Queries for ministers and elders.

I. Are ministers and elders diligent in the attendance of meetings for worship and discipline; and concerned to encourage their families to that religious duty?

II. Are ministers, in the exercise of their gifts, careful to wait for divine ability, and thereby preserved from being burthensome.

III. Are ministers and elders in unity one with another, and with the meetings to which they belong? manifesting a religious concern for the advancement of truth, and the support of our discipline?

IV. Are ministers and elders good examples in uprightness, temperance and moderation, and careful to train up their families in plainness of dress, and simplicity of manners, becoming our religious profession.

Advices to ministers and elders.

It is also desired that the following advices be deliberately read in each subordinate select meeting, at least once in the year.

Let all in their testimonies be cautious of using unnecessary preambles, and of asserting too positively a divine impulse; the baptizing power of truth accompany their words, being the true evidence.

Let all read the holy scriptures frequently, and be careful neither to misquote nor misapply them.

Let ministers be careful how they enter upon disputed points in their testimony; or of making such objections as they do not clearly answer.

Let all be cautious of interrupting the solemnity of meetings, by unnecessary additions towards the conclusion.

Let all be careful not to hurt their service by tones, avoiding all affectation, & those gestures which do not comport with christian gravity

And lastly, let all dwell in that which gives ability to labour successfully in the church of Christ, adorning the doctrine they deliver to others, being examples of the believers, in word, in conversation in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

Schools.

The very important subject of the education of our youth, in piety and virtue, and giving them useful learning, under the tuition of religious, prudent persons; having for many years engaged the attention of the yearly meeting, and advices having from time to time been issued thereon, to the several subordinate meetings, it is renewedly desired, that quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings, may be excited to proper exertions for the establishment and support of schools; there being but little doubt, that as friends are united, and cherish a disposition of liberality for the assistance of each other in this interesting work, they will be enabled to make such provision, as would encourage well qualified persons to engage in this arduous employment; for want of which, it has been observed, that children have been committed to the care of transient persons, of doubtful character, & sometimes of corrupt minds; by whose example, and influence, they have been betrayed into principles and habits, which have had an injurious effect on them, in more advanced life.

It is therefore indispensably incumbent on us, to guard against this danger, and procure such tutors of our own religious persuasion, as are not only capable of instructing them in useful learning, to fit them for business in relation to temporal concerns; but to train them up in the knowledge of their duty to God, and one towards another.

Scriptures

Of the old and new Testaments.

The holy scriptures, being the external means of preserving and conveying to us, an account of the things most surely to be believed, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and the fulfilling of the promises relating thereto, it is the earnest concern of the yearly meeting, to press upon friends of all ranks, a diligent acquaintance with the sacred