

It was cause of renewed gratitude that in the early part of our meeting, we were favored with the manifestation of the Divine presence, gathering us into a precious solemnity, and a living desire for the welfare of our society; and friends were encouraged to dwell in this state, in which they would be enabled to discern the first approaches of the spirit of delusion, and be preserved from its hurtful entanglements.

Under this precious covering we entered upon the consideration of the state of Society, when the meeting was introduced into a lively concern for the faithful maintenance of all our Christian testimonies. We were enjoined to examine ourselves, and see whether we love God above all; for if we do, we will love our neighbors as ourselves. This love will induce a desire to attend our religious meetings, and draw frequently into retirement, where we can converse with Him whom our souls love, and wait upon Him to experience a renewal of our strength. The regular attendance of our meetings under a right concern, would be so far from operating against the success of our proper temporal pursuits, that it would render us more uniform, consistent and successful in every right business of life, verifying the truth, that "godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Our minds have been introduced into a lively sense of the great injury arising from the spirit of defamation: if we estimate any act by the pain and injury it inflicts, there are few offences more reprehensible than tale-bearing and detraction. We should therefore carefully guard against that insidious spirit, that would induce us, under color of religious concern, to lay waste the reputation of a brother: for, if we come under the influence of Divine love, we shall find it our duty to go to him, whom we may deem an offender, and express our concern in meekness, "considering ourselves, lest we

also be tempted."

The testimony which our religious Society has always borne against the vain and changeable spirit of fashion, is closely connected with the best interests of all our members. With our faithful predecessors, this testimony had its origin in the clear discoveries of Divine Truth, and we believe that a faithful attention to the same holy principle would lead us into the same paths of simplicity and self-denial. It would be a means of preserving the youth of our Society, and those who are entering on the momentous concerns of life, as parents and heads of families, from many difficulties and entanglements, both in their temporal and spiritual concerns.

A lively concern was expressed in relation to the great responsibility that rests upon parents, and others entrusted with the education of youth. The present and future welfare of our precious offspring, are involved in the exercise of this duty, which when properly fulfilled, will be the source of preservation to them, and of rejoicing to us. In order to preserve them from the contaminating influence of corrupt conversation and vicious examples, we should endeavour to attach them to the endearments of home, and the society of their parents, by making them our companions, entering into their feelings, and drawing them to us by the cord of love.

The selection of suitable books, is also an important means for improving their minds, and preserving the purity of their characters; but among all the books which we possess, none can be compared in importance and value with the Holy Scriptures, which, through faith in Christ Jesus, are able to make wise unto salvation, and the frequent perusal of them was therefore, earnestly and affectionately recommended.