens with refreshing shower
Or with the gentle dew.

Our world speeds on at His command
Thro' boundless space afar,
And yet so gentle is his hand
The sufferer feels no jar.

The birdlings sleep on downy nest,
Lulled by His zephyrs mild,
White earth rolls on at his behest,
Nor wakes the sleeping child.

My soul in life's drear wilderness
Would faint by cares oppress,
But for the gentle tenderness
Of Him who giveth rest.

Of all the thoughts that come to us
On Mount or plain or sea,
The thought of God's great tenderness
Brings most of joy to me.

—*Christian Advocate.*

SERMON.

BY SERENA A. MINARD, AT PELHAM
HALF-YEARLY MEETING, (AT SPARTA,
ONT.,) ON FIRST-DAY MORNING, 8 MO.
19, 1894.

The infinite Author and Sustainer of
the Universe, cares for every creature of
his hand. Man owes to him more

than existence, and such powers as are
necessary for its maintenance, his
reason flows from the divine intelli-
gence, and his soul is capable of appre-
ciating the character of its source.
And this Heavenly Father desires,
working through the laws of nature,
mind and spirit, to educate us up to his
likeness. He is tender to that wherein
we err and just in all his ways, his
nature is such as to win our trust, and
his leading such as to reward our fol-
lowing; to know that we have such a
Father is life for the soul.

If the kingdom of heaven is a *spiritual*
kingdom, then wherever a soul is
found true and faithful to the divine
monitions, whenever in loving humility
we yield our own will—and the free-
dom of our own wisdom for the higher
freedom which the truth gives, when
we seek for purity and holiness as the
only atmosphere in which we can truly
live, and go forth in deeds of self-
sacrifice, then are we in the possession
of that eternal life to which Jesus al-
luded when he said, "And this is life
eternal, that they might know thee, the
only true God and Jesus Christ whom
thou hast sent." Eternal life, then, is
not only set before us as the prize of
patient purity, the reward of long con-
tinued well doing, it is not a glory
which only after death will crown the
successful labors of the faithful, but it
is the purity, the well-doing, the holi-
ness itself. The kingdom of God, says
Paul, is "righteousness and peace and
joy in the holy spirit." It is the know-
ledge of God with all the spiritual vir-
tues that attend it, knowledge which
may be ours *now*, virtues which, if the
life, example, and exhortation of Jesus
have any meaning for us, may attend
our present earthly life.