

and others were left to the free exercise of their own judgment in the case. No ill feeling towards our neighbours, who still continued to hold Slaves was entertained. — They were only doing what we ourselves had very recently done, and with hearts filled with gratitude to the source and fountain of all good, for his great mercy in opening our eyes to see the enormity of this evil, and giving us strength to relieve ourselves from it, we looked with feelings of tenderness on those who were still entangled in it, and with fervent desires that they might find relief. Nevertheless the Society being deeply impressed with the injustice of holding in unconditional bondage our fellow-men, and believing that Slavery as it existed in the United States, was a great social, moral, and political evil; increasing in magnitude and threatening the most disastrous consequences to our Country. — that in the mean time it was beneficial neither to the master nor slave; and finally, that in the system there was not one redeeming quality to justify or palliate it; did, from time to time, when they felt themselves religiously called upon, address to the legislative bodies of our country, and occasionally to the people of the United States, such views of the subject, as under the influence of that love which breathes "Peace on earth and good will to men" might lead to a solemn consideration of the matter and be a means, of removing this enormous evil. These movements of Friends, influenced wholly by kindness and benevolence, produced in the mind of the Slaveholder, no hostile feelings either towards us, or towards the colored population of our Country. — They created no dangerous excitement in the public mind ending in tumults and riots; — On the contrary our appeals were received with respect and listened to with patience. Many were brought to reflect very seriously on the subject, and thousands of Slaves were voluntarily liberated. Laws were passed

protecting the rights of the emancipated, and mitigating the condition of those still retained in bondage. But how different is the present state of things! — What a melancholy change has taken place in our Country! — Instead of laws mitigating the condition of the colored people, we find an alarming disposition to abridge the few rights that had been granted to them: instead of a general feeling of commiseration and kindness, we find, in many instances a disposition of acrimony and bitterness engendered against them, without any provocation on their part; — Even in the Free States great violence and many cruelties have been exercised towards them. The prospect of emancipation has been checked, and a mutual feeling of jealousy and suspicion has taken place of the reciprocal confidence which to a great extent had subsisted between the master and the slave. For all this there must be a cause. Can "the good tree" produce such bitter fruit? We earnestly and affectionately intreat our Friends and brethren every where, to pause and deeply reflect upon the consequences, before they commit themselves in any degree, by countenancing or entering into associations founded upon principles, or governed by motives, inconsistent with the mild, forbearing, and peaceable spirit of the Gospel. We may rest assured that all attempts to effect the liberation of the Slaves, by coercive measures, will be met, as they already have been, by a counteracting force, and if persisted in, will finally lead to violence — perhaps bloodshed.

The Prophet in the vision of sight, beholding the state of the Church in the latter days" declared that "the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be numbered among the nations"; and our blessed Lord in reference to his followers, said "they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world". (John XVII. 16.) "The wisdom of this world is foolishness