

ians, on their behalf, and the monthly meeting which is applied to, on a solid consideration of the case, is easy to admit them, or any of them. But the rights of children, born of parents who have been married according to our rules, and disowned after their birth are not intended to be affected by this regulation.

If any member of our religious society shall discover so much weakness of mind as to apply to those called jugglers or fortune-tellers, or to those who, by pretending to any art or skill whatever, profess a knowledge of future events, ^{children's transactions,} or where things lost or stolen may be found; or if any of our members shall use, or pretend to such art or skill: under a just abhorrence of such delusion, it is directed that they be speedily dealt with, and if they do not manifest a due sense of their evil conduct, that they be testified against.

A committee should be annually appointed, in each of our quarterly and monthly meetings, to nominate clerks; which may afford opportunity for their being seasonably changed, and more of our qualified members exercised in those services.

As the use and design of preparative meetings is, in general to digest and prepare business, as occasion may require, which may be proper to be laid before monthly meetings; friends ought to be careful therein, not to occasion unnecessary delays, or undertake to decide on any business which properly belongs to monthly meetings: and when it is concluded to carry any cases forward, they should be entered in writing, and some suitable friend or friends named, to produce them to the monthly meetings; proper notes whereof should be carefully preserved by clerks of preparative meetings. But no preparative meeting shall take cognizance of proposals of marriage this being exclusively the business of monthly meetings.

Gaming and Diversions.

Friends are fervently exhorted to watch carefully over the youth, and others of our society, who may be so inclined to prevent them by affectionate counsel and brotherly admonition, from frequenting stage plays, horse-races, music, dancing, and other vain sports and amusements; also, in a particular manner, from being concerned in lotteries, wagering, or any kind of gaming; it being abundantly obvious, that those practices have a tendency to

alienate the mind from the counsel of divine wisdom, — and to foster these ^{impure} dispositions which lead to debauchery and wickedness: — If, therefore, any of our members fall into either of these practices, and cannot be prevailed with by private labour, to decline them, the monthly meetings to which they belong, should be informed thereof, and if they cannot be reclaimed by further labour, ^{should} proceed to disown them.

Law.

If any of our members be complained of, for withholding a just debt, they should be tenderly urged to payment; and if this be unavailing, they should be dealt with as in other cases of disorderly conduct; and if any appear unable to satisfy their creditors, they should be advised to call them together without loss of time, and submit the state of their affairs to their inspection: when, if the creditors apprehend a surrender of the debtors' effects necessary, they ought to consent, and if they refuse so to do, the monthly meetings of which they are members should be informed thereof; when if the party still persist in refusing, they should be disowned without too long delay.

But, if any in such difficult circumstances, manifest an honest intention, and shall offer their all to their creditors, without preference, let compassion and aid be extended to them as brethren, and objects of christian charity: having done what they could, no more for the present can be justly expected from them. Yet it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that if persons so failing in their circumstances, should at any time thereafter be favoured with ability to pay off their deficiencies, justice will require it of them, notwithstanding a composition with, and legal discharge from their creditors may have been obtained. This is however not meant to furnish any with a pretext for advancing such claims, while persons so deficient are honestly labouring to retrieve their circumstances, nor until it shall clearly appear to their respective monthly meetings, or judicious committees thereof, that sufficient ability is arrived ~~arrived~~ at: when, if they be requested to comply, and persist in refusing, the said meetings should proceed to disown them.

And it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that if any members of our religious society, disregarding the gospel order