

membership with us.

During the consideration of the state of society, many valuable and impressive testimonies were borne amongst us, by brethren deeply concerned for the prospects of Zion. It was earnestly urged, that Friends should endeavor to become living members of the body of Christ; for it is only as we abide in this body, that we can experience any benefit from its vitality, or receive a qualification to perform our duties aright, or be useful one to another. — All were therefore encouraged to dwell near the Divine Light and Guide, by which they would be led into the unity of the Spirit, which is the bond of peace. Friends were also urged to increased faithfulness in the important duty of taking their children with them to our religious meetings, thus giving evidence to their offspring that they estimate the Heavenly treasures above those of this earth; and desire to follow the injunction of our blessed Saviour "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you". The deficiency in this respect was shown to arise from an inordinate love of the things of this world, and be an evidence, that the force of the saying, "what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul," is not sufficiently felt amongst us. The great importance of the religious and guarded education of our children, was earnestly impressed upon the meeting, and it was clearly seen, that upon a right and faithful discharge of our duty as parents, in this respect, may not only depend the preservation of our offspring, but also the support and maintenance of the valuable testimonies that

have been frequently committed to us, and hence the necessity of a greatly increased care in instructing our children in the important principles for which our ancestors suffered, that as the precepts that were delivered to the Lord's people formerly, we should teach them diligently to our children; to talk of them when we sit in our houses, and when we walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise up. By being thus made acquainted with the pure and spiritual nature of the religion of Christ, and with what we esteem the true foundation that God hath laid and not man, they would be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, and see more clearly the beauty of holiness, the riches of Divine Love, and the universality of the Grace of God: — then instead of children bringing down the gray hairs of their parents with sorrow to the grave, they would be their staff and comfort in declining years.

It was feelingly remarked, that when the blessed Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate and asked concerning his kingdom, he replied, "to this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the Truth," therefore all who become his followers in the path of regeneration, must become willing to bear witness to the Truth by a life of self-denial and a dedication of heart to the service of the Father. — From this blessed source, we believe, have originated the testimonies borne by our worthy ancestors, against many of the evils and corruptions that now prevail in the world, and in order that we may be prepared effectually to bear the same testimonies, we must come with the govern-