

cool pleasant room, or exchange the harsh outside din for happy laughter and childish music, to exchange the thousand debasing influences of an East side thoroughfare for the peace and harmony, the gentleness and love which are embodied in the kindergarten? Surely this is a work which lies ready to our hands, which deserves our heartiest support and which once undertaken, we must carry on to ever broader and higher usefulness.

About fifty Friends started from New York on the special train for the Conference. They were joined by perhaps a hundred at Philadelphia, forty at Baltimore, and enough from intermediate points to make two hundred and thirty in all. The trip over the Baltimore and Ohio road to Cincinnati was a very pleasant one, the heavy rains having revived the foliage to a spring-like verdancy. The "smoking room" at the rear of the last sleeper was utilized, better than its name implies, as an observation car, by the industrious sight-seers, while others on the rear platform were unconsciously training their low voices for the coming discussions at the Conference.

The social pleasure and benefit of the trip were fully appreciated, old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made.

At Cincinnati there was time enough, before the departure of the train for Richmond for many of the party to cross the bridge into Kentucky.

Though the journey was so much enjoyed, all were glad to reach Richmond, where a hearty welcome and a chance to rest were awaiting each one.

Every biennial Conference of our Society seems to produce a new germ of life, and Friends return to their homes after such a gathering with a deeper devotion to the principles of Quakerism, and the determination to do more work and better work than

ever before in the Society and in the world. For a while the signs of growth are very encouraging and we hear of Young Friends' Associations being established, of First day Schools increasing in size, of greater interest being manifested in educational and philanthropic matters.

Gradually, however, the germ of enthusiasm that gained life at the large Conference meetings and gave promise of abundant growth is stunted by the discouragements of the small home meeting, or dies from lack of proper thought and earnestness.

Our tendency is to lose heart too easily, and because we do not immediately see the result of our efforts, we complain that our labor is not worth while.

All great ends must be gained by great effort and by slow degrees. How long it takes for the rocks of the seashore to be changed into the sand of the beach! How many ages passed before the forest leaves were transformed into coal! The mountains were not raised in a day; man did not reach his present state of physical and mental development in a century nor in thousands of centuries. So we see that God's ways are slow ways and we should be content with a gradual change for the better, working earnestly the while and hoping that some day we may be enabled to make more rapid progress.

Our Society will not die out while there is one live member remaining. We need not so much the enthusiasm gained from without as the life that comes from within, and that grows as a seed grows, steadily day by day, till its full value is made known by the flower and the fruit.

Much time is wasted in discussing disciplinary and other matters in our business meetings, because in our efforts to determine the right course in a particular case we fail to grasp the general principles by which our