

THE MEETING-HOUSE AT
SPARTA.

(YARMOUTH, ONTARIO.)

Slowly, 'one bright April morning, o'er the
hill I took my way.

To the meeting-house, where gather Friends
to meditate and pray.

'Neath the sun kissed portal ling'ring, gazing
o'er the peaceful scene,

Glimpses of the blue sky catching through the
trees fresh budding green.

And the smile of God seems resting in a sweet,
peculiar way,

O'er this quaint old house of worship, where
His people love to stay ;

And the wings of Peace, that only flutter o'er
this weary world ;

Brood above this building holy, with their
glory never furled.

While within as they pure hearted whose calm
faces met my view,

While the lines of care seem fading into youth
and sweetness new ;

Surely evil thoughts must vanish from this at-
mosphere of peace,

And the turmoil and the fretting of our weary
living cease.

Strikes into the silence holy, voice as silvery
as a bell,

Unto thee and me revealing thoughts, the
Spirit bid her tell—

Thoughts that speak of fires refining, lit by
Wisdom's loving hand ;

Till the nobleness of living we begin to under-
stand

Hushed again in soul-communion, every heart
and troubled brain,

While sweet peace to sullen sorrow, chants a
beautiful refrain ;

And we learn that surely, somewhere, life will
end in perfect joy,

When no clasp of farewell fingers shall our
dream of peace destroy.

B. E. MERRILL.

NEBRASKA HALF-YEARLY
MEETING.

Nebraska Half-Year Meeting of
Friends was held at Lincoln, 27th of
4th mo., 1891, and was an occasion of
great interest. The meeting of minis-
ters and elders was held on Seventh-day
afternoon, and as the place of meeting
was the general rendezvous for Friends
coming to the city, so this meeting be-

came a spontaneous gathering of such,
as interested listeners, and we believe
was productive of much benefit to all
concerned, removing the prejudices
which have existed in the minds of
many towards what are called select
meetings of a privileged class. Through-
out this, as well as the following meet-
ings, the good seed sown evidently fell
upon prepared ground, and will, no
doubt, bring forth fruit to the honor of
the Great Husbandman. A very
pertinent query was asked why it was
so few women Friends, at the present
time, were recorded as ministers, which
produced a feeling response. On
First-day morning the hall where the
meeting was held was filled by a large
and attentive audience. "A spirit of
reverent waiting seemed to pervade the
meeting, from which came wisdom and
instruction, freshly clothed in words of
truth and light, and in this way food
was handed forth fresh from the
Father's hand, suited to the differing
needs of the hungering ones. One
may be the bearer of strong meat,
while another may hand forth but the
cup of cold water, yet each be truly
doing the Master's work, and receive
the reward of peace." Provision had
been made for bodily refreshment with-
out leaving the building, and this also
afforded a good opportunity for social
refreshment, but we missed the pres-
ence of some who had labored faith-
fully for the establishment of this Meet-
ing, and who had been called from
works to rewards. May it prove an
incentive to us who are left to keep our
lamps trimmed and burning, ready for
the Master's call to go forward in his
work.

In the afternoon a young people's
meeting was held, or rather a F. D. S.
conference of the young people of the
Half-Year Meeting. Encouraging re-
ports were received from three schools
under our care, also excellent essays
from the pens of our young men and
women were read, some of which will
doubtless appear in print as a reminder
that our young people are not losing