

is performed, and all gospel ministry supplied; that this pure and powerful influence, in vessels sanctified & prepared by the divine hand, is the essential qualification to that work. The gift therefore being divine, the service is freely and faithfully to be discharged, without any view to reward from man agreeably to the express command of Christ our head and high priest, "freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. X. 8.

And where any of our members, are so regardless of this testimony, as to contribute to the support of an hireling ministry, and vindicate such conduct, they ought to be tenderly laboured with, to convince them of their error; but if this prove ineffectual, and they persist in their unfaithfulness, the monthly meetings to which they belong, should proceed to declare our disunity with them, such conduct being opposed to our testimony for the free ministry of the gospel, which is "without money, and without price."

Queries.

In order that the yearly meeting may be clearly informed of the state of society, the following queries are directed to the subordinate meetings; and in desiring answers to them, the design of the yearly meeting is, not only to be informed of the due observance of the several branches of our christian testimony; but also, to impress on the minds of our members, a profitable individual examination of themselves, how far they act consistently with their religious profession; and also to excite elders, overseers, and other concerned friends, to discharge their duty faithfully, in administering counsel and admonition when necessary.

It is concluded that the following nine queries be read, deliberately considered, and answered in each preparative meeting and monthly meeting once in the year, in order to convey an explicit account in writing to the quarterly meetings next preceeding the yearly meeting, and from thence an account is to be forwarded to the yearly meeting.

Also, that the first, second and ninth of those queries be read, and considered, and explicit written answers be prepared for them in the two quarterly meetings preceeding the one before mentioned, and also in the preparative and monthly meetings which report thereto. But none of the queries are to be read, or answered, in those quarterly meetings for discipline which immediately succeed the yearly meeting, nor in the preparative or monthly meetings which report to those quarters.

And further, it is not obligatory on meetings to read any other of the queries than such as are to be answered: Nor is the reading and answering of them enjoined on any preparative meeting, where the members of that and the monthly meeting are the same.

First query. — Are all meetings for worship and discipline attended? Do friends avoid unbecoming behaviour therein? And is the hour of meeting observed?

Second query. — Do friends maintain love towards each other, as becomes our christian profession? Are tale-bearing and detraction discouraged? And when differences arise, are endeavours used speedily to end them.

Third. — Do friends endeavour, by example and precept, to educate their children, and those under their care, in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel? do they guard them against reading pernicious books; and from the corrupt conversation of the world? And are they encouraged frequently to read the holy scriptures?

Fourth. — Are friends clear of importing, vending, distilling, or the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors; of frequenting taverns, or attending places of diversion? And do they observe moderation and temperance on all occasions.

Fifth. — Are the necessities of the poor, and the circumstances of those who may appear likely to require aid, inspected and relieved? Are they advised and assisted, in such employments as they are capable of; and is due care taken to promote the school-education of their children?

Sixth. — Do friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries.