

For want of due watchfulness and obedience to the convictions of divine grace in their consciences, many amongst us have wounded their own souls, distressed their friends, injured their families and done great disservice to the church by their unequal connexions; which have proved an inlet to much degeneracy, and mournfully affected the minds of those, who feel a living concern for the good of all, and the prosperity of truth upon earth.

It is therefore affectionately desired by the Yearly Meeting, that all young or unmarried persons in membership with us, previously to their making any procedure in order to marriage, do seriously and humbly wait upon the Lord, for his counsel and direction in this important concern, and when favoured with satisfactory clearness therein, they should seasonably acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions, and wait for their consent; thus preservation from the dangerous bias of forward and uncertain affections would be experienced, to the real benefit of the parties, and the comfort of their friends. And it is earnestly recommended to Friends, that they carefully and tenderly watch over the youth, and extend seasonable caution and admonition relative to this interesting subject, as occasion may require.

All persons about to marry at a distance from home, should procure from the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, certificates of their right of membership and clearness from any other persons, in respect to marriage engagements; they should also obtain the consent of their parents or guardians; and none should be permitted to join themselves in marriage until such certificates, and the consent of their parents or guardians, be also produced in person, or by writing, where it is practicable, or can be reasonably obtained. But as there is tenderness due to children and wards, as well as to parents and guardians, it is not to be understood that marriages are

to be prohibited, on account of improper objections on the part of the latter, but that Monthly Meetings exercise righteous judgment in such cases.

On application for certificates of clearness from other marriage engagements, the name of the woman must be furnished to the Monthly Meeting.

No Monthly Meeting is to permit any marriage to be proposed therein, sooner than one year after the decease of former husband or wife.

The Yearly Meeting being tender concerning marriage, directs that no misdemeanour be treasured up against a person, until the time of proposing marriage to the meeting, and then disclosed; though perhaps long before known to those who so object to it at that time.

It is recommended that such men and women Friends as make or receive proposals of marriage, do not reside in the same house from the time of laying such proposals before the meeting, until the marriage shall have been accomplished.

Let such of our members be admonished, who keep company, in order for marriage, with those of other principles and professions of religion.

It is earnestly directed, that on the occasion of marriages, Friends be careful to set a becoming example of moderation, it being the judgment of the Yearly Meeting, that expensive and superfluous entertainments and large companies, are inconsistent with christian gravity, and the solemnities of the occasion; and that the parties themselves, their parents and others concerned, do take care on these occasions that no reproach arise, or cause of offence be given, but that all behave with such sobriety as becomes a people fearing God; and that the company retire to their homes in seasonable time. And if any thing to the contrary be observed, the overseers or other concerned Friends present ought, as speedily as they conveniently can, to take such aside, who