

Young Friends' Review

A SEMI-MONTHLY.

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of Friends*

BY S. P. & EDGAR M. ZAVITZ

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DIED.

CUSHMAN—At his home, in Lockport, N. Y., on 8th mo. 2nd, 1894, John E. Cushman passed away from earth, aged 79 years.

Although not a member among Friends he had for 50 years been in unity with his wife and their children, who are members of Rochester Monthly Meeting.

THE FUTURE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCES.

The future of the Friends' General Conferences is a question of importance and interest to our Society at this

time, for with *present* methods the Conferences will soon become local and cease to be *general*. The magnitude of the gatherings is already taxing our largest Yearly Meetings to their utmost, and has made it impossible for the smaller ones to hold them—under the methods now adopted. Our smaller Yearly Meetings cannot afford to be deprived of the inspiration and life which these gatherings are instilling into our body. Neither can our Society at large afford to make them other than *general* Conferences. The tendency of late has been to localize the work of the First-day School department, and I believe a loss has been the result. The two most important committees—the Executive and Literature—are composed of members of all the Yearly Meeting Associations, but as their meetings are held almost without exception within the limits of two or three of the eastern Yearly Meetings, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Genesee are practically debarred from any voice in them, and as they exert more authority than the General Conference itself Friends may readily see the consequences to the western meetings. *At least one important meeting of these Committees should be held within each Yearly Meeting* during the two years intervening the meeting of the General Conference, and that at the time and place of the Yearly Meeting.

I believe there are few who over estimate the influence which these Conferences are having, and are likely to have in the future, over our religious organizations. They are helping to create an enthusiasm and loyalty for our Society, and especially among our young people, which was much needed but largely lacking in the past, and we must adjust our methods to our circumstances in order that all may be benefited.

The great difficulties which we have to face and which make it impossible for the smaller Yearly Meetings to any longer hold the General Conference as at present conducted, are the two