

make any breach upon good order, and in an affectionate manner admonish them to a better behaviour; and the said overseers are to make report to the next Monthly Meeting whether good order has been observed; and take care that the marriage certificate be recorded.

It is further recommended, that parents exercise a religious care over their children, and endeavor to guard them against improper connexions in marriage; that they be not anxious to obtain for them large portions and settlements; but that they be joined with persons of religious inclinations, suitable dispositions, and diligence in their business, which are necessary to a comfortable life in a married state.

The increase of the breaches of our testimony, in going from amongst us, in the important engagement of marriage, being, we fear, often for want of due care in parents, and those who have the charge of educating youth, timely to admonish and instruct them in the principles of truth, and impress their minds with the duty of religiously observing them; as much as possible restraining them from such company as will be likely to entangle their affections improperly; we therefore tenderly exhort Friends, in all quarters, to increase their care over the youth, that the consistency of our principles in all respects with the nature of true religion, may be impressed on their tender minds by upright examples, as well as by precepts; and that where there is apparent danger of the affections of any being improperly entangled, and the care of parents or guardians or those who have the oversight of them, appears insufficient to prevent their taking imprudent steps in the accomplishment of marriage, care be taken timely to apply for the assistance of their Friends.

For the accomplishment of marriage the following order is to be observed:—The parties are to inform men's and women's Monthly

Meetings of their intention, by a written proposal, under their hands, in substance as follows:

To the Monthly Meeting of _____

We the subscribers A. B. son of C. and D. B., and F. G. daughter of H. and I. G., purpose taking each other in marriage, which we hereby offer for the approbation of Friends.

A. B.

F. G.

The notice should be minuted in each meeting, and two women Friends are to be appointed, to make inquiry concerning the clearness of the woman in regard to any other marriage engagements; and, if the parties are both members of the same meeting, two men Friends should also be appointed, to make a like inquiry respecting the clearness of the man. If the parties have parents or guardians present, their consent should be expressed; or, if the man be a member of another Monthly Meeting, the consent of his parents, if he have any, should be produced in writing, either then, or at the next meeting, with the necessary certificate from his Monthly Meeting.

If the woman be a widow, having children, two or more Friends should be appointed in the meeting of which she is a member, to see that the rights of her children be legally secured. At the next meeting, if the committee report that careful inquiry has been made, and no obstruction to the further proceeding of the parties appears, they are to be left at liberty to accomplish their marriage, according to our rules, and a suitable number of Friends of each sex appointed to attend and see that good order is observed.

Marriages are to be solemnized at the usual week day meetings for worship, or at a meeting appointed for that purpose, at such other time and place as the Monthly Meeting may approve, held in the solemnity due to the occasion. When, at a suitable time, the parties are to stand up,