

like a young prophet amongst us ; aye, and many more who I trust in the years to come may make your acquaintance ; for I feel sure we are on the eve of a better day. I noticed this morning and throughout this Conference a new note of progress, a freedom from tradition, and a longing to do Christ's work rising amongst you ; and here, now, we have not only some one from England, but here on this platform sits Rufus Jones, the editor of the *American Friend*, and by him President Isaac Sharpless, of Haverford. So I cannot but think that a better day is coming, when the old strife will die out, and men will dedicate themselves to nobler aims and purer feelings.

"Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky ;
The flying cloud, the frosty light !
The year is dying in the night ;
The year is dying, let him die.

"Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife ;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

"Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite ;
Ring in the love of truth and right ;
Ring in the common love of good.

"Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand ;
Ring out the darkness of the land ;
Ring in the Christ that is to be."

We shall strive to emulate the spirit of this address and to help pull down the barriers which engender ignorance, and prejudice, and unkindness, and which tend to make Christians un-Christlike.

S. P. Z.

THE BEST OF BOOKS.

FOR YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

It is painful to witness the deliberate efforts of some people to undervalue the worth of the Bible, and to undermine other persons' faith in it.

A writer recently said : "The nineteenth century is an age of unrest. The simple acceptance of the truths of the Bible has given way to earnest ques-

tionings in regard to its authenticity and inspiration. There is no occasion for fear that any of the bulwarks of our faith will be destroyed by honest research. The time in which the books of the Bible were written, or their authorship, may be questioned, but that in no wise invalidates the truth they contain. While aching hearts abound, and a thick cloud of sorrow covers many a home, the promises of God, so wonderfully preserved by man, will prove a comfort and blessing, and from the inmost heart will come the cry, "They are true, I have proven them." While there *may* be "no occasion for fear that the bulwarks of our faith be destroyed," there certainly *seems* a danger in that direction. Before removing the ancient, time-honored and tested foundation on which so many thousands of honest, well-meaning, thoughtful and intelligent people have reared a structure which has proved to *them* a tower of safety, a rock of refuge, it would be well to provide an equivalent. True, one edifice cannot be erected where another is standing, but the material can be procured and everything in readiness for the *new* building before beginning the destruction of the well-beloved old home, dear, if for no other reason, on account of loving pleasant associations connected therewith, and only because it is considered unsafe, or inadequate for present needs, does the inmate consent to its removal. This substitute, these would-be reformers have in many instances failed to provide, consequently unbelief in religion, meetings for worship, etc., has been the result. They say they would cite us to what is higher than the Bible—the inspeaking, indwelling voice of God, and, while no one faults them for this, we would fain ask, does a belief in this voice, or inner light, and a confidence in it, preclude faith or belief in the Bible? Surely it *need* not. To the earnest seeker for truth one but corroborates the other, not antagonizes it. There are many passages in the Bible, that, to ou