

and in the latter case, of executors, administrators or trustees, where it shall appear to the meeting, that the matter is of importance, and that our friendly way would be unsafe, such may be permitted to have the matter tried at law, with this caution, that the parties on both sides, behave towards each other in brotherly love, decency and moderation, without anger or animosity; which will be a becoming testimony, even in courts, and shew that nothing but the nature of the case, and our station in common with others, under the laws of the land, take any of us there.

As it may sometimes occur that a member, either for want of a clear understanding of the business, or through an improper influence, may present a complaint against another member, wherein the overseers, after fully hearing both parties, being decidedly of opinion that the case does not require a reference, they are to advise a speedy settlement thereof; which being ineffectual, and the complainant remaining dissatisfied therewith, he may have liberty to inform the preparative meeting, where the other party is a member (without mentioning any name) that having a matter in dispute with one of their members, he is desirous of their assistance in order to a settlement thereof. The said meeting is then to appoint a judicious committee to enquire into the propriety of leaving the matter to arbitration: if they should judge that the complaint ought to be referred, they are to advise that it be submitted accordingly: but if the said committee concur in judgment with the overseers, the complaint is to be dismissed.

It is the desire of the Yearly meeting, that our members differing on account of worldly affairs, do avoid as much as possible to engage Friends in the ministry as arbitrators in such cases.

Births and Burials.

Two or more suitable friends of each particular meeting, should be appointed by monthly meetings to attend at the funerals of our members, for the assistance of those concerned, and to see that good order is observed.

In order that meetings may not be held at the interment of our deceased members, in a formal way, or as a customary circumstance, the proposal for holding any such meeting, should be

previously submitted to the consideration of the elders and overseers, (or other solid friends) either of the meeting to which the deceased belonged, or of that within the compass of which the interment is to take place: that the direction of truth may be waited for and followed.

And to prevent the introduction of improper interments amongst us, two or more friends should be appointed by monthly or preparative meetings (as the case may require) to the care of our several burying grounds, and that no person who was not a member be buried therein, without a written permit, signed by one or two of those friends; who should take care, that such interment comport with our plain order: also, that our burial grounds be properly enclosed and kept in decent order.

It is further desired, as becoming the solemnity of the occasion, that at all interments, time be allowed for a pause, both before and after the corpse is put into the ground, in order that the impressive influence of an occasion so awful, may have its proper effect upon the minds of those who are present.

Friends are also enjoined, to maintain our testimony against affixing monuments of any description to graves, for the purpose of distinction, in any of our burying grounds; and if any yet remain therein, that they be forthwith removed; and that they avoid the imitation of the custom of wearing, or giving, mourning habits, and all extravagant expences on account of the interment of the dead.

As great inconveniency may arise from a want of due attention to keeping a regular record of births and burials, it is enjoined upon each monthly meeting, to appoint a careful friend, whose duty it shall be, to keep in a book, provided at the expence of the monthly meeting, for the purpose, a record of all births and burials of members, which occur within their respective limits, and which shall be offered to turn for that purpose.