

edley made sensible of the great importance, in regard to our own progress in spiritual life; to the welfare of our precious children; and the benefit of all whom our example may influence; that this service should be performed in the right spirit. If we meet under the influence of love, putting all selfishness aside, our minds will be clothed with Divine Grace; the offering of a broken heart and a contrite spirit, which is one of the Lords preparing, will be made by us, and we may be the instruments of feeding the precious children with the bread of life, but if we suffer the transitory things of the world to have the precedence with us, or attempt the performance of this work, without Divine assistance, we shall place ourselves in the condition of a father who, when his children asked bread, should give them a stone. It was feelingly stated by an experienced and aged friend, that in a careful observation of fifty years, he had not known an instance of a member of society who neglected the attendance of religious meetings, that it did not result in a manifest weakness and declension in those things that appertain to our highest interests.

There is a faith that overcomes the world, and there is a faith that is overcome by the world; and friends were encouraged to an earnest endeavor for the acquisition of that faith which is founded on the rock of ages. - The revelation of God to the soul of man.

The desolating effects of a spirit of detraction upon the harmony of society were impressively urged upon the

consideration of Friends. To love God supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves, was declared by the blessed Jesus to be the fulfilment of the law; and this Divine Love prevailing in the heart would lead us to be tender of the reputation one of another, and would eradicate every desire to speak evil of any. Under a tender solicitude for the preservation of its members in purity and simplicity, and particularly those in the early walks of life, the Yearly Meeting was concerned to extend a solemn caution against any entangling alliance with the various associations that have sprung up in our land.

Many of these exact money from their members under the specious pretence of benevolence, draw them frequently from their families and business, and into places and practices calculated to lead the mind from the enjoyments of a holy life.

Friends were therefore affectionately and earnestly cautioned against becoming or continuing members of any such association; or of any, requiring of its members a pledge of secrecy. It is not the characteristic of goodness to seek concealment. The Divine Master himself has plainly declared, that "no man lighteth a candle, and putteth it under a bushel; and Overseers and other concerned friends were encouraged to extend timely counsel and admonition in all cases where any of our members are likely thus to be led away.

Our testimony against a hireling ministry, or any ministry that has not its source and authority in that Divine Power which, alone, can raise up and qualify.