

simplest thing that is required of us, and sweet peace of mind will follow the offering. It is truly said: "Seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and all things necessary shall be added."

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IS THERE ANY WORK TO DO?

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In previous articles under this heading the obligation of Friends as citizens was shown. It upon, also the question of Capital and Labor and other matters, between which and national Government there may be an intimate relation. In this number let us get down to matters that are more intimately associated with the growth and perpetuity of our own particular organization.

The evident essentials in our progress of course are: 1st. Lives becoming to our principles, and minds lovingly desirous of doing our duty under a deep sense of our obligations to God and man. 2nd. To know what our duty is, and "knowing dare maintain;" and 3rd. Performing our duty in the most effectual way. Without making these a division of a text, I will go on to a statement by a friend of mine recently. "What a pity," said he, "that the ministers do not see it necessary to visit more of our smaller meetings after an attendance at a yearly or other large meeting. They will travel a hundred miles or more to attend a large meeting, and go straight back without calling off at smaller meetings, where their service would be well appreciated and good would result. If they would only follow the gracious influences accompanying the larger meeting to the smaller ones, hope might be sustained and progress made." The writer, while sharing in this thought largely, is not disposed to overlook the fact that this is sometimes done by our ministers, nor to cast any reflection wherein smaller meetings are not visited. The same thing ought to be done to advantage by small companies from some of our larger ordinary meetings visiting the smaller ones. That it is done to some extent is commendable, but these

visits, both by ministers and committees, are generally so far between that the good cools off before it has become of the right temper.

Our yearly meetings do not seem to build up our society in the way that such a force for good might. They are seasons of great spiritual power and refreshing—new strength seems to be imparted, and we feel a stronger desire never to depart from doing the will of our Heavenly Father. but we afterwards, this silence and neglect, become so engrossed with the love of gain, that we are content with what is usually implied in "I will mind my business and you mind yours." We remember the sweet, calm peace that often rests upon the closing moments of these meetings—how the heart strings of every soul seem to vibrate in sacred harmony at the quickening touch of divine love, till the heart overflows with tenderness and purity and we long for an eternity of such fellowship and brotherhood. If circumstances favored our ministers to follow up these blessed feelings to their influence in the smaller circle and seek to direct it and encourage the members to extend their feelings of obligation to their neighbors, an impetus might be given that would result in enduring and growing strength.

But we should not expect our ministers to sacrifice more than we are willing to sacrifice ourselves. It is all very well to have a pleasant speaker and a devout man or woman come among us, and forget that he, for instance, has a family and himself to support like the rest of us, that time and money and energy are taken away from his home. It is all very well to say "he has his reward," and it might be remembered to advantage that so have those who are unwilling to "give a helping hand" to those who must sacrifice in order to attend to their convictions. We look at other churches and behold a paid ministry, and maintain that it is wrong in principle, but the willingness to pay, the spirit of giving on the part of these churches, is a virtue that our society at the present time can scarcely be said to possess. Unlike our forefathers, we may decry foreign missionary efforts, and with some ability maintain our position, and say "there are plenty of heathens at home." Yes, but what have we