

It is directed, that, those who come late to meetings, or, when there, fall a sleep, or are restless, or do not stay in the meeting, but go forth unnecessarily, or otherwise demean themselves unbecomingly our holy profession, on these solemn occasions, be tenderly dealt with and seasonably admonished; and that friends who are exercised in the discipline, pay early attention, in the love of the gospel, to such as neglect their duty in attending our meetings for worship. A wilful neglect in this important duty, being a manifest evidence of ingratitude to the divine author of all our mercies, and contrary to the practice of the primitive believers in Christ, and our religious testimony—it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that monthly meetings, after having fully discharged their duty towards such, and finding their endeavours to reclaim them ineffectual, should testify our disunity with them.

It is further directed, that friends keep their children, and such (members) as are under their care, to a constant, seasonable, and orderly attendance of meetings, both on first days, and on other days of the week; instructing them agreeably to the ability received, to wait in stillings upon the Lord, that they may receive a portion of his spiritual favour, and from the tendering virtue of his holy spirit, may be engaged, in heart and mind, to walk worthy of so great grace, and in a holy zeal for his honour, submit to bear the cross, endure the shame, and become dedicated witnesses for him among men.

As the appearance of drowsiness, in our religious meetings is offensive, and may be a cause of stumbling to such sober enquirers as come among us, friends are earnestly exhorted to strive against it, that no appearance thereof may be seen in our assemblies; and if any give way to it (as indulgence therein must necessarily have a disqualifying influence) it is the desire of the yearly meeting, that quarterly, monthly and other meetings, be cautious of employing such members, in the weighty services of discipline.

Memorials.

To commemorate the lives of the righteous, is a tribute due to their memory; and may prove an incentive to the living to follow after their virtues. It, therefore, any monthly meeting should, upon solid consideration, believe that it would be profitable to prepare a memorial concerning a deceased member, such memorial is to be sent to the respective quarterly meeting, where it is to be further considered; and if approved, is from thence to be forwarded to the Meeting for Sufferings, in order for inspection and approbation, previous to its being laid before the Yearly meeting.

It is also required, that quarterly and monthly meetings furnish the yearly meeting, annually, with an account of the decrease of such of their members, in the station of ministers or elders, as have occurred within the year.

Ministers and Elders,

and

Meetings of Ministers and Elders.

Persuaded as we are, that gospel ministry is not of man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ, agreeably to that apostolical charge—“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God: if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God: if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified.” 1. Peter iv. 10. 11.

Holding it therefore to be a doctrine truly christian, that the Spirit of God is the foundation of all true knowledge in relation to that duty which we owe to him, and one to another, we earnestly exhort, that those amongst us who apprehend ^{that} they are called to the ministry of the gospel, may in their public services especially, attend closely to their several and peculiar gifts, waiting for that divine ability by which they may faithfully and awfully minister the word.

We also desire, with earnest solicitude, that those who are placed in the very important department of elders in the church, may evince a correspondent qualification rightly to