

# Young Friends' Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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## LOVE OF NATURE.

N. P. WILLIS.

There is a gentler element, and man  
may breathe it with a calm unruffled soul,  
and drink its living waters till the heart  
is pure.—And this is happiness!  
Its secret and its evidence are writ  
in the broad book of Nature. 'Tis to have  
attentive and believing faculties;  
to go abroad rejoicing in the joy  
of beautiful and well-created things;  
to love the voice of water, and the sheen  
of silver fountains leaping to the sea;  
to thrill with the rich melody of birds  
giving their life of music; to be glad  
in the gay sunshine, reverent in the storm;  
to see a beauty in the stirring leaf,  
and find calm thoughts beneath the whisper-  
ing tree;  
to see, and hear, and breathe the evidence  
of God's deep wisdom in the natural world!

## THE MISSION OF THE MIRACLES.

(CONCLUDED.)

I do not, nor have I ever denied that mir-  
acles were performed as recorded in the New  
Testament. It is not the inspired writer, but  
the uninspired lexicographer, and self-righteous  
orthodoxy, with which I charitably take issue.  
I have dedicated this essay to those differing  
from me in opinion, not desiring to dogmatize  
but merely to arrest attention. All professing  
Christians have a grave responsibility upon  
them: for to be Christians means, or should  
mean, to be followers of Jesus Christ. Ah  
how true is our following sometimes.  
The professing Christians—are indirectly re-  
sponsible, I fear, for much of the so-called

Atheism in the world. There is very, very  
little absolute unbelief in God. What is so  
called by the world is only unbelief in the  
world's interpretations of God—or, more nar-  
rowly, in theologians' interpretations of the  
Bible. Let us then, for the good of our neigh-  
bor as well as ourselves, weigh the great ques-  
tions of life and religion, by all the light we  
have, or can gain, until we know of possessing  
the substance, and can show the evidence, for  
the faith that is in us.

After this delaying let us out again into the  
main current. It is a law acknowledged by  
all that "there is a cause for every effect,"  
and "like causes invariably produce like  
effects." According to this undisputed axiom  
those effects recorded in the New Testament  
as miracles had their lawful, adequate, natural  
causes—causes, I mean that would bring abso-  
lutely the same results, whenever coming in the  
same conditions. A soul wholly consecrated  
to God, in this age, or in any age, has access  
to inexhaustible power. This inexhaustible  
power of God, this Christ power is the miracle  
working power and is in all ages and in all  
things to the extent of their worthiness.

Let us test our theory now with some of the  
special, recorded miracles, and see if it will  
meet the requirements. Down on the grassy  
shore of the Gallilean Sea Jesus fed the five  
thousand. There are two methods that He  
might be thought to use—increasing the sup-  
ply, or diminishing the demand. Which will  
you choose? The Bible does not openly say.  
Let us see the circumstances. The day was  
growing late. The multitude was growing  
hungry. All the food the disciples had, or  
could purchase, was five loaves and two fish.  
What was to be done? Jesus knew. He was  
equal to the occasion. Implied obedience and  
prayer had qualified Him. He had profound  
spiritual truths to reveal to them. The time