

or immoderate feasting or drinking, or by any unseemly, wanton, or rude discourses or actions; but that all behave with such sobriety as becomes a people fearing God; and that the company retire to their homes in seasonable time. And if any thing to the contrary be observed, the overseers, or other concerned friends present, ought, as speedily as they conveniently can, to take such aside who make any breach upon good order, and in an affectionate manner admonish them to a better behaviour; and the said overseers are to make report to the next monthly meeting, whether good order has been observed, and take care that the marriage certificate be returned in order to be recorded.

The form of which certificate shall be as follows.

Whereas A.B. of —, in the county of —, in —, son of C.B. of —, and H. his wife; and D.E. daughter of F.E. of —, and M. his wife, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other, before a monthly meeting of the religious society of friends, held at — according to the good order used among them (where the parties are under the care of parents or guardians, unless in the case of unreasonable objections, add) and having consent of parents or guardians concerned (as the case may be) their said proposal of marriage was allowed of by said meeting. Now these are to certify whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions, this — day of the — month, in the year of our Lord —, they the said A.B. and D.E. appeared in a public meeting of the said people held at — aforesaid; and the said A.B. taking the said D.E. by the hand, did openly declare, that he took her the said D.E. to be his wife, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful husband until death should separate them: and then, in the same assembly, the said D.E. did in like manner declare, that she took him, the said A.B. to be her husband, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto him a loving and faithful wife, until death should separate them. And moreover, they the said A.B. and D.E. (she, according to the custom of marriage,

assuming the name of her husband) did as a further confirmation thereof, then and there to these presents set their hands. A.B.

D.E.

And we, whose names are also herunto subscribed, being present at the solemnization of the said marriage and subscription, have, as witnesses thereto, set our hands the day and the year above written.

That the marriages of persons too nearly related may, as much as in us lies, be prevented, it is the conclusion of the yearly meeting that no marriage between any so near as first cousins, nor the children of half brothers or half sisters, shall be permitted among us; and that where any person or persons so circumstanced shall intermarry, their so doing shall be considered as a relinquishment of their connexion with society, and they are to be accordingly disowned by the monthly meetings of which they are members. And if such should afterwards request to be united to the society, monthly meetings ought to be fully satisfied that they are brought to a due sense of their transgression, manifested by a conduct circumspect and consistent with our profession, before they are ^{again} received ~~again~~ into membership. Yet, let neither their example, nor the clemency of monthly meetings towards them, encourage others to the same weakness. But let us manifest that we are brought to that spiritual dispensation which gives dominion over the affections, and leads to those marriages which are more natural and of better report.

It is further recommended, that parents exercise a religious care in watching over their children, and endeavour to guard them against improper or unequal connexions in marriage, that they be not anxious to obtain for them large portions and settlements, but that they be joined with persons of religious inclinations, suitable dispositions, and diligence in their business, which are necessary to a comfortable life in a married state.

The increase of the breaches of our testimony, in going from amongst us in the weighty engagement of marriage, being, we