the true faith in these respects: "But now after that ye have known God, how turn ye again to the beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? ye observe days and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain". Gal. IV. 9.10. and 11.

Therefore under a humble and grateful sense of the abundant mercies and favours of our heavenly father, let us, as a religious society, continually feel our hearts filled with thanksgiving and praise to him; an aspiration which is ever his due, and to be acknowledged by his creatures with the deepest reverence, and not with the "bowing of the head like a bulrush for a day", nor with those tumultuous demonstrations of joy, and nightly illuminations, which are generally attended with rioting, drunkenness, and many other excesses incompatible with the christian name.

Whilst, therefore, it is the earnest concern of the Yearly meeting that we may be found worshippers within the temple, it is affectionately desired that our members may be individually cautious not to give occasion of additional suffering to the truly conscientious amongst us, by any compliance with such observances, as our worthy ancestors were rightly concerned to bear testimony against.

Defamation and Detraction.

As the manifest tendency of the mischievous spirit of talebearing and detraction, is to lay waste the unity of society by disseminating discord and strife among brethren and neighbours: Friends are enjoined to watch over themselves, and each other, in order to discourage and suppress every appearance of such dispositions. The order prescribed by our blessed Lord, should be strictly observed in every case of apprehended injury — viz. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother; but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

It is further directed, that, in whomsoever this weakness appears it may be immediately checked; and if any give way to it, to the obvious injury of the reputation or interest of others, let them be faithfully admonished, by elders, overseers, or other concerned friends; and if they persist, and cannot be prevailed with to give due satisfaction, the preparative, and (if expedient) monthly meeting should be informed of it, and deal further with them; whom, if this also fail to produce the desired effect, they should be testified against.

Should any offenders in these respects shelter themselves under a pretence, that they say no more than they have heard from others, but refuse to discover who those are, such should in like manner be dealt with as talebearers, and testified against.

Discipline and Meetings for Discipline.

The existence of our meetings for discipline, having on experience, been found extensively beneficial, it is earnestly recommended that they may be maintained in that authority, wherein they were established: For where any have been negligent in attending them, or opposed to their usefulness, it has been perceived that carnality and spiritual death have been the consequences.

Where any transgress the rules of our discipline, they should, without partiality, be admonished, and sought in the spirit of love and divine charity, so that it may be seen by all, that the restoring dispositions of meekness and christian affection abound, before church censure take place; that a gospel spirit is the spring and motive to all our performances, as well in discipline as in worship.

The connexion and subordination of our meetings for discipline are thus: Preparative meetings are accountable to the Monthly; Monthly to the Quarterly; and Quarterly to the Yearly meeting: so that if the yearly meeting be at any time dissatisfied with the proceedings of any inferior meetings; or a Quarterly