

# Young Friends' Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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## LIFE'S SERVICES.

So, mayst thou still be strong,  
To help the needy, and to right the wrong,  
To lead with tender pity, those who stray,  
Back to the paths of truth and chastity.  
To dash the subtle cup from lips that quaff,  
Giving instead, the sparkling "water" and  
the "Bread of Life"  
To lift the heavy lids from eyes, that they may  
"look" and see,  
And draw the deaf ears near the heavenly  
symphony.  
But,—sweetest work of all, to guide the tender  
feet  
Into the narrow path, pointing to the  
"Gate."  
Saying, "Enter there; go not in ways of sin,  
though broad,  
For straight, this path, trends up to Heaven  
and God,  
And all along the way even unto the end,  
Shall walk with thee, in white, the children's  
"Friend."  
Thus, blessing others, shalt thou not be blest ?  
And shall not He, who notes the smallest  
service,  
Thy loving Master, speak to thee in tone,  
Which shall be audible to thyself alone.  
"Be not thou weary in well-doing, beloved,  
For in due season, thou shalt reap, if faithful  
proved."

Written for YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

## QUAKERISM AN EXPERIMENTAL RELIGION.

Quakerism, as the writer has endeavored to portray it, takes religion out of the domain of metaphysics and retains it within the realm of experience. The great impediment to the progress of genuine religion, as he believes, has been the intricate system of theology that the church has fashioned and which it has taught as being the essential substance of religion.

In the Christian theology, the doctrines of the fall of man, the introduction of sin into the world as a consequence of the original transgression, the subsequent wrath of God, bringing the necessity of a redeemer, and the coming of Christ as the atoning sacrifice,

prefigured throughout all ages, who, by his death, prepared the way for the salvation of all who believed in this plan of redemption, are necessary articles of faith. This plan, or "scheme" under different forms, has impeded the development of the native religion, the recognition of God as a spirit, active in every human soul, and sufficient to lead out of all sin into a condition of absolute righteousness.

Mankind has thus been taught that true Christianity consists in believing in certain doctrines, as the Trinity, total depravity, vicarious atonement, supernatural conversion, and infallibility of the Scriptures as the alone guide to righteousness, and that not to accept these is to be unevangelical. *The essential features of religion are thus embodied in what is simply an intellectual conception, nothing that has ever been verified by experience or can be so verified.* The first demand is to believe the articles of faith prescribed by the Church, and to believe these or to disbelieve, constitutes the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian. The important matter, in this view, in the promulgation of religion is to teach sound doctrines, and by sound doctrines is meant the doctrines of the sects that claim to be the only evangelical Christians. And thus religion becomes "a scheme of salvation," not a specific relationship to God and a rule of life in obedience to His divine influence.

The salvation set forth by the Church was not for this life, but for another succeeding this, not from sinning but from the punishment of sin, and the method, primarily, not by right living, but by faith in the "scheme."

Thus morality and religion are separated, the two great commandments, linked into unity by the founder of Christianity, are dissevered. Love to