

2863 The Meeting having entered upon the consideration of the State of Society, as exhibited by the answers to the queries received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and proceeded therein as far as the Fourth Query, inclusive, under a covering of precious exhortations, during which many lively communications were delivered, encouraging to a more faithful observance and maintenance of our religious testimonies.

Adjourned to 3 O'clk in the afternoon.

Upon assembling in the afternoon, the Meeting was informed that William P. Lewis, a representative from Nottingham Quarter, was now present, and that he had been prevented by indisposition from attending at the earlier sittings of this Meeting. The Meeting then resumed the consideration of the State of Society, and proceeded through the remainder of the Queries, with their Answers from the Quarterly Meetings, under an unbroken covering of solemnity. The following Summary was agreed upon as nearly representing the State of Society throughout our borders since last year.

### — Answers to the Queries —

#### — First —

All our Meetings for Worship and Discipline have been held, as far as reported, except twenty-one within the verge of Baltimore Quarter; several the number not specified within the limits of Hanington Quarter, six within those of Fairfax Quarter, four within the limits of Nottingham Quarter, and one within the verge of Centre, the non-attendance of most of which was caused by inclement weather, a military invasion, and other military impediments. The Meetings for Worship have been attended on Sunday mornings by the most of our members. Those in the afternoon of that day, near the middle of the week, and for Discipline are neglected by many.

Unbecoming behaviour therein is generally avoided, and the hour of meeting is nearly observed, though one report makes an abatement in regard to punctuality to the hour of meeting.

#### — Second —

Most friends appear to maintain love towards each other, becoming our Christian profession. Tale-bearing and detraction are mostly discouraged, and endeavors are used to avoid differences when they ~~arise~~ appear. One report states that love towards each other is not such as our profession calls for, otherwise our religious Meetings would be better attended.

#### — 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 from reading pernicious books, and from corrupt conversation; and also to encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures; but more care in the observance of the important particulars of this Query, it is acknowledged, in the report, would be beneficial to society.

#### — Fourth —

Our testimony against distilled spirituous liquors appears to be generally maintained, agreeably to our Discipline. Friends mostly avoid frequenting of taverns, or attending places of diversion. Moderation and temperance appear to be observed on most occasions.

#### — Fifth —

The necessities of the poor, and the circumstances of those who may appear likely to require aid, have been inspected and relief afforded. They have been advised and assisted in such employments as they are capable of, and some care has been taken to provide for the School education of their children.

#### — Sixth —

Friends appear to be generally careful to bear our testimonies against a huckling ministry, Catholic clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries; but all the reports admit a want of faithfulness in the support of our important testimony against military services and requisitions.