

becomes our "meat and our drink to do the will of our Heavenly Father," and love them above all, it immediately induces a sweet expansion of love to our brethren; under the gathering and cementing influence of which, it would be esteemed amongst our highest privileges to meet together, for the purpose of united worship of the great Author of our existence, and this precious influence would extend even to the children, whose tender minds would be sweetly imbued with it.

The decline in the support of our religious meetings, it was shown, would be attended with a corresponding decline in the support of the other important testimonies, which we, as a religious Society, have been peculiarly called upon to bear. Friends were, therefore, encouraged to stand firm, having their feet placed upon the immutable Rock of Ages, that when the heads of those of our elder brethren, whose voices are now raised in advocating the cause of the blessed Truth, shall be laid low, there may be "raised up Judges as at the first, and Counsellors as at the beginning," in support of our precious testimonies.

The principle of Love was shown to be exceedingly powerful and precious, and it was enjoined upon us, that we love one another. "If we love not our brother, whom we have seen, how can we love God, whom we have not seen." It remains to be the badge of true discipleship, and the language of the Psalmist was revived, Behold how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity; it is like the dew of Hermon, and the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion, where the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore." — There is no ground but love and unity, upon which the Society of Friends can ever stand. This removes entirely the desolating spirit of tale bearing and detraction, and enables us to adopt that Heavenly rule, of doing unto all men as we would have them do unto us.

The prevalence of the principle of love in our religious Society, would not only promote the growth of our members in the Divine life, but would bind us together in a harmonious labor for the effectual promotion of all our religious testimonies, in the world at large. It would preserve us, in our labors for the advancement of righteousness, from mingling with those who, not having yet come under the government of the Divine gift, are disposed to act in the Lord's work under the direction of the will and wisdom of man; whereby they become entangled in concerns, uncertain in their results, and hurtful in their tendencies; thus, instead of speculation, we should have holy certainty, and instead of being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, should be found building on the immutable foundation of Divine Truth.

Friends were renewedly encouraged to increased attention to our testimonies in regard to plainness in our dress and address; and it was matter of deep concern, to see our young people so generally laying aside these testimonies, which, if carefully supported this protecting badge, would be as a hedge about them, to keep them from evil.

The careful and guarded education of our children, was shown to be one of the highest duties committed to us. When we observe the vast flood of publications with which our land is deluged, many of them calculated to undermine every principle of virtue and righteousness in the youthful mind, it becomes the duty of Friends to guard well their offspring, upon this subject.

One means to this was believed to be, to furnish their active minds with that food which is needful and proper for them, looking to Him for direction and help, to whom none ever apply in vain.

It was matter of rejoicing to believe that there is an increased attention to the support of our testimony against the unnecessary use of spirit.