in our power, which we believe will please him, to live and do good to all his children and be kind and gentle to the whole family of man. In a heart so circumstanced there can be no envy no jealousy, no anger, no revenge, nothing that could lead to speak evil of a brother or indeed of any one. but the whole heart would be brought into that state of love and joy in which it would breathe the angelic anthem, Glory to God in the highest, peace on Earth and good will to men.

For a careful examination of the condition of our hearts in respect to this spiritual worship and an effort to attain a higher and higher state of perfection, our silent meetings are peculiarly favorable, and a deep concern was felt, that this may be the happy experience of all our members.

In the primitive Christian Church, there were diversities of gifts proceeding from the operation of the Holy Spirit and among these the gift of the gospel ministry was one of the most efficient in promoting the growth of the body. This precious gift we believe has not been withdrawn from the militant Church, but through dedication and sanctification of the Spirit, a qualification may yet be experienced, to minister of the ability which God giveth. We apprehend however, that the simplicity and the purity of the Christian religion, have been greatly obscured, by the vain efforts of speculative theology, and that a ministry deriving its call, qualification and reward from man, too generally prevails throughout Christendom.

It is therefore our earnest desire, that all our members may be faithful in bearing a testimony against such a ministry as cannot profit the hearers, but which may, on the contrary, weaken our confidence in that Holy anointing, which alone can strengthen and purify the soul.

We were cautioned at the same time, to remember, that our testimony is against the principle of making merchandize of the Gospel, and not against those who may be engaged in its exercise.

It is believed, that we can bear our testimony against a pauling ministry in no way better, than by manifesting our ability to maintain our religious organization in all its completeness and requirements without such aid.

Hence, the more united we are as a Society, the more those who are regarded as the leaders of the people, are led to speak the same language, to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing; and the more we all become clothed with uprightness, pure truth, and universal toleration, love and the greater will be the evidence afforded by us, that we have no need of a man-made ministry, but that we may safely rely on that anointing of the Holy Spirit in which our Society rests its faith.

A lively concern has been felt for the younger members of our religious Society, that they may be enabled to withstand the many temptations to which they are exposed, and be led in the paths of purity and peace. A state of preservation can only be experienced by humble reliance upon Divine aid, accompanied by watchfulness and prayer. We are assured, that how great soever may be the temptations and trials permitted to attend us in this state of probation, they may through divine grace be made instrumental in promoting our spiritual growth; for to the watchful and obedient soul the promise will be fulfilled that "God is faithful and will with the temptation also make a way to escape."

Among the various seductive influences to which young and inexperienced minds are exposed, none are more deleterious than the reading of those pernicious publications so abundant in the present day, which have a tendency to excite the imagination, inflame the passions and corrupt the heart. In order to avoid the evils which flow from this source, parents and guardians were encouraged to provide their children with such books as will not only store the mind with useful knowledge, but invigorate the benevolent affections, and impress the heart with reverence and love for that Almighty Benefactor, who has so abundantly supplied us with the means of happiness.

The reading of the Scriptures has been earnestly recommended, as an efficient means of promoting our spiritual progress, they being profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

This Society has, from its rise, held the Scriptures to be a way-mark in the road that leads to Christ believing as we read therein, we shall find that they are they that testify of Him." But we have been reminded, that they can only be made useful to our instruction, by a reliance upon the Spirit of Truth from which they proceeded, for no other power can open to us the treasures of wisdom which they contain.