

A RAINY DAY.

Will it never be weary of raining,
The whole of the live-long day?
I heard a young voice complaining,
As the hours passed slowly away.

For the patter, patter, patter,
Was heard on the window pane,
And fiercely the wind kept blowing,
And heavily fell the rain.

My child as the world rolls onward,
In darkness and sunshine and shade,
The clouds will often o'er shadow
The lives with which sun-hine has played.

EDWARD N. HARNED.

Chappaqua, N. Y., 1 mo., 1888.

HOW SHALL WE BEST RETAIN OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS IN THE SOCIETY.

For me, who have attended Friends' Meetings from my earliest childhood it seems impossible to realize that anyone truly educated and ingrafted in the principles of Friends can ever be anything else, and the fact that so many young members are joining other denominations I think is largely due to the lack of right influence at home. The First-day Schools are doing a great work in the right direction, but few children are induced to attend if there is a lack of interest on the part of parents. Friends are also too negligent in looking after their absent members, there is where the churches have the advantage of us. While we sit quietly waiting for them to come to us, the salaried minister is going into the highways and byways and gathering them in. Are we doing all we can in a social way for our young members?

Look at the church fairs and church sociables. Young people must be kept busy. It was once my privilege to belong to a First-day School where once a month the adult class had a sociable, and the young people became naturally interested in the same things, and in attending meetings where they would see

each other, for I believe we often derive as much benefit from the social mingling together as from the sermon. A kindly shake of the hand, and an interest in each others' welfare often has more influence than we are aware.

What the world needs to day is practical Christianity, and the First-day Schools and the Society for Philanthropic labor are opening such wide fields of usefulness that all young and earnest workers can easily find as much employment as the churches offer in any of their good works.

I think Friends have been apt to lay too much stress on plainness of speech and apparel, and have lived too much wrapt up in the times of George Fox and William Penn. Now the whole civilized world is beginning to realize that it is the present we are living for.

For my part I am thankful that I am living just now, in the close of the nineteenth century, in this age of progression and reform, and I hope my life may be spared to see the opening of the twentieth, that I may see more of its good accomplished.

Perhaps I am once referred to in your article of second month, that the Society of Friends has done its work. I believe it has done a great and good work, that the Friends of olden times in their belief were far in advance of their age, and the reason it has done a great work is because its principles are so rational. But do not let me be understood that I do not appreciate the beauties of Friends' meeting, and right here I would like to urge our members to more regular attendance. On First days there are few but what have the opportunity to attend if they choose, and if they would attend in the middle of the week I think they would find it time well spent, on returning home the every-day cares and burdens of life would seem so much lighter.

"There is many a rest on the road of life
If the weary heart would make it."

ANNA WASHBURN.

Chappaqua, N. Y.