

our dear friends may be preserved. We doubtless owe duties to ourselves, and our families, but do we not owe even ourselves to our all-wise, all-protecting, and provident Creator.

War.

Believing, as we do, that the spirit of the gospel breathes "peace on earth, and good will to men," it is the earnest concern of the yearly meeting, that friends may adhere faithfully to our ancient testimony against wars and fightings, avoiding to unite with any in warlike measures, either offensive or defensive; that by the innocency of our conduct, we may convincingly demonstrate ourselves to be real subjects of the Messiah's peaceful reign, and be instrumental in the promotion thereof, towards its desired completion; when, according to ancient prophecy, "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea; and its inhabitants shall learn war no more."

In relation to this testimony, it is our judgment that when goods have been distrained from any, on account of a refusal to pay fines for non-performance of military service and the officers, after deducting the fines and costs, propose to return the remainder, that friends should maintain their testimony by suffering, rather than accept such overplus, unless the same, or a part of it is returned, without a change of the species.

That furnishing waggons, or other means for conveying of military stores, is a military service; and the care of elders, overseers, and faithful friends, should be extended, in christian tenderness and love, to such as deviate herein, in order to convince them of their error.

And that a tax levied for the purchasing of drums, colours, or for other warlike uses, cannot be paid consistently with our christian testimony.

It is the fervent concern of the yearly meeting, to recommend to the deep attention of all our members, that they be religiously guarded against approving or shewing the least connivance at war, either by attending at, or viewing of military operations, or in any wise encouraging the unstable, deceitful spirit of party, by joining with political devices, or associations, however speciously disguised, under the ensnaring subtleties commonly attendant thereon; but that they sincerely labour to experience a settlement on the alone sure foundation of pure unchangeable truth; whereby, through the prevalence of unfeigned christian love, and good will to men we may convincingly demonstrate, that the kingdom we seek is not of this world; but a kingdom and government whose subjects are free indeed, redeemed from those captivating lusts, from whence come wars and fightings.

And that the members of our religious society would carefully avoid engaging in any trade or business promotive of war, sharing or partaking of the spoils of war, by purchasing or selling prize goods, importing or shipping goods in armed vessels, paying taxes for the express purpose of war, or from pecuniary motives grinding of grain, feeding of cattle or disposing of their property for the use of the army; that through a close attention to the monitions of divine grace, and guarding against a suppression of it, either in themselves, or others, they may be preserved in a conduct consistent with our holy profession, and from wounding the minds or increasing the sufferings of each other; not at all doubting, that He to whom appertains the kingdom, and the power, who is wonderful in working, will continue to carry on and perfect his blessed cause of peace on the earth. A due attention to this concern is recommended to quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings and to friends in general; it being the judgment of the yearly meeting, that if any of our members do, either openly, or by connivance, pay any fine, penalty, or tax, in lieu of personal service