

# Young Friends' Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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## LOVE.

Love is the root of creation ; God's essence ;  
worlds without number  
Lie in his bosom like children ; he made them  
for this purpose only.  
Only to love and to be loved again, he breath-  
ed forth his Spirit  
Into the slumbering dust, and upright stand-  
ing it laid its  
Hand on its heart, and felt it was warm with  
a flame out of heaven.  
Quench, O quench not that flame ! It is the  
breath of your being.  
Love is life, but hatred is death.  
—From Bishop Tegner, translated by Long-  
fellow.

## THE PRESENT TENDENCY OF ORTHODOXY.

We live in an age of inquiry and development, and the unmistakable sign is, 'The Present Tendency of Orthodoxy.' A revolution is sweeping over us ; the religious thought of Christendom is being exercised over the questions of ecclesiastical authority and Biblical infallibility. The general mind is becoming unsettled over doctrines that have long been received without a doubt, and serious-minded men are bringing before the bar of inquiry, questions which were thought to be forever closed by creeds. To many we seem to stand on 'shifting sands ;' the tendency of to-day is startling to minds hitherto conservative, they look on beyond and fancy they see the utter destruction of Christian institutions, and worse than all, the human soul casting away all faith in religion. If these persons are unbelievers, they experience a joy in their imagination, but the Christian is not alarmed. "The Present Tendency of Orthodoxy," he has cause to rejoice, for he

will observe that the thinking world to-day is craving for a liberal Christianity, a practical religion, and one that will stand the test of reason ; and this is but the natural attempt of the soul to reach out for freedom and the movement can never be permanently arrested, for it is the natural impulse of the soul. The soul yearns for truth and loves to hold communion with God, and it is ever restless until it secures that which it craves. "The Present Tendency of Orthodoxy" proves that we live in an age of development, and liberty is its chief characteristic ; ancient and traditional laws are broken and transgressed, all because the mind has resolved to see things for itself. There is a tendency to close reasoning—to establish theories that will satisfy the divine nature of man, and answer the demands of reason. It is as natural for man to be religious as it is to be intellectual ; deep in every soul, the divine Light gleams forth and with it longings for the good and the true ; human hearts are eager to know whether there is an answer to these longings—whether there is a Being in sympathy with them—whether man's inner life shall live for ever. This questioning is consistent with reason and in harmony with man's best desires ; and "The Present Tendency of Orthodoxy" is towards breadth of thought and a relaxation of formularies ; articles of faith are construed less rigidly than in years past ; all the controversies that take place between men of different schools, are strongly indicative of the growth going on in man's soul, that the Spirit of Truth is inspiring the minds as well as the hearts of the people. As humanity grows wiser and diviner it comes to a