

When disowned persons remove without the verge of the Monthly Meeting, of which they had been members, and become concerned to be again united to the society; they may make application to the Monthly Meeting within the compass of which they reside, giving information of their disownment, and by what Monthly Meeting; the particular occasion of disownment, such Monthly Meeting is not enjoined to require. But if, upon noticing the application, the Monthly Meeting believes in the sincerity of such individuals, and finds nothing amongst them to prevent, inquiry must be made of the Monthly Meeting by which the applicants have been disowned, (provided such Monthly Meeting exist,) concerning its consent to its reception of such persons, and after information therefrom, that nothing appears to obstruct, such applicants may be by them received.

In all cases when a Monthly Meeting apprehends itself under a necessity to disown members, it is desired, that such members, if their situation will admit of it, be previously informed thereof; and when a testimony of disownment is issued against them, a copy thereof should be offered to the parties testified against, with information of their right of appeal.

When females violate the rules of our discipline, women Friends are to exercise a proper care in the case, according to the general order of society; until their Monthly Meeting becomes satisfied, that the offender should be disowned, the men's meeting should then be informed of the case; and if that meeting concur in judgment, a minute thereof should be formed, and a committee appointed, to unite with a committee of women Friends, in preparing a testimony of disownment; the women Friends taking care to inform the

tanglements. But because an inordinate love and pursuit of worldly riches, often betrays those who are captivated by them, into many difficulties and dangers, to the great obstruction of the work of truth in the heart; we affectionately desire, that the counsel and gracious promise of our blessed Redeemer, to his followers, may be borne in remembrance by us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

The Yearly Meeting being earnestly concerned that the service of our religious society may not be obstructed, nor its reputation dishonoured by any imprudence of its members, in their worldly engagements, recommends to all, that they be careful not to venture upon business they do not understand, nor to launch into trade beyond their abilities, and at the risk of others; but, that they bound their engagements by their means, and when they enter into contracts or agreements, whether written or by words, that they endeavour, on all occasions, strictly to fulfil them, that no occasion of reproach may be given to truth and the society.

We particularly exhort, that none engage in any such concerns as depend on the deceptive probabilities of hazardous enterprizes; but rather content themselves with such a plain and moderate way of living, as is consistent with the self-denying principle, of which we make profession; whereby many disappointments, and grievous perplexities may be avoided, and that tranquillity of mind obtained, which is inseparable from the right enjoyment, even of temporal things. And it is advised, that when any amongst us err, or are in danger of erring, in these respects, they be faithfully and timely admonished.

Against embarking in trade beyond ability.

In hazardous enterprizes

party thereof. When the testimony of disownment is prepared, it is to be presented to the women's meeting; and when approved should be sent to the men's meeting, for its approbation, and when there approved and signed, it should be returned to the women's meeting, for their signature, and care in offering a copy thereof to the parties, with information of their right of appeal.

But should the men, on considering the case, as reported from the women's meeting, not be satisfied to issue a testimony against the offender, without appointing a committee to visit her, they may be at liberty to appoint a few Friends to unite with a committee of women Friends, to take further opportunities with the delinquent; the report of which joint committee, is to be presented to the women's meeting, and with their judgment thereon is to be conveyed to the men's meeting; where the case is to be considered and finally settled.

But where acknowledgments are presented by females, they are, after being read in the women's meetings, to be laid before the men's meeting for their concurrence, before they shall be fully received.

It is not expedient to publish, at our meetings for worship, either testimonies of disownment or acknowledgments.

It being evident, that where the manifestations and restraints of the spirit of truth are duly prized and regarded, it leads out of a bondage to the spirit of this world, and preserves the minds of its followers from many fettering and disqualifying en-

Cautions against inordinate love riches.

It is further recommended, that Friends frequently inspect the state of their affairs, and keep their accounts so clear and accurate, that they may, at any time, easily know whether they live within the bounds of their circumstances, or not; and in case of death, that these may not be perplexing to survivors.

If any of our members be complained of for withholding a just debt, they should be tenderly urged to payment; and if this be unavailing, they should be treated with as in other cases of disorderly conduct, and disowned; but if any appear unable to satisfy their creditors, they should be advised to call them together, without loss of time; and submit the state of their affairs to their inspection, when, if the creditors apprehend a surrender of the debtor's effects necessary, they ought to consent; and if they refuse, the Monthly Meetings of which they are members, should be informed thereof; when, if the party still persist in refusing, they should be disowned without too long delay.

But if any, however, in such difficult circumstances, manifest an honest intention, and shall offer all their property to their creditors, without preference—let compassion and aid be extended to them as brethren, and objects of christian charity, having done what they could, no more, for the present, can be justly expected from them. Yet if persons so failing in their circumstances, should, at any time thereafter, be favoured with ability to pay off their deficiencies, justice will require it of them, notwithstanding a legal discharge may have been obtained. This is, however, not meant to furnish any with a pretext for advancing such claims, while persons so deficient, are honestly labouring to retrieve their circum-

Inspection of our affairs.

Proceeding in embarrasments.

And when they retrieve their circumstances.

stances, nor until it shall clearly appear to their respective Monthly Meetings or judicious committees thereof, that sufficient ability is arrived at.

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.

And it is directed, that when failures occur amongst our members, that Monthly Meetings carefully inquire of the assignees or trustees of the persons, who have failed, how their deficiencies have happened; and ascertain if a fair and equal distribution of their property has been made, without distinction or preference; and if it should appear that such equal distribution has not taken place, but that preferences have been given, the parties making such unequal, and unjust payments, be treated with, as in other cases of reproachful conduct, and disowned.

And it is our judgment, that neither Monthly nor other meetings, should receive subscriptions, donations, nor bequests from persons who have failed, until they shall have paid off their deficien-

Living above their means.

Fair distribution among creditors.

cies, 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 justly his own, until 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, inquiry be made into the reason, and if it be not satisfactory to the Monthly Meetings 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 paper credit practice amongst 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 entreat 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, have 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 our affectionate desire, 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 that will be rich fall into temptation 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 wings to their children, carrying them beyond the limitations of truth, into liberties repugnant to our religious testimonies; and sometimes into enterprizes which have terminated in irreparable damage to their temporal affairs, if not in an entire forgetfulness of the great work of their souls' salvation.

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

Effects of great affluence.

Industry not condemned.

BELIEVING that the spirit of the Gospel breathes "peace on earth, and good will towards men," it is our earnest concern, 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 innocence 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.

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 a non-performance of military services, 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 wagons 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.

It is fervently recommended to our members, that they be religiously guarded against, approving or showing, the least connivance at war, either by attending at, or viewing of military operations, or in any wise encouraging the instable, deceitful spirit of party, by joining with political devices or associations, however speciously disguised, under the ensnaring subtleties common-

The ancient testimony against war must be supported.

In relation to military fines.

Conveying military stores

Countenancing military operations.