

Seventeenth of the Month and fifth of the Week.

Near the time adjourned to Friends assembled.

ON the very interesting concern in relation to the State of Society the Meeting was renewedly exercised: not only for the encouragement of those who are in a good degree yielding obedience to the divine requirements;— but also in an especial manner for those who have not yet submitted to the righteous dominion of Christian principles, that they might be incited to an earnest attention to those concerns on which the security of their eternal interests is so unquestionably founded. — In regard to the solemn obligation to Divine Worship, the minds of many Brethren were clothed with sadness at the continuous accounts of negligence in this important particular: the cause of which it was anxiously apprehended would be found in a practice the reverse of the Divine injunction "seek ye first the kingdom of God & his Righteousness." — For such, seeking first the good things of this world, thereby become blinded to their immortal interests;— and their love to the gracious Fountain of Divine Grace, waxing proportionably cold, when they attend the religious assemblies of the People the spring of Life is so buried under earthly interests and considerations, that their labour is vain for the refreshment which that only can afford, and return to their habitations unrefreshed. — Hereby, they are also disqualified for the practice of that secret prayer, which, being a medium of Communion with the source of Divine Power, would increase their strength to become faithful in all their proceedings, and enable them to exhibit on all occasions, to their Families and all who observe them, such evidences of an Union with the Divine Harmony as would induce them, in the expression of heart and conduct, to adopt the Language "We will go with you, for we perceive that God is with you". —

The beloved young People were endearingly invited to become labourers in this precious cause:— to embrace the Cross of the blessed Redeemer, while their minds are unshackled by evil habits;— while they are yet tender and susceptible;— seeing Experience has ever demonstrated that the fruits of carnal-mindedness are Bitterness and Sorrow, and its end Death to the Divine life. — Whereas none ever found cause to repent that they had become spiritually minded, the fruit thereof being Peace, — and the end thereof Life eternal. —

The attention of our Members was also affectionately called to the effects of that "Love which becometh our Christian Profession": — Is it not, dear Friends, to have the same mind which was in Christ, that leads to "bless them that curse you", — to "do good

"good to them that hate you", — and "pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"? — And in this Divine principle, as there is no fellowship with War, its confused "Noise and garments rolled in Blood", — neither is ^{that} a place for resentments or affronts. We therefore earnestly exhort you to strive against these unrighteous Emotions; — being assured that in respect to their existence in the human mind, — it may emphatically be said — "an Enemy hath done this". —

Our important Testimony concerning Spirituous Liquors also excited much solicitude; — and while it was gratefully acknowledged as a Divine favour that it had thus far advanced, earnest Desires were expressed that the minds of Friends might be encouraged still further to extend their Endeavours under the pure influence of Divine Love, — which will qualify to labour with patience and gentleness in such Cases as still afford cause for Sorrow to the Body, by trading in distilling, or using them: — It appearing in the view of the Meeting as an abuse of the Mercies of the Heavenly Benefactor thus to pervert his benefits to the violation of his Commandments. — The attention of Quarterly Meetings was referred to the advice handed down last Year. The Meeting feeling anxiously concerned for the recovery of those who are yet delinquent, — desires that they may be dealt with on the Subject this year also; — and that clear and distinct Accounts be forwarded to the Meeting next Year. —

The following Report from the Committee appointed on the Subject of a Division of this Yearly Meeting was read and concurred with viz:

"To the Yearly Meeting, now sitting."

"The Committee appointed to take into consideration the proposal of a Division of the Yearly Meeting as brought forward from the Quarterly Meetings west of the Alleghany Mountain, having met in company with Women Friends, — by a free communication of Sentiment are united in believing the proposal to be a right one; — but are most easy to propose that the weighty subject may continue under the Consideration of Friends another Year, and that the Yearly Meetings with which this corresponds may also be informed thereof. — Which is submitted to the Yearly Meeting."

"Signed on behalf of the Committee by
Baltimore 10th Month 37th 1811. —
Evan Thomas
James Hendenhall
Mary Mifflin
Sarah Janney"

The following Report from the Committee appointed on the Request from Baltimore Quarter, — was read and concurred with, — and the Clerk directed to furnish that Meeting with a Copy thereof, and also of this Minute. —

"To the Yearly Meeting."