

Ans^d 12. Friends are mostly careful as far as practicable to place their children for tuition under care of teachers in membership with us.

Upon reviewing the state of society as brought before this Meeting by the answers to queries the minds of many brethren were introduced into much exercise on account of the deficiencies which these answers disclose.

The neglect on the part of many of our members in relation to the attendance of their religious meetings was cause of deep concern & was believed to be the effect of a lukewarmness & indifference to those important duties which pertain to our everlasting welfare. This defection can only arise from our minds becoming so absorbed by the things of this world as to be insensible to the admonitions of that blessed spirit, which ever has been, and ever will continue to be, the only infallible and certain teacher and preserver of man, and which if duly attended to would be found sufficient to enable us faithfully to perform all our religious duties & would qualify us to become instruments in the promotion of the glorious cause of truth and righteousness in the world. Under its blessed influence we should be brought into true harmony and peace & be enabled by a living experience in ourselves to witness that in proportion as the love of God abounds in us, we should love our brethren even as ourselves, and under those feelings should not be easy to omit assembling with them at the times appointed for Divine worship.

Seeing then that it is our privilege to come under the leadings of this blessed principle, and to know that the Lord God reigns in us, we may rest assured that if we do not experimentally know this, we are not subjects of his kingdom. How unspeakably important then is this knowledge! as upon it depends our safety and preservation, having abundant evi-

dence both in the Scriptures of truth and otherways, that when we withdraw from this righteous government we are liable to be scattered and destroyed. May we all then dear friends, diligently seek the Lord while he may be found and by wholly giving ourselves up to his righteous dominion, witness that preservation which the faithful followers of the Lamb have experienced in all ages and generations of the world.

The Meeting was also introduced into a painful exercise under the consideration of desolating influence which the numerous demoralizing publications of the present times are widely diffusing. Amongst these are to be found some which treat of subjects professedly religious but which manifest a spirit of so vindictive asperity that in not a few instances their authors in order to gratify their feelings or to sustain their views would even destroy the reputations of those who have differed from them in opinion. The wide spread desolation which these publications have produced cannot but be deeply regretted by every feeling mind; but for them many of the deplorable events which we have witnessed would not have occurred, and we tenderly exhort our beloved friends to avoid them, from whatever quarter they may come; they are calculated to produce in the minds of all those who are entangled by them, dispositions comparable to wormwood and gall & which in the end can only lead to spiritual disease and death.

Friends were encouraged to a faithful perseverance in the maintenance of our Testimony against the improper use of distilled spirituous liquors. The support of this Testimony it is believed has not only been a blessing to us and to our families but to many of those round about us, who having been brought to a profitable consideration & reflection