

Young - Friends' - Review.

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

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NO. 3.

THE TRUTH.

Friend, though thy soul should burn thee,
yet be still,
Thoughts were not meant for strife, nor
tongues for swords.

He that sees clear is gentlest of his words,
And that's not truth that hath the heart to still.
The whole world's thought shall not one
truth fulfil.

Dull in our age, and passionate in youth,
No mind of man hath found the perfect truth
Nor shalt thou find it, therefore, friend, be
still.

Watch and be still, nor harken to the fool,
The babbler of consistency and rule :
Wiseest is he who, never quite secure,
Changes his thoughts for better day by day ;
To-morrow some new light will shine, be sure,
And thou shalt see thy thought another way.

—*Archibald Lampman.*

Ottawa, Canada.

SERMON.

DELIVERED BY ISAAC WILSON, OF
BLOOMFIELD, ONT., AT PELHAM
HALF-YEARLY MEETING, COLD-
STREAM, ON FIRST-DAY AFTER-
NOON, SECOND MONTH TWELFTH,
1893.

Partial report by E. M. Z.

"Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well sin lieth at the door." This is among the earliest recorded instances of the reasoning of God with men. He had previously given to the first man great privileges and along with them a commandment, forbidding to indulge in a certain thing, with the penalty plainly attached thereto if he transgressed—the penalty of death. "In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." That same God must be the spiritual God that we believe in to-day, because

we find it literally not true. He did not die physically. It was a loss of the primordial state of innocence. The death that followed the transgression was an alienation from the presence and favor with God—a natural consequence.

God can read the countenance, for that reflects the condition of the heart. He knows whether we have lost our spiritual life or have kept it. It is an old saying, but true, that actions speak louder than words. God judges from motives, and he traces the inner life on the outer. "Why is thy countenance fallen?" He is cognizant of our every thought and act and motive. He knows if our souls are at peace, or if we are weary of our own existence. If thou doest well (it is a personal matter) this is all there is about salvation. Well is equivalent to righteousness, goodness, and the reward is salvation, or preservation from sinning. If there is any mystery about religion men have placed it there. They lost the truth, and in endeavoring to search it out with their natural intellects they have more and more mystified it. Simplicity does not lessen its beauty but adorns it. God is love, and He designed that all should live in that love. It is no more Godlike, for one that is called, to preach the gospel than for another to lay aside his pipe and tobacco under a sense of duty. The difference is only in the fields of action. It is no more Godlike to preach the gospel than walk upright and honest in our business relations. If a man preach the gospel and does not practice honesty, his preaching is but sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. I often look upon my practice of preaching as a hedge that my God