

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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THE HIDDEN LIFE.

There is a life by man unseen,
A life, the soul and God between,
Nor mortal eye may mark the strife,
Or quiet, of that hidden life.

Our feeble vision can but scan
The outward merits of the man ;
And virtue to our sight be plain,
When God beholds a crimson stain.

A brother's sins will oftimes rise
To mountain-height before our eyes,
While He who knoweth each intent,
May write that brother—innocent.

There is a life to man unknown,
Between the soul and God alone,
No finite line may sound the deep,
Where human pride and passions sleep.

But to the great Omniscient eye,
Our inner lives uncovered lie ;
Nor secret thought of thine or mine,
Can hide beyond God's sounding-line.

Our hearts should hold how lightly then !
The praise and prejudice of men ;
Esteeming rather to be right,
And blameless in Jehovah's sight.

Oh ! may we strive from day to day,
To shape each purpose to His way,
Who knowth all the Christian's strife
And seeth all his hidden life.

SERMON

DELIVERED BY SUNDERLAND P. GARDNER
AT YARMOUTH, ONTARIO, ON FOURTH
DAY OF GENESSEE YEARLY
MEETING WEEK, 1887.

"What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"

These things can no more commingle and harmonize than the antagonistic elements of fire and water. Righteousness, if it is ever attained by us, depends upon ourselves. It is not an indepen-

dent act of our Heavenly Father. Jesus, in his mission of love among the children of men, declared, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." They were educated and trained up to a belief in the law of Moses, to the commandments and laws given him by God. They observed and carried out, in all strictness the letter. But that was not enough. It did not regulate their lives. It was only an outward observance. If they could only escape suffering the severe penalties attached to the violation of the law it was all right. They had no idea that it pertained to anything deeper than this, or to anything more practical. A man may harbor hate against his fellow being and resolve in his mind to take the life, yet if he did not preform the outward act he was entirely innocent in the eyes of the Mosaic law. But, my friends, there is a higher condition and requirement than this. Our lives must be ruled and regulated by something higher than any law ever written by man. The mission of Jesus was to call men away from all law. It was this higher principle which Jesus taught that enabled the martyrs to bear persecution and the stake with all patience. Yet not all who profess to be led by the spirit *are* led by it. Hypocrites may be found among the pretended believers. The instance of the blind man comes before me, who, after submitting to the one application, said, in answer to the query of Jesus if he saw aright, that he "saw men as trees walking." We receive some light but not sufficient to see things as they are. This condition is very common among