

**NEW SERIES, NO. 98. THE ANNUAL
MONITOR FOR 1880, OR, OBITUARY
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
OF FRIENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND, FOR THE YEAR 1879**

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VARIOUS

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OR

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In Great Britain and Ireland,

FOR THE YEAR 1879.

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P R E F A C E .

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” The pages of this little volume bear emphatic testimony to the truth of this declaration of an inspired writer. This joy is one of the fruits of the indwelling presence of the Spirit, concerning whom the Lord declared to His disciples, in the midst of their sorrow at the prospect of losing His personal presence with them,—“It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you.” How is this joy begotten in the hearts of the humble disciples of the Lord, who, whilst rejoicing, are yet sometimes sorrowful, and often deeply conscious of much weakness and utter unworthiness? It is attained through deep

conviction for sin, through repentance and an entire distrust of self, and through the acceptance of the freely-offered love and mercy of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, which leads to that blessed atonement in which the reconciled child knows the Spirit of his Father to bear witness with his spirit that he is a child of God, and is assured that his Father will "supply all his need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." In this holy confidence there must be joy, and in this joy there is strength for service, whether that service lie in the retired paths of a quiet life, in the patient endurance of weakness and suffering, in caring for the sick, the needy, the wanderers, or in standing forth publicly to witness for the truth as it is in Jesus.

Do some who read these pages say regretfully, Oh that we knew this joy of the Lord to be our strength more fully and continually? Let these consider the words of the Lord,—*"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept*

my Father's commandments and abide in His love." It was in bearing His cross daily and unto death that He kept His Father's commandments; and His own teaching is, "If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." And the joy of the Lord is the strength of the disciple thus to follow Him.

Our pages tell too of the young man, deeply conscious of the strivings of the Holy Spirit within him, yet so carried away by the gilded pleasures of this life as to refuse the calls of heavenly love: of the sad remorse of such an one in the contemplation of golden opportunities gone for ever: and yet of the long-suffering mercy and tender forgiving love of the Father, in permitting the sun of even such a life to set in the brightness of a humble but full assurance that in the blood of Jesus Christ His Son there is cleansing from all sin. Surely he, being dead, yet speaketh, with a voice full of yearning over those left behind, saying,—Oh! give heed to the still small voice of heavenly love which

whispers in the secret of your hearts, "This is the way, walk ye in it;" for it is the voice of One whose name is Love, who seeks to lead you into the paths of that true wisdom whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

W. R.

SCARBOROUGH, 12th mo., 1879.

