

- 5.- The necessities of the Poor appear to have been attended to, and they relieved when necessary; - and some care is also said to have been taken to promote the School education of their Children.
- 6.- Friends are generally careful to maintain our Testimony against a hireling Ministry, Baths, Military Services, clandestine Trade, prize Goods, and Lotteries; - though one Report informs that some instances of failure with respect to our Testimony against Military requisitions have occurred, and are under care.
- 7.- Friends are generally careful to live within the bounds of their Circumstances; - and to avoid engaging in Business beyond their ability to manage. - Mostly just in their dealings, and punctual in fulfilling their contracts; though some deficiencies in regard to the timely payment of Debts are noticed, and grounds for fear have in other instances arisen in which some care has been extended.
- 8.- Our Testimony against Slavery appears to be supported: some care is taken to provide in a suitable manner for such among us as have had their freedom secured; - and to instruct them in useful Learning.
- 9.- A good degree of care is generally taken to deal with known Offenders nearly as quired.

Answers to the Annual Queries.

- 1.- One Minister, and four Elders have departed this life, as follows:

John Price, a Minister, and member of Gun Powder Monthly and particular meeting the 14th of the 4th Month last in the 81st Year of his Age.

John Cowman, an Elder, and member of Indian Spring Monthly & particular meeting the 15th of the 9th month last in the 71st year of his age.

Andrew Elliott, an Elder, and member of Elk Ridge particular, and Baltimore Monthly meeting for the Western District departed this life in unity and esteem the 20th of the 6th month last in the 76th year of his age.

Phoebe Gibson, an Elder, a member of Redstone Monthly meeting, the 24th of the 7th month last.

Jepe George, an Elder, of Fairfield Monthly meeting the 21st of the 7th month last.

- 2.- None.
- 3.- There are divers Schools taught by members of Society, some of them under the care of Committees appointed for that purpose; - and though more care is acknowledged to be necessary, one report mentions that considerable labour has been lately bestowed to excite a vigilant attention and becoming earnestness in Friends on this very interesting Subject; - and another report remarks a Disposition in Friends generally to encourage Schools if suitable Teachers could be procured.
- 4.- The Queries are read and answered nearly as directed.

A View of the State of our religious Society as contained in the Answers to the Queries having engaged the attention of the Meeting, a more than usual concern was experienced to prevail in the minds of many Brethren on account of the many Deficiencies which still continue to exist among us, - and under the influence thereof the causes which remain thus to retard the prosperity of the Church and its Members individually were impressively noticed; - but in a particular manner the indispensable duty of religious Worship was clearly seen to be of primary importance, involving not only the highest Obligations of which we are capable, but also in the right performance whereof is included our greatest interest and chiefest enjoyment. And that any of our beloved Members should still remain unimpressed with these solemn Considerations, so as to omit assembling with their Brethren and Sisters for this purpose, after the many and earnest advices which have from year to year been transmitted from this Meeting excited real Sorrow. - The various causes of this insensibility the Meeting affectionately and fervently recommended to the consideration of those who occupy every Station in Society and when we remember the Divine Command so often in substance repeated in the Holy Scriptures and so dearly regarded by the pious in all ages "thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" we are feelingly to deplore that any mind should be indifferent to its import, or insensible to the consequences of ~~consequences~~ neglecting this just and greatest Obligation. We cannot but apprehend that an undue attachment to the various interests of this perishing World has been extensively influential in producing the alienation. And here let us solicit the earnest attention of our beloved Members to consider in the Words of the blessed Master, "What will it profit a Man if he gain the whole World and lose his own Soul?" - Remember, Dear Friends, that of these things no acceptable Offering can be made to the Almighty in lieu of Obedience to his own righteous requisitions, for as the same Divine Counsellor hath said, "What shall a Man give in exchange for his Soul?" - And is it not moreover obvious that while we thus pursue earthly to the exclusion of spiritual Duties and Interests it necessarily produces lukewarmness in regard to the latter, which though we assemble with others for the purpose, disqualifies for the performance of spiritual Worship, - and instead of fervency and devotedness of mind produces a drowsy Disposition and uninterested feelings: Nor is the disqualification confined to this particular but embraces all our relative Duties; and hence we can trace the sorrowful misgivings in regard to the Education of the beloved Children, whose eternal welfare ought to be as important to us as our own. - The Divine Command through the leader of his chosen People formerly required "that they should treasure up the Law and teach it to their Children, as they sat in their Houses, as they walked by the way, as they lay down, and as they rose up." We believe the Obligation is not diminished under the spiritual Dispensation of the present Day.