

Young Friends' Review

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BY S. P. & EDGAR M. ZAVITZ

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Is the Society of Friends to continue to exert an influence in the world or is it to drop into nothingness? How are we answering and how are we going to answer this very important question, we who are becoming, as we grow older, more and more responsible for its answering, and for its right answering? It seems to me the times are calling us to a higher object, religiously and fraternally, than many of us have had in view. The call has gone forth in the world for an amassing of all the "Liberal" forces. Can the Society of Friends—the forerunner of liberal thought and religious freedom—afford to withhold? Can it desert the cause that it has zealously cherished ever since its rise?

We were not only *pioneers* in this "Liberalism," but we to-day stand for its keystone—the Inner Light—the immanence of God.

Wherein has the Society come short of duty that it need die with Moses in the wilderness, and not be permitted to enter into the promised land? Let it arouse itself to present duty. Know that it is not past sins so much as present indifference that will keep it back from the glories that the twentieth century would gladly yield it.

The call has gone forth for the amassing of all the liberal churches in America, and it was answered by the "First American Congress of Liberal Religious Societies," held in Chicago last 5th mo. 22, 23, 24 and 25, and participated in by Independents, Congregationalists, Unitarians, Universalists, Ethical Culture Societies, Jews, and no sectarians, with a warm invitation for all others of the Liberal persuasion to join. Its object, as stated in the constitution drawn up at that time, is:—

"To unite in a larger fellowship and co-operation such existing societies and liberal elements as are in sympathy with the movement toward undogmatic religion; to foster and encourage the organization of other non-sectarian churches and kindred societies on the basis of absolute mental liberty; to secure a closer and more helpful association of all these in the thought and work of the world under the great law and life of love; to develop the church of humanity, democratic in organization, progressive in spirit, aiming at the development of pure and high character, hospitable to all forms of thought, cherishing the spiritual traditions and experiences of the past, but keeping itself open to all new light and the higher developments of the future."

Cannot every Friend subscribe to this platform, and become enthusiastic in watching and aiding the progress of the movement? Can we, as a society afford not to? Will it not be a great impetus to our usefulness in the world?