

1859

Upon assembling in the afternoon, the Meeting resumed the consideration of the state of society, and, having proceeded through the remainder of the Queries with the answers thereto, agreed upon the following summary as representing the state of society throughout our borders at this time viz:

Summary Answers to the Queries

First

All our meetings for worship and discipline have been held, except five within the verge Baltimore Quarterly meeting, two within the verge of Nottingham Quarter and some within the limits of Warrington Quarter the number not known and attended on first day mornings by the most of the members belonging thereto. Those in the afternoons of that day and near the middle of the week both for worship and discipline are neglected by many. Unbecoming behaviour when assembled is generally avoided, and the hour of meeting is observed by most Friends.

Second

Friends generally appear to maintain love towards each other becoming our Christian profession. Tale-bearing and detraction are mostly discouraged, and when differences become known, endeavors are generally used to end them.

Third

Some Friends endeavor, by example and precept to educate their children, and those under their care, in plainness of speech deportment and apparel to guard them against reading pernicious books and from the corrupt conversation of the world and to encourage them frequently to read the Holy Scriptures, but a more general concern to attend to these important subjects, it is believed would be profitable.

Fourth

Our testimony against distilled spirituous liquors appears to be generally maintained agreeably to our Discipline. Friends generally avoid frequenting taverns, and attending places of diversion; and moderation and temperance are mostly observed.

Fifth

The necessities of the poor are inspected and relief afforded, and care is taken to provide for the school education of their children.

Sixth

Friends are generally careful to maintain our testimony against a hieling ministry, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries. One report states that a number of Friends frequently attend appointments of hieling ministers.

Seventh

Friends are mostly careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; they are generally just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their engagements; and where grounds for fear in these respects have been given, some care has been extended.

Eighth

Friends generally are careful to maintain our testimony against slavery. Those of the African race in Friends families appear to be suitably provided for, and some care is taken to instruct them in useful learning.

Ninth

Care is mostly taken to deal with known offenders seasonably and impartially and to exhort to those who will not be reclaimed, the spirit of meekness and love, before they are disowned.

Tenth

Mary Birdwell an elder and member of Goose Creek Monthly and Particular Meeting, departed this life on the 10th day of 3^d Month 1859 in the 66th year of her age.

Edith Smith an elder and member of Huntington Particular and Monallent Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 1st day of the 4th Month 1859 in the 40th year of her age.

Eleventh

No new Meetings have been settled within our limits during the past year.

Twelfth

We believe Friends are generally careful, when it is practicable to place their children for tuition under the care of suitable teachers in membership with us.