

prescribed by our discipline, shall arrest, or sue at law, other members (not being under such a necessity so to do, as may satisfy the overseers or other judicious friends of the meeting to which the latter belong) they, in so doing, do depart from the peaceable principles of which we make profession; and if on being treated with by the monthly meetings to which they belong, they cannot be prevailed with to withdraw the suit, and pay the costs thereof, they should be disowned.

Marriages.

It is affectionately desired by the Yearly Meeting, that all young or unmarried persons in membership with us, previously to their making any procedure in order to marriage, do seriously and humbly wait upon the Lord for his counsel and direction in this important concern; and when favoured with satisfactory clearness therein, they should early acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions and wait for their consent: thus preservation from the dangerous bias of forward and uncertain affections, would be experienced, to the real benefit of the parties, and the comfort of their friends. And it is earnestly recommended to friends that they tenderly and carefully watch over the youth, and extend seasonable caution and admonition relative to this interesting subject as occasion may require.

All single persons about to marry at a distance from home, are to procure from the monthly meeting to which they belong, certificates of their right of membership, and clearness from any other persons in respect to marriage engagements, and also to obtain the consent of their parents or guardians therein; and none are to be permitted to join themselves in marriage, until such certificates, and the consent of their parents

or guardians thereto, be also signified, in person or by writing, where it is practicable or can be reasonably obtained. But ^{there is} ~~as~~ tenderness due to children and wards, as well as to parents and guardians, it is not to be understood that marriages are to be prohibited, on account of capricious or improper objections on the part of the latter; but that monthly meetings exercise righteous judgment in such cases.

No monthly meeting is to permit any marriage to be proposed therein sooner than one year after the decease of former husband or wife.

The Yearly meeting being tender concerning marriage, desires that no misdemeanour be treasured up against a person, until the time of presenting marriage to the meeting, and then disclosed, though perhaps long before done and known to those who so object to it at that time, which being a wrong thing, should be checked and prohibited in all meetings.

It is recommended to monthly meetings, that according to the ancient and decent practice amongst friends, they take care, that such men and women friends as make or receive proposals of marriage, do not dwell in the same house, from the commencement of such concern until the marriage is accomplished: that no ground may be furnished for evil reports, or surmises, but our holy profession be maintained unsullied in the view of men.

No marriages are to be accomplished in or immediately after ^{any of} ~~the~~ monthly meetings, or other meetings of business: and it is desired, that on these occasions, friends in affluent circumstances, particularly, may be careful to set a becoming and encouraging example of moderation, avoiding unnecessarily expensive entertainments, and large companies. How much better