

The duty of attending all our meetings, was still felt to be one of great importance. Its neglect, was seen to be an index which always pointed, with certainty, to a state of lukewarmness, or a state of undue engrossment by the things of the world. We were admonished in this and other duties, to imitate the wisdom of human science, and, before taking a course in spiritual concerns, to watch the magnet of our souls, until disturbing influences cease to operate, and it clearly points to the Polar Star of Truth.

In this testimony, regarding the attendance of our meetings, that, most important of all that can claim the attention of the mind is involved - namely, love to God, and love to our fellow men. It is true, that we may meet and commune with our Heavenly Father, whilst engaged in our common occupations; - in the silence of night; when our souls are earnest in prayer; - yet we believe that the incomes of divine love, given to cherish, and support in labor, will invariably, lead us, as the same gifts, in all ages, have led the servants of God, to seek the advancement of prosperity, truth, and love, by means of religious communion.

A deep concern was felt, that we may be continually guarded against that insidious spirit which leads into tale bearing and detraction. Such a spirit can never be the offspring of that angelic love which breathes "peace on earth and good will to men," but it is the fruit of a spirit of malice and cruelty, which, while it labors to destroy the peace and harmony around it, brings confusion and misery upon itself. If the waters that are given forth are impure and corrosive, what must be the state of the fountain from whence they flow.

That truly christian rule of action, "as ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them," demands that we should never speak of the faults, or weaknesses of another unless it be manifestly to effect some good purpose.

A mind that, when in conversation would ^{endeavor} ~~strive~~ practically to observe this rule, would be led into a state of thoughtfulness and self control which would give it a command over itself, and an experience that "he that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city."

The attention of Friends was most impressively called to that disorganising spirit now abroad in the world which is continually at war with every thing that is precious and good both in government and in society. It was the working of this spirit that so unhappily divided this Society; and it is the same spirit that is now striving to rend the government under which we live. A living concern was felt that Friends might seek to dwell near the illuminating and preserving life of Christ in the soul, that they might experience

its qualifying influence to gather home to the only place of true rest and safety.

Friends were weightily cautioned to beware of the insidious suggestions of human reason in opposition to the gentle but clear intimations of Truth in the mind. By this kind of Reason, our first parents were seduced to believe that the thing which God had forbidden, was good for food, and to make men wise. The consequences which then followed, have always, in like cases, been manifest, and perhaps at no period more plainly than in the present day, in which we have seen the unwary listeners to this fatal delusion, have been betrayed into error, and thus have lost the paradisaical state.

The preservation of our beloved offspring from the snares that beset their path and the pollutions that abound in the world were felt to be of primary importance. Believing, as we do that the human soul comes pure from the hands of its Creator, how great is our responsibility and how imperative our duty to endeavor to preserve it in purity and bring it under the influence of those holy and ennobling principles which are the gift of God to all who wait upon him and obey the impressions of His Holy Spirit.

And we are persuaded that they who come under the government of the Divine Power by which the inside of the vessel is made clean, will be concerned to show forth in life and conversation the blessed fruits of the spirit, in meekness, humility and brotherly love.

Among the instrumental means of promoting our spiritual growth, the reading of the Scriptures of Truth was earnestly recommended, to all our members. In these precious records the wise & good of every age in the Christian Church have found consolation and encouragement, and we believe that in this age they are not less needed than at any former period.

The ancient testimony of our Religious Society in relation to music, was feelingly revived in this meeting. This testimony, as well as others which have distinguished us as a people, had its origin in a very early period of our history. Like them it was the fruit, not of speculation or fallacious human reasonings, but the clear manifestations of the Lord's will; - the indubitable impress of the Divine Mind on the understandings of our devoted and faithful predecessors. They saw, as we now see, that the fascinating excitement of Music, has a direct tendency to draw away our attention from the holy inspeaking language of Divine Wisdom to the soul; to drown the gentle voice of truth, which in unutterable mercy is afforded for our direction and safety through the