

Twenty seventh of the Month and fourth of the Week.
Near the time adjourned to, Friends again met.

The Clerk produced a minute embodying the exercises of the meeting during the consideration of the state of Society, which was read, and was satisfactory. It is as follows, viz:-

The reports of deficiencies still existing amongst our members, particularly in regard to the attendance of our mid week meetings, has been a source of pain to many Friends. It is difficult to conceive, how a mind that has once tasted of the Heavenly enjoyments which it is the high privilege of the devoted Soul to experience, can forego the comfort arising from meeting in social worship with kindred minds, that thus the stream of love and devotion may be enlarged, and overflow its borders, to the mutual refreshing and nourishment of all.

The short comings among us were shown to have arisen from our leaving that state of humble obedience, in which it is our meat and our drink to do the will of our Heavenly Father. In this blessed state, which is the state of true sonship, every requirement of duty is cheerfully and faithfully performed, the soul is enlarged in love to its Creator and Redeemer, and also to its fellow creatures every where, till the heart can join in the angelic anthem, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will to men." In a heart thus devoted to righteousness, there could exist no disposition that would admit of tale bearing and detraction, nor that would be unjust in dealings with a neighbor, or withhold from him his due. Neither could there be any feeling that would lead to war or oppression, or permit of that disqualification for usefulness in Society, which results from the use of intoxicating drinks, but the axe being laid to the root of the corrupt tree, and the good branch being engrafted into the true vine, all the fruits would be those of love, peace and joy in the holy spirit.

When we become acquainted with the benefits of religious retirement, and rightly concerned to withdraw our minds from the confusion and noise by which we are surrounded in the world, we shall be enabled to experience the truth of the declaration, "that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither it hath entered into the heart of man to conceive the good things that God hath in store for them that love Him."

Friends were affectionately exhorted to remember, that the distinguishing badge of our discipleship, is the prevalence of Love - love to God, and love one unto another. This love is stronger than death, and many waters cannot quench it. It gives the only proper qualification to labor for the restoration of an erring brother, and manifests, that in this labor, we are influenced only by a Christian concern for the promotion of his good.

From this same source originated those testimonies which we as a people,

are called upon to bear; and it is only as we keep under the guidance and government of the same Holy principle, that we can bear them to the promotion of our own peace, and the happiness of mankind.

A concern was felt that Friends may seek after that state of deep humility in which they can feel that all reliance upon self or upon human armor is entirely put away, and that like David, they may choose the smooth stones from the brook, and rely wholly upon the arm of Him who has rescued from the lion and the bear, whereby to overpower the challenger of the armies of the Living God.

The duty of parents in the guarded education of their children, was impressively brought to our view. In the orderings of Divine Providence, it is evidently intended that the inexperience of youth, should be supplied by the knowledge and care of their parents; and a strong necessity exists for maintaining parental authority, by a firm and consistent government, tempered with mildness and Christian meekness. The mind that has been thus tutored in youth, becomes prepared, by the subjugation of its will, to submit more willingly to the Divine government, when brought under the tendering influence of Heavenly Truth. Parents who have been thus faithful to their trust, and like ancient Eli, enabled to perceive when their Lord hath spoken to their children, and to encourage them to answer, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth," will, in after years, reap a rich reward; and when they shall have passed away from this state of existence, those that have been the objects of their care and solicitude, will rise up and call them blessed.

The frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, under the enlightening influences of that Spirit by which they were given forth, was earnestly recommended to our attention. A familiar acquaintance with them, and a practical belief of the truths they contain, would be greatly instrumental in guarding us against the many pernicious views that are scattering deluded minds, and rendering them restless under the wholesome restraints of Discipline.

We are renewedly convinced, that there never has been a time, since the rise of this Society, when it was more important than at present, that we should diligently seek for counsel and wisdom from above, in order to enable us to maintain the various testimonies which we have felt ourselves called upon to bear to the world, in the meek and humble spirit of the Lamb. In a particular manner, we believe we are called upon to maintain our ancient testimony in favor of a free Gospel Ministry. The Spirit of Christ operating immediately upon the soul of man, is the only anointing that can qualify for the ministration of the Gospel. A great part of the darkness and blindness that now so lamentably overspread the Christian world, have originated by drawing the minds of the people from God, and His manifestations in the soul of man, to a dependence on systems contrived by human invention.