

AT THE REGULAR MEETING IN BROOKLYN, 12TH MONTH 12TH, 1897.

The Conference Committee reported that two of its members had attended the meeting for worship at Flushing.

The Literature Section presented a brief notice (printed in full below) of the "Life of Abby Hopper Gibbons," by her daughter, Sarah Hopper Emerson.

The report of the Current Topics' Section called attention to the President's message, and his conservative policy regarding Cuba. Reference made to the liberal spirit pervading the Baptist Conference, recently held in Chicago, in considering the subjects of immersion, communion, creeds, etc.; to the decision of the Court of Appeals that it is not in the power of corporations to grant permanent franchises, as a great victory for the people; to the recent six days' bicycle race in New York, as degrading in its influence.

The New York Bible Section reported having met and continued its studies; and for the Brooklyn Section, Edwin S. Cox gave an interesting report of its meeting, at which extracts from Gibbons' chapter on Christianity were read and discussed with profit. Daniel Gibbons then read a paper entitled "Spiritual and Ethical Culture," beginning with a review of some of the writings of ancient skeptics, unbelievers and heretics, so called, and quoting from the "Sale of Philosophers" of Lucien, whose premise is that "Every affirmation is true and every denial is false." The writer termed Ethical Culture "the new unbelief," and said that followers of this school of thought have substituted morality for faith, and refused to accept anything that cannot be absolutely proven. Again, he likened Ethical Culture to 'religion with the spirit left out,' or thought based upon the human side of religion, limiting man's existence within the narrow compass of the intellect, with no reference to his spiritual life. The aphorism, "Truth is greater than any relig-

ion,' would be truer if it read, "Religion is greater than any truth."

The paper was freely discussed, and it was thought that the word religion is often misused. If by religion we mean the Divine revelation to the human soul, the revised aphorism is true. The difference between religion and morality was discussed at some length, and the feeling seemed to be that the two cannot be separated; that Ethical Culture is vastly useful as leading to the higher state of Spiritual Culture, which is as important as intellectual development. Our belief is important, as it influences our actions; a belief in God, even, is not essential to the living of a good life—that is, God may not be realized by some who follow their highest light. Morality, however, bears the relation to religion, of the lesser to the greater principle, and while the former is limited, the latter is the ever progressing revelations of God in the human soul.

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"LIFE OF ABBY HOPPER GIBBONS, TOLD CHIEFLY THROUGH HER CORRESPONDENCE."—Edited by her daughter, Sarah Hopper Emerson, in two volumes, (P. Putnam's Sons), is a work that no doubt many Friends will be interested in, especially those whose good fortune it was to know personally this worthy daughter of a noted father. The name of Isaac T. Hopper is known and honored in many other homes than those of the people bearing the name of Friend, and his daughter was his efficient co-worker through many years of his long and eventful life. Her interest in the cause of anti-slavery was no less than his, and many were there of the unhappy dark skinned race to whom she extended the helping hand which led to their freedom. Her journal kept during her hospital service and the letters written at that time are full of interest. She went about her work, whatever it chanced to be, with a strength of purpose and a directness that insured success and led her