

Young Friends' Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

VOL. III.

LONDON, ONT., SECOND MONTH, 1888.

NO. 2

FROM "THE ANSWER."

Though God be good and free be heaven,
No force divine can love compel ;
And though the song of sins forgiven
May sound through lowest hell.

The sweet persuasion of His voice
Respects the sanctity of will,
He giveth day : thou hast thy choice
To walk in darkness still.

As one who, turning from the light,
Watches his own grey shadow fall,
Doubting, upon his path of night,
If there be day at all !

No word of doom may shut thee out,
No wind of wrath may downward whirl,
No swords of fire keep watch about
The open gates of pearl ;

A tenderer light than moon or sun,
Than song of earth a sweeter hymn
May shine and sound forever on,
And thou be deaf and dim.

Forever round the mercy seat
The guiding lights of Love shall burn ;
But what if, habit bound, thy feet
Shall lack the will to turn ?

What if thine eye refuse to see,
Thine ear of Heaven's free welcome fail,
And thou, a willing captive,
Thyself thy own dark jail.

O doom beyond the saddest guess,
As the long years of God unroll,
To make thy dreary selfishness
The prison of a soul !

To doubt the love that fain would break
The fetters from thy self-bound limb,
And dream that God can thee forsake
As thou forsakest Him.

—[Whittier.

AN ESSAY UPON "HOUSE AND HOME."

[Written by request and read before Union Grange, Ninth mo. 20, 1887, by Lillis B. Armitage, Pickering, Ont.]

The part assigned to me on this occasion is an essay upon house and home. As the two words are united by a copulative, the first query that presented itself to the mind was, whether they constitute two separate themes, or but one. Though at first thought they may appear to constitute but one, which, united in the higher sense, they really do, upon further reflection, they resolve into distinct and mayhap dissimilar subjects.

A house with ornate sculpture and gilded walls, with full and faultless appointments, although an abode, may not be a home, if as has been said :

"Home is where there is one to love,
Home is where there is one to love us."

Humble lowly cabins may be rich in that essential quality of home, in which stately mansions are at times but too poor. A true home feeling depends upon the social atmosphere pervading a household, not less than upon the material comforts and substantial supplies. Both play an important part, and it would seem presumptuous to add to the much that has been written and spoken upon both. Cautions, lectures and advices to wives and to mothers, come from the pulpit and the platform ; they come bound up in volumes, floating in pamphlets, and they come through untold myriads of newspaper articles. And it is well so. The subject is one which like that of the Gospel of Christ