

church, and destroyed the peace and unity thereof, and, in process of time, plunged it into a state of darkness. The same fate, from the same cause, has befallen in a great degree, our poor Society. But had Friends kept to the light and spirit of truth, as recommended in the preaching of George Fox and our primitive worthies, and waited for its clear manifestation, and moved under the operation of its power, no apostasy could have entered; but the Society, ere now, would have made great advancement on the labors and experience of those early worthies. Many things would have been opened in succession on the minds of the faithful, by the same light of truth, that George Fox and the people of that day could not have borne. But instead thereof, Friends turned their attention back to the letter of the Scriptures, and the writings of the primitive Friends, which were particularly useful in the day and time in which they were written; but in after time, when the light was leading, or could have led to all who were faithful to its manifestations, to an advancement to greater and brighter experience in divine things, they have blocked up their own way by an undue attention to the letter.

But when the light is calling away from these weak and beggarly elements, those writings are no more or less than the letter that killeth, and if rested in, will have the same effect as the reading of the law of Moses upon the primitive disciples, it will and does bring a veil upon the heart, and turns backward to a former dispensation, instead of leading forward in the new and living, which only can add fresh life and vigor to the soul, and enable it to go forward on its heavenly journey, without fainting by the way.

Could I pen down something that might be useful to the present and succeeding generation, and then be obliterated, it might not be amiss; but as I am looking forward in the faith

that greater and brighter things will be opened to a succeeding generation than I and the people of this generation can bear, this makes me unwilling to leave anything of my experience that might tend to hinder the reception of those new, advanced revelations, for thou seest clearly, I trust, that the writings called the Scriptures, and those of our primitive Friends, are the strongest bulkwark made use of by the carnally minded to put to silence new openings of truth on the mind of the faithful in the present day. I might add, but must draw to a close for want of room; and in renewed feelings of brotherly love to thee and thine, bid farewell.

ELIAS HICKS.

NEED OF FAITHFUL TESTIMONY AGAINST IMPURITY.

BY JOSIAH W. LEEDS.

During the latter part of last year the mind of the writer was a good deal exercised on account of the morally objectionable pictorial illustrations which had appeared in some of the popular metropolitan magazines. In three reading rooms, almost at the same time, my attention was drawn to this matter. One was the reading-room of a Y. M. C. A. Writing to the secretary, he confessed, in response, that he felt an inability to know where to begin the work of expurgation, the evil had become so general. The second was a library reading room in a town not far from my home, in which are quite a number of educational institutions, including a large Normal School. The library is much frequented by the scholars. The managers upon receiving a written representation about the matter, considered it at their monthly meeting, and decided to thenceforth exercise a better oversight of their periodicals, and to remove any objectionable numbers as they might appear, though not at this time to discontinue the subscriptions of any