

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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While the summer birds are fled
Toward the southland, to be fed
Mid their groves Elysian,
Snow-birds, coming with the snow,
Linger though the cold winds blow,
Trusting God's provision.

Happy birds, the Father's care !
Chirping, flitting, here and there,
Never knowing sorrow.
Teach us, too, to know no fear,
Day by day, and year by year,
Trusting for to-morrow.

—Anetta M. Osborne in Household for Dec.

THE INNER OR DIVINE LIGHT.

ITS SUPREMACY AND UNIVERSALITY.

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."—John 1 : 4. "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."—John 1 : 9.

There are few religious organizations among Christians who do not recognize Immediate Revelation (or the Inner Light) in some degree, but it is left to the Society of Friends to proclaim its *supremacy* and its *universality*. It is unnecessary for us to spend time in an effort to prove its existence, for that is conceded by most, but to prove its supremacy and that it extends to *all* is a work worthy of our best endeavor. The Scriptures amply testify to both. Those who oppose the assertion are they who hold to the supremacy of the Church, and those who uphold the Bible as the highest authority. However much we may value the Scriptures, and indeed, "Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, which is in righteousness," but we must remember that every inspired writer of the Scriptures testified to the supremacy of the Holy Spirit which

moved them to write, and which revealed to them the Truth. Jesus said: "Ye search the Scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me (the true Light) that ye may have life." Paul, though a conscientious student of the Scriptures, was a persecutor of Christ, until he was convinced and convicted by the Divine Light. The Scriptures cannot give to us of their true value until we give to them their true place, secondary to immediate revelation as our guide in faith and practice. That which God spake to men two thousand or three thousand years ago is not of so great importance to *us*, as that is which He speaks to us to-day. The light which we receive from the Bible is borrowed light, and is, to the light which we receive direct from God, as moonlight is to sunlight. We are aware that the moon, of itself, can give no light. The light we receive from the moon is borrowed light—reflected from the sun. Blot out the sun and the moon would give us no light, we would be in the darkness of a moonless night. Blot out the moon and the sun would shine on with its present brilliancy. Extinguish the Divine Light and we would receive no light from the Bible. Blot out the Bible and still the Sun of Righteousness could flood our soul with ineffable light, and does, no doubt to me, the souls of many, even whom the Bible has never reached. The supremacy of the Light of Christ (Immediate Revelation) is the foundation upon which Quakerism is built. It is also the Rock upon which Christ declared "I will build my Church."

The influence of both Bible and Church is limited, but not so the "grace of God that bringeth salvation" which