

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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SETTLING DOWN.

Across the shadows of the woods
Quivers the first faint gold,
Above the distant meadows broods
A glory manifold.
From breezy sunsets on the heights,
From clear dawns by the shore,
From summer's magical delights
We turn us back once more

Oh, for airy, wilful ways
Of winds and wings and flowers !
Oh, for the unending holidays,
Pure, restful, careless hours !
How shall we take again the cares
Of stifling mart and town ?
Fate frets' us, even in our prayers,
Tis hard to "settle down."

Yet duty has an angel's eyes,
However stern its mien,
And laws almighty wear the guise
Of every-day routine ;
And faith fares best on common needs,
And prayer on daily trust,
And Charity's transcendent deeds
Have birth in toil and dust.

O mountains answering to the skies !
O vast, yet tide bound sea !
Within your grand obedience lies
Revealed, our destiny.
One with creation, shall we chafe
Beneath its noblest crown ?
Thank God ! the world is strong and safe
Because we "settle down."

—*The Congregationalist.*

FOR YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

ESTHER AND LEONA, OR TWO FRIENDS OF THE FIRST CENTURY.

It was past the hour of sunset in the city of Capernaum. On the top of a spacious house in one of the principal streets two girls lingered long in conversation; their surroundings betokened wealth and refinement; costly divans and rugs were arranged with a view to the comfort of those who had plenty of leisure.

The girls reclined on two of the

divans drawn near each other, and their hands were clasped as they conversed in low tones. The lustrous black eyes, raven hair, and smooth olive skin of one maiden proclaimed her to be a Jewess, while the fairer face and sparkling eyes of her companion belonged to a Greek by birth. The two formed a striking contrast, but both were beautiful. The Jewish maiden was of a quiet, reserved disposition, and capable of the most intense feeling, while the Greek girl was lively, impulsive, quick to become attached to a person, and willing to make any sacrifice for a friend. The two were near of an age, not quite eighteen years, and had not met each other for many months. After a short silence, the young Greek raised her head, and, supporting it on her hand as she gazed into the eyes of her friend, said: "Now, Esther, tell me all about yourself." Without speaking, Esther raised her large, dark eyes and gazed intently at the young girl by her side; as the look was returned, the eyes of the Greek dropped, and a slight blush colored her fair cheek for an instant. "Ah, Leona," answered Esther, "it is even as I thought, you have not told me all; you have, indeed, told me of your home life until I seem to see your father and mother and brother, and you the angel of that home. Do you know, Leona, I have almost envied you that home of yours sometimes; to be sure I have a good home, and deserve to be punished if I complain, as my father says I am all he has, and I believe there is nothing in the whole world he would deny me if it were in his power to bestow it. Aunt Sarah looks after everything and relieves me of all care, but she is not like a mother, and if I had a sister or even a brother, life