

**THE YOUNG FRIEND'S MANUAL:  
CONTAINING A STATEMENT OF SOME  
OF THE DOCTRINES AND TESTIMONIES  
OF FRIENDS, AND OF THE PRINCIPLES OF  
TRUTH PROFESSED BY THAT SOCIETY**

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The Young Friend's Manual: Containing a Statement of Some of the Doctrines and Testimonies of Friends, and of the Principles of Truth Professed by That Society by Benjamin Hallowell

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**BENJAMIN HALLOWELL**

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BY

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL.

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*"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."*—JOHN xiii. 17.

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*See ... to ...*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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**T**HIS Manual was prepared under the following circumstances: A young Friend who was engaged in teaching Friends' children on First Days, and who felt the need "of a Catechism about Friends, setting forth their history and their belief, in so simple a manner, that even the little ones can understand," expressed a wish that such a work should be prepared. This wish being supported by two other young Friends who were united in the same interesting engagement, the subject took such hold of the mind of the person to whom the application was made, as to induce him to believe it would be right to comply with the request, as far as ability to do so was afforded.

In the progress of the work it was found more difficult than was at first contemplated, to adapt it, all, to the comprehension of children; and the undertaking was about to be abandoned, when the thought was presented that *they may grow up to it*. With this encouragement, the labor was resumed; and although it is feared the work will not meet the expectation entertained in regard to it, the author hopes it will at least have the merit of *doing no harm*.

We, as a Society, have no written creed; and our members entertain opinions on some subjects pertaining to Society affairs, including Friends' testimonies and doctrines, almost as numerous as there are individuals. These *long-standing opinions* are too frequently regarded as *established Truths*, when they will not bear the test of examination and reflection. Nevertheless, an extensive acquaintance with members of the

Society, from correspondence and social intercourse, leads the author to believe, that a large majority of our members who are capable of forming an independent opinion upon the subject, will, upon reflection, unite upon most of the points herein stated. The *effort* has been made, to present the views of the main body of the Society of Friends. Still, they must be regarded, simply as the opinion of the author, of what the views of Friends, and their principles and testimonies, are.

Friends are, emphatically, the great advocates of the Doctrine of the Spirit.

Yet how many there are among us, who do not show forth, *practically*, the efficiency and power of the Spirit of God acting upon the soul! We are too much accustomed to look *outward*, for evidences of the efficacy of the Spirit, in what it did for the dedicated servants of God in former ages.