

A PRAYER.

Holy Father, my prayer of to-night
Is, the soul that now kneels may be steadfast
in right,
May stand at the wheel of humanity's good,
And remember in prayer thou each day gives
us food.

Thou each day sends the rain or the sunshine
to bless,
And after the sorrow there follows a rest ;
A rest that is sweet as the dew-laden flower,
A fragrance which comes with the fresh morn-
ing hour.

I thank Thee, O Father, for the boon of today,
I thank thee for life and for health alway ;
I pray that I may strengthened be,
And closely may I follow Thee.

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NEW YORK FRIENDS' EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Friends have ground for congratulation in the success—using that term in its broadest sense—of such enterprises as that of the Educational Conference, of which the second meeting was recently held at Friends Meeting-house, 15th St. Despite the inclement weather the attendance was good, and the hearty interest manifested by all present was sufficient assurance—if the Committee in charge needed further assurance—that Friends in this vicinity are alive to the Educational Interests of the Society. Comment on the papers and discussions which made up the programme seems, in view of the general expression at the meeting itself superfluous. Suffice it to say, that while teachers carried from the meeting practical suggestions for the schoolroom and renewed sense of the attractiveness, as well as the responsibility of this calling, Friends returned to their homes with intensified appreciation of the force of that query in their Discipline regarding the education of the children. But just at this point an opportunity for a little dogmatism on the duties of the home in relation to the school is irresistible. (Since written, or printed, words demand not even the courtesy of seeming attention, such dogmatism may be pardonable.) The very existence

of the aforesaid clause in Friends Discipline is a recognition of the co-operation which should exist between the home and school. It asks not only that the children be sent to school, but queries if they are receiving an education. To be entitled "clear" in this particular involves much more than the child's attendance at a good school. It demands the intelligent co-operation of parent and teacher ; and necessitates, in order that the home and school influences may supplement each other, careful scrutiny and understanding on the part of the parent of the methods of instruction and disciplinary systems of the schools of highest repute. Education is a principle of evolution, and as such signifies the progressive development of the child, precluding in the very form of the specified "query" the patronage of any absolute system of training. It asks, in short, that the children under the care of Friends shall have the best educational advantages that may be within reach—or that the best systems attainable be provided them. But the best school system, or most successful teacher, unassisted by the home influences over its pupils, works at disadvantage. The power of influence wielded in the school-room is perhaps outweighed by only one—that of the home. The impetus of their united forces is incalculable. Where representatives from the household meet the faculties of colleges and school-teachers, to confer together on educational matters ; when home and school are represented in proportion to the power of their respective influence at such conferences ; when the teacher emphasizes mother's counsel and father's code of honor, and parents uphold teachers' judgment in school discipline—not on the principle of the man who met his son's complaint of injustice with a flogging at home to balance the one at school, but on the ground of intelligent appreciation of its principles—then is the injunction to proper oversight of education of Friends' children faithfully observed.