1863 In the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee on the Pastine Lot report that provision was made for taking care of the horses of those Friends who desire to place them at the Lot and after paying all taxes and charges they have a balance in hand of $119.92 which is subject to the disposal of the Yearly Meeting.

Joseph Matthews
Townsend Scott
Isaac T. Dixon
Aquilla Matthews
Richard T. Bentley

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The Committee appointed at a former sitting to endeavor to embody the exercises of this Meeting whilst engaged in the consideration of the State of Society, produced the following Minute, which was approved by the meeting viz:

A precious solemnity has prevailed over the meetings during its several sittings and much unity and harmony prevailed. A feeling was manifested throughout. Many lively testimonies were borne during the examination of the State of Society, to the efficacy of that pure love which is a redeeming principle in the heart of all who yield to its benign influence and wholly resign themselves to the Divine disposal. Many hearts were tendered and contrited under the baptizing influence of that living Gospel ministry that reached the witness in their own breasts and much affectionate advice and tender counsel was held forth particularly to the younger members, to come forward to the help of the Fathers in maintaining the testimonies of this people being assured that to willing and obedient hearts the yoke of Christ becomes easy. These were encouraged to greater faithfulness in the attendance of all our meetings, and to unreserved dedication of heart to every feeling of duty required of them. Faithful adherence in all things leads to increased strength and greater openings, for we rarely stand



still in religious experience, but are either advancing or retrograding in our course, and lamentable, indeed, is a condition of degeneracy. Let us all be awakened to increased watchfulness over ourselves and one another, and renewed concern to seek first the kingdom of heaven, and to walk answerable to the high and holy calling wherewith we are called.

Our predecessors in this Religious Society, by faithfulness to the manifestation of the Divine Power wrought a great work in the earth, and to us is bequeathed this rich inheritance the fruits of their labors. Shall we then let fall these great testimonies that have enlightened mankind and mollified human governments? Shall we suffer the brightness of the light of these ancient worthies to be eclipsed by our unfaithfulness? Such, alas, is too much our condition. Many lukewarmnesses appear amongst us, and we fall far short of their primitive faithfulness. Yet such is the condescending goodness and mercy of our great heavenly Parent, that with all our frailties, He suffers not our light to be put out, but still raises up faithful standard-bearers to exalt His name in the earth.

Love was shown to be the great foundation of our profession, and when it influences the whole heart, it leads to the fulfillment of every other duty. When we love one another as the Divine Master loveth His own, all is harmony, peace and joy, but it is only in wholly giving up to serve the Lord that we can know the fulness of that unspeakable joy which is even the consolation of the righteous. It is only by individual faithfulness that the waste places of our Zion can be again rebuilt, by constant watching unto prayer, and obeying the still small voice in our hearts. Our light will then shine forth to those around us, we shall not hear only but doers of those things that are required at our hands, that we may be likened unto the wise man who built his house upon a rock against which storms and tempests can never prevail.

A considerable number of our members, who live within the lines of military operations being now in attendance with us, represent, that although they have been