

he has in the next sentence indicated the two principal reasons: "To escape having criticism personally applied" and "diffidence in regard to the merit of their productions." Respecting the first, I think there may be nervous, timid natures, upon whom a personal application of criticism, (especially if adverse,) would have a bad effect, for such I think it allowable to hide behind a *nom de plume*; initials merely, would hardly serve, because the ones most likely to criticise an author in person would be old acquaintances who would probably recognize him by his initials.

As to the second reason, I think that if an article has sufficient merit in editorial eyes to insure its publication, the author should not be afraid to have his full name appear herewith. In confirmation of which I now sign myself, (for publication, fully or in part, or complete rejection, as you see fit.)

Your friend and well-wisher.

HENRY A. COLEMAN.

Farmington, Ontario Co., N. Y., 11th mo. 1886.

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#### NOTES ON FIRST-DAY SCHOOLS.

Sparta First-day School has to-day closed for the winter season. The members of the Young Peoples' class expect to meet every two weeks at private residences during the coming winter and thus keep up with the lessons. We trust much good may be accomplished in keeping those engaged interested, and perhaps we can in this way encourage others to take hold and lend their helping hands and strength to a good cause.

Union F. D. School, held in the village of Union, organized about a year ago, is still an interesting little school, and its members feel encouraged to press onward. This school was started by the members of three families, three of their number being members with Friends. Since the school opened one of the three families (five in number) have become members with us. Others have come in with them, and I once visited the school when there were about thirty persons present. I feel those shall reap a good reward who are willing to go and take part with the few. It is easy for us to go with the multitude, or, in other words,

attend schools where there are large numbers in attendance, but when we see those who are willing to gather with the two or three, it shows in them a noble part. These Friends are unable to attend our meetings and feel this is a good way to spend a portion of their First-day afternoons. They meet at private dwellings. After visiting this school a week ago I felt that isolated and scattered Friends where only one or two families could meet together, read the scriptures, and by using the lesson leaves prepared by our F. D. S. Conference, questions could be asked which would bring out the minds, and by appointing a few each week to read selections from some publications of Friends, such as *Intelligencer* and *Journal*, YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW, or any other good work, they could keep themselves informed as to the doings and principle of our Society, which would not only be a strength to themselves but to the body at large. We should not always judge the strength of any religious organization by its numbers, but by the individual faithfulness of its members.

EDGAR HAIGHT.

Sparta, 11 mo. 14th, 1886.

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#### PICKERING MONTHLY MEETING.

At Uxbridge, on the 21st of 10th mo., the last of our monthly meetings, and the first of the executive meeting, was held. It was well attended by the members.

Some Friends, who were unavoidably absent at the time when the change was proposed, expressed deep regrets that it should take place, but tenderly exhorted to individual faithfulness in all things, and blessings both spiritual and temporal will be ours.

"He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." "I will not leave thee nor forsake thee." "Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Let us *ask*, let us *seek* and let us *knock*. How replete these words with meaning.

Behold the fields are white unto harvest, and though the laborers in our particular field are comparatively few, if *they* are faithful and fearless in the right I think more will be added in good time.

Let our motto be "*Onward and Upward*," and our gaze steadfast upon Him who said: "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world," and the discouragements which are so prone to enter the human mind will have no place.

A. B.