

promotion of christianity; likewise against public pastimes and pernicious diversions; all which have a tendency to draw the incautious mind from a sense of religious duty, to bring it into a state of alienation from the divine life, and to deprive it of that inexpressible comfort and delight, attendant upon the daily exercise of religion and virtue.

In much love to the rising generation, we exhort them to avoid the many vanities and ensnaring corruptions to which they are exposed. Bear in mind, dear youth, that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Take the advice of godly parents, guardians and friends; ever remembering that children ought to obey their parents in the Lord, and that disobedience therein is a breach of the moral law, and was always offensive in the divine sight.

With tender solicitude we press it upon you, flee from every thing which may have a tendency to dispoil your innocence, and to render your minds less receptive of that holy influence which your enlightened judgment demonstrates to be truth. We beseech you, attend to this heavenly instructor, and dutifully yield to the correspondent tender advice of your friends. Shrink not from the cross of Christ, in your garb, language, or manners, but through a subjection of your wills to the divine will, in these, and all other respects, walk answerably to the purity of our profession and the simplicity and spirituality of our worship; so may you be instructive examples to serious enquirers after truth, and not of those who, under a profession thereof are preferring their own evil ways, and turning others aside from the footsteps of its followers.

And when the pious exercise of parental care and authority is disregarded, and any of our youth departing from that simplicity correspondent with our profession, have obstinately run into, and copied after the vain and extravagant fashions of the world, in their dress and address, and have also exposed themselves to the corrupting influence of evil company, and a

consequent irregularity of conduct, we ought to be timely and tenderly expostulated with, to convince them of the dangerous tendency of their conduct; and if they cannot be prevailed on to amend their ways, they ought to be dealt with by their respective preparative or monthly meetings, as in other cases of offence; and if after ~~their~~ labour and forbearance, they prove irreclaimable, they may be testified against.

And if any parents in membership with us willingly indulge their children, or youth under their care, in such extravagance and excesses, as are here pointed out, and persist in vindicating their conduct, they ought in like manner to be treated with and disowned. It is the desire of the yearly meeting, that friends may bring up the youth under their care to habits of industry, placing them with sober and exemplary members of the society for instruction, in such occupations as are consistent with our religious principles and testimonies; so that, as far as in us lies, they may be preserved in a becoming conduct and demeanour. Also, that those whose circumstances may furnish them with ability for instructing in useful and suitable employment, the children of members who are in situations less affluent, may receive them into their families upon terms so moderate and equitable, as to remove every plausible reason, for placing them with those not in membership with us.

Plainness in Dress and Address.

Upon the first of these subjects, our principle is, to let decency, simplicity and utility, be our principal motives, and not to conform to the vain and changeable fashions of the world, though we may occasionally adopt alterations which appear convenient or useful. This is a principle, the propriety of which we apprehend no serious christian will deny; and whilst in ages of pride and extravagance in dress, the adoption of this rule may make us appear singular; yet in relation to us, this singularity is not without its use. It is in some respects like a hedge about us, which