17th of the Month & 4th of the Week.

Near the time adjourned to Friends again Assembled. —

Our beloved Friend Gervis Johnson, attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Friends for Antrim held at Cole-Rain in Ireland, the 10th day of the 6th Month 1797 — Also Certificates from the Quarterly Meeting for Ulster Province, held at Lisburn, the 6th of the 3d Month 1797, & from the half Years Meeting of Ministers & Elders for Ireland held in Dublin by adjournments the 6th of the 5th Month 1797. — All expressive of full concurrence with his prospect of visiting Friends in America & he having attended divers branches of this Meeting, Joel Wright, John McPherson, Thomas Moore, & Evan Thomas, are appointed to make an Essay of a Certificate on his account, & produce it to a future sitting of this Meeting. —

Our Elteemed Friend Mary Prior attended this Meeting and Certificates for her, were produced as follows Viz. from the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Hartford in the County of Hartford, in England the 6th of the 9th Month 1797, expressive of full unity with her as a Minister, & her prospect of visiting Friends in some parts of America; which was approved by the Quarterly Meeting of Bedfordshire & Hartfordshire, held at Hitchin the 18th of the 9th Month 1797 — Also a Certificate of concurrence from the 2d days morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders, held in London the 30th of the 10th Month 1797 — The same Friends are appointed to make an Essay for her on behalf of this Meeting, & produce it to a future sitting.

The Comprised answers to the Queries as brought up from the several Quarterly Meetings being read, the state of society as therein contained coming under solid consideration, a travail of spirit was experienced, for the preservation of our members, the deficiencies still obvious, exercised many minds with fervent desires, that Friends in each place may be stirred up to a more due attendance of meetings & particularly those called week day Meetings, believing as they are influenced by that Spirit which draweth into true love, they cannot on trivial occasions omit the attendance of our meetings in order to perform acceptable Worship; & will also labour for a right qualification to

bring up those under their direction, in more simplicity & plainness, than is obvious both in dress & language; and it is to be feared that in some cases too much of a conformity to the World in dress is part of the cause of that sorrowful complaint, of a too frequent want of punctuality in the performance of contracts. — And that Friends watch over themselves upon all occasions; lest, by an unwary pursuit after things of a transitory nature, their hands should be defiled with prize goods, or those coming through a channel inconsistant with our peaceable principle. — Desiring that a renewed engagement may take place in each mind, lest our testimony against the distillation, importation, Vending, or improper use of intoxicating liquors should be more departed from. — And that Friends may be excited to more diligence in their endeavours for the improvement of the black people in religious & school education. — being thus exercised, the causes of these complaints may be removed, And that those who may look towards us, beholding our good works, may glorify our heavenly Father. —

Then adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

Near the time adjourned to, Friends Assembled. —

The Committee appointed on the request from Fairfax Quarter brought in the following report in writing Viz. —

"To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

"The Committee appointed to take into consideration the request of "Fairfax Quarterly Meeting as brought up in their report, respecting the "dealing with & disowning such members as hire slaves of those who "hold them in bondage, and whether testimonies should be publickly "read against such as purchase them; report — That the subjects "have claimed our solid attention, & Friends are favoured to unite, "that the practice of hiring slaves of those who hold them in bondage "is contrary to our christian testimony & Discipline, & the repeated "advice of this Meeting communicated, & it is our sense that such "who continue therein ought to be tenderly laboured with, to convince "them of the impropriety of their conduct, & if they cannot be reclaimed "that a public Testimony go forth against them, as other disorderly

persons