

B62 Among these, our beloved friend Sam Shrockmorton was one whose sufferings excited general sympathy. While on his way to attend the Monthly Meeting at Hopewell, he was arrested by the soldiery, and with many other prisoners who had not been bearing arms, he was subjected to fatiguing marches and great privations which resulted in his death. His pure and blameless life was such, that we have no doubt, he laid down his head in peace, and has entered into eternal rest.

Our Religious Meetings in that section of country have generally been maintained, though most of our Meeting Houses have, at times, been occupied for Military purposes. At Winchester and Hopewell, our members have been subjected to peculiar privations and trials, by reason of the large contending armies that have alternately occupied and despoiled that region, but the meetings of Friends have seldom been omitted, though often held in private houses.

At Woodlawn, a branch of Alexandria Monthly Meeting, the meeting-house was, during the whole of last winter occupied by the Federal troops. The Med. wak meetings of Friends were then held in a private house but on First-days, they assembled in the meetinghouse with the soldiers, who carefully prepared the house, expressed a desire that the meeting should be kept up, and were evidently much interested in them.

At Waterford a part of the meetinghouse, was for many months, occupied by the Southern soldiers, while another part was reserved for the meetings of Friends. The officers and some of the soldiers usually attended, behaved with decorum, and at times expressed their cordial appreciation of those seasons of deep solemnity and religious exercises. We have reason to believe that the Gospel of Peace and Love, at some favored seasons, was felt to flow, like a refreshing stream, in a desert land.

The evidences thus afforded of the power of Divine truth, and the consolations of the Gospel of Christ

should incite us to increased diligence, that we may, through watchfulness and prayer, and unreserved obedience, fill up the measure of our duties, and obtain the rich reward of divine approbation.

While engaged in examining the condition of our religious body, an earnest desire has been felt, that we may live up to our professed principles, and faithfully maintain our religious testimonies.

The advice contained in our excellent Book of Discipline in regard to the frequent and careful perusal of the Holy Scriptures have claimed our attention. These precious writings have been compared to a chart which assists the mariner to find his way across the pathless ocean, and makes known to him the rocks and shoals and hidden reefs that may endanger his safety. We may feel confidence in this chart, because it has for many generations aided the wise and good to reach their destined port, but without the Heavenly guide - the compass in our hearts - the most excellent chart would be unavailing.

A renewed and deep concern was felt, that in the administration of our Discipline Monthly Meetings and their officers may diligently and humbly seek for divine direction and aid, and to be clothed with the spirit of charity and have restoring love in their proceedings towards those who deviate from our Order, remembering that it is the healthful condition of the heart, and the eternal interests of the soul, which are the great objects of labor and care by a religious organization over its constituent members. Also, while we feel this tender care and concern that the Discipline may be administered in the spirit of the Gospel of Christ, the nature of which is, to produce peace on earth, and good-will towards all men, and to seek the restoration and true welfare of any who may unhappily stray from the path of rectitude, it is most affectionately and earnestly urged upon all our members, that they exercise continual vigilance, particularly in this time of unusual temptation and trial, to give no cause of uneasiness or complaint, but to be good examples of uprightness and integrity, and to observe a most scrupulous watchfulness.