

would such superfluous expence be employed in relieving the necessities of the poor: and especially guarding against inviting such as guests who are unlikely to conform to the order of our religious society.

Let such of our members be admonished, who keep company in order for marriage, with persons not of our society, or with any bond servants or apprentices, without the leave of their masters or mistresses, or who are either present themselves, or consent to their children being present at marriages of those not in membership with us. And where any are present at the marriage of a member, accomplished contrary to our order, they are to be dealt with, and where they cannot be brought to a sense of their error, let them be testified against.

Where parents or guardians have approved the visits or addresses of a man (a member of our religious society) to any of their children, or those under their care, they ought not to retract the same, without giving such reasons as shall be satisfactory to the monthly meeting whereto they belong.

For the accomplishment of marriage the following order is to be observed: If ^{the} both parties belong to the same monthly meeting, the men's and women's monthly meetings should be informed of their intentions; and the man, at a proper time, be accompanied into women's meeting, by a suitable friend nominated thereto; there the parties are first to declare that, "With divine permission and friends approbation, they intend marriage with each other; whereupon, two women friends, should be appointed, by minute, to make enquiry respecting the woman; and then proceeding to the men's meeting, they should repeat (or make) the same declaration there, and two men friends be in like manner appointed, to enquire concerning the cleanness of the man, from any other marriage engagement. If the parties have parents or guardians present, their consent should be expressed; or if the man be a member of another monthly meeting, the consent of his parents, if he have any, should be produced in writing, either then or at the next meeting, with a certificate from his monthly meeting of his cleanness from other like engagements.

If the woman be a widow, having children, two or more friends should be appointed in the meeting of which she is a member, to see that the rights of her children be legally secured. At the next meeting if the committees report that careful inquiry has been made, and no obstruction to the further proceeding of the parties appears, the meetings are to leave them at liberty to accomplish their marriage according to our rules, and appoint two friends of each sex, to attend and see that good order is observed: Marriages are to be solemnized at the usual week-day meetings for worship, or at a meeting appointed, at a seasonable hour in the forenoon on some other convenient week-day, and at the meeting house to which the woman belongs. Previous notice to friends generally, in the latter case, being given.

Towards the conclusion of the said meeting, after being held a seasonable time, the parties are to stand up, and taking each other by the hand, are to declare in an audible and solemn manner to the following effect: the man first — viz — "Friends, in the presence of the Lord, and before this assembly, I take this my friend D.E. to be my wife; promising, with divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful husband, until death shall separate us;" and then the woman in like manner: "Friends, in the presence of the Lord, and before this assembly, I take this my friend A.B. to be my husband; promising, with divine assistance, to be unto him a loving and faithful wife, until death shall separate us."

The marriage certificate is then to be audibly read by some proper person, the express names and description of the parties being first inserted. They are then to sign the same; the man first, then the woman, with the assumed name of her husband; the relatives next as witnesses, and such others present as are disposed to subscribe their names.

It is further directed, that the said marriage be accomplished decently, gravely, and weightily; and that the parties themselves, their parents, and others concerned, do take care at the houses or places where they go, after the solemnization is over, that no reproach arise, or occasion of offence be given, by any intemperate