

1892 our last Yearly Meeting, been giving to the important charge committed to their care such attention as has to them seemed judicious and necessary. Realizing that the future of our Society depends upon interesting and retaining our young members of today, we have endeavored to rely upon that Power which never fails, trusting that we may thus be made able to lead them in the right path. We appeal to all who feel an interest in our Society to extend a helping hand in disseminating the views of our pure simple faith, as well as those of practical religion which we claim.

**Report** From the reports received from the various schools we glean the following information: Twelve meet after Meeting and some before; **Committee** all schools meet every Firstday during their term, some being in session during summer months, others during those of winter and some throughout the year.

**First** It is gratifying to note that nearly all children and teachers **May** attend our meetings for worship, but regret that quite a number of the schools are not aided by a Monthly Meeting Committee.

Of all the schools only the two in Baltimore hold regular teachers meetings. We feel that the teachers do not realize the strength and assistance gained from thus mingling together. All the schools report using the Lesson Leaves, and some the Friends' Discipline and the Intelligencer, in their class work. One report states that a want is felt in regard to instructing and interesting the infant class sufficiently to be satisfactory to all concerned.

At a meeting of the Central Committee held at Sandy Spring, 6th month 12th, delegates from the different Monthly Meetings were appointed to attend the General Conference to be held at Lincoln, Va., in 8th month, most of whom attended.

The Chairman prepared a report, which after being approved by the Executive Committee, was forwarded to this Conference. Never before in the history of our Firstday Schools have we had anything within the borders of our Yearly Meeting, that elicited so much enthusiasm and heartfelt edification as did the exercises of these meetings. It seemed almost impossible for any one to come away from such a feast without feeling ready and willing to do what he could, either as teacher,

1892 scholar, or by a word of encouragement, to aid this worthy cause. During this conference there were some practical suggestions made which it might be well to note here, especially for the infant class.

Some teachers spoke of using the Lesson Leaves and story books in the primary classes; also, of having the children tell little experiences of their own lives, showing how much God had done for them. Others directed their attention to teaching kindness to dumb animals, and a charitable feeling toward all.

Teach them that it is the "voice of God" speaking in their souls, when they are made to feel that they are doing wrong, and that they will be saved much trouble by always listening to and obeying it. There was also given an interesting object lesson on a branch from a tree, showing that when the tree is young it may be trained and made to grow shapely, buds and leaves being easily removed, leaving no scar to mark their previous places; but if we allow them to grow, it requires more than thumb and finger to remove them, and the scar can never be effaced.

So it is with our lives. Little vices, little failings, little selfishnesses may be removed easily in the beginning, but will leave an ugly scar if allowed to grow with our growth. The lesson was closed with this stanza, and an incident showing how the story had been practically applied in a family of children:

Just as the largest rivers run  
From small and distant streams,  
The greatest crimes that men have done,  
Have grown from little things.

One teacher said that the work he had felt called upon to do in the Firstday School, had been forced upon him by the conviction that nearly all Friends who leave our meeting and join other denominations do so because they were not taught when they were young that the principles of Friends are simply the teachings of Jesus Christ. He said that he felt sure that if our young folks would know that we are a people, who, more than any other, believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ, there would be no more drawn from us.

An earnest appeal was made to teachers to place more reliance upon the spirit within. The prayer was that they be so anointed by the Heavenly touch that they may be