carefully avoiding the payment of one in preference to another, that so none may be injured, nor any reproach incurred by mismanagement.

And where overseers, or other concerned friends, have reason to fear that any person, or family, by living above their means, or from a want of punctuality in fulfilling their contracts, or any other cause, are declining in their circumstances, and likely to fail, it is recommended that such be seasonably treated with, and (if it appear requisite) advised to call their creditors together without delay; and if, notwithstanding this advice, such persons still persist, and run into embarrassment, to the loss of others, and to their own disreputation, the preparative or monthly meeting to which they belong, ought to be timely informed thereof, and proceed to deal with them according to our rules: When, if this labour also prove ineffectual, a testimony of denial may be issued against them.

It is directed, that where such failures occur, and the cases are under the care of monthly meetings, that the friends appointed to visit the parties, enquire of the assignees or trustees, how their deficiencies have happened, & report accordingly.

And it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that neither monthly or other meetings should receive subscriptions, donations, nor bequests, from persons so circumstanced, until they have paid off their deficiencies, or are voluntarily acquitted thereof by their creditors: for it should be remembered, that though in such cases, the defaulter may have been legally discharged, the property he may afterwards acquire is not properly his own, till he has fairly paid off his former debts to the satisfaction of the creditors. Wherefore, we further direct, that if any such person or persons, on being suitably reminded of their duty in this respect, shall refuse to comply therewith, enquiry be made into the reason, and if it be not such as shall satisfy the monthly meeting of which they are members, and they cannot be prevailed with; the said meetings, after a proper time of labour and forbearance, may issue a testimony of denial against them.

We also desire, that when friends accept the office of assignee, or trustee, they be active in collecting the effects of the estate, and punctual and speedy in making distribution.

We warn our members against a pernicious practice among the trading part of the community, which has often terminated in the ruin of those concerned therein, viz: That of raising and circulating a kind of paper credit, with endorsements, to give it an appearance of value, without an intrinsic reality; a practice which as it appears to be inconsistent with the truth we profess, we declare our disapprobation of, and intreat every member of our society to avoid and discourage.

We also caution all in membership with us, to be careful how they enter into joint securities with others, under the specious plea of rendering acts of kindness; many, by so doing, having been suddenly ruined, and their innocent wives and children reduced to deplorable circumstances. "Be not thou," said the wise man, "one of them that strike hands, or of them that are "sureties for debts; if thou hast nothing to pay, why should he "take away thy bed from under thee".

It is the affectionate desire of the yearly meeting, that friends may wait for divine counsel in all their engagements, and not suffer their minds to be carried away by an inordinate desire of worldly riches; remembering the observation of the apostle in his day, and so often sorrowfully verified in ours, "they who will "be rich, fall into temptations, and a snare, and erring from the "faith, pierce themselves through with many sorrows." Even when riches to any extraordinary degree have been amassed, by the successful industry of parents, how often have they proved like stumblings to their children, carrying them beyond the limitations of truth, into liberties repugnant to our religious testimonies, & sometimes into enterprizes, which have terminated in irreparable damage to their temporal affairs, if not an entire forgetfulness of the great work of their souls' salvation.

We do not condemn industry; we believe it to be not only praiseworthy, but indispensable; it is the desire of great things, & the engrossment of the time and attention, from which we desire that