

Overseers.

It is the recommendation and desire of the Yearly meeting, as productive of very beneficial consequences to society, that in every monthly meeting a proper number of faithful and judicious friends, belonging to each of the particular or preparative meetings, be appointed to the station of overseers within the same; whose duty it is, to exercise a vigilant and tender care over their fellow members; that if any thing repugnant to the harmony and good order of the society appears amongst them, it may be timely attended to. And to prevent the introduction of all unnecessary and premature complaints to meetings of business, it is advised, that if any member shall have cause of complaint against another, it be mentioned to the overseers, who are to see that the party complained of has been treated with, according to gospel order, previously to the case being reported to the preparative or monthly meeting. And it is desired, that in dealing with any, it be done in the spirit of meekness and love, patiently endeavouring to instruct and advise them; which, if ineffectual the preparative meeting should be informed thereof; that, if needful, the case may be laid before the monthly meeting; of which notice should be given to the party, when it can conveniently be done.

It is further recommended to our monthly meetings, that a committee be appointed at least once in three years or as much often as the occasion may require, to consider the propriety of changing the overseers, and bringing forward to the improvement of their gifts, other friends, on whom a concern for the welfare of society rests. And we tenderly exhort all our members, who may be rightly called into this, or any other service of the church, not hastily to excuse themselves therefrom, but solidly to consider the weighty advice of the apostle, "Feed the flock of God, which is amongst you; taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lords over God's heritage; but being ensamples to the flock; and when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory, that fadeth not away."

Parents and Children.

As next to our own souls, our offspring are the very immediate objects of our care and concern, we intreat all who are parents and governors of families, that they lay to heart the great and lasting importance to the youth, of a religious education. This would lead them to be solicitous, that their tender and susceptible minds may be impressed with virtuous principles, and a just sense of the divine being, his wisdom, ^{goodness,} power, and omniscience. They would be concerned to impress them with just sentiments in relation to the vanity and fallacy of transitory enjoyments, directing them to seek after that solid peace and serenity of mind attendant upon true religion, as the pearl of great price.

The importance of an early instruction in the law of God, is set forth with peculiar strength, clearness and solemnity, in Deut. vi. 4, &c. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might; and these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." We know that virtue does not descend by lineal succession, nor piety by inheritance; yet we trust that the Almighty graciously regards the sincere endeavours of those parents, whose early and unremitting care is over their offspring for good. Be ye therefore examples to them in your meetings, your families, and employments. Keep them while young out of the vain fashions, the corrupt customs, and unprofitable conversation of the world, labouring to convince their young and tender minds, of the propriety of restraint, when necessary; exhorting them in meekness, and commanding in wisdom. And, as they advance in age, guard them against the reading of plays, romances, and other licentious publications, of a nature prejudicial to the