

1863 subjected to great ^{trials} they have generally been preserved from personal injury, and have cause of thankfulness to the Shepherd of Israel. Two members of Fairfax Monthly Meeting have been arrested as hostages by the Southern troops, and so far as we know are still held as prisoners, but measures have been taken to obtain their release, which it is hoped, will prove successful.

On considering the condition of our beloved Country, now subjected to the calamities attendant on civil war, our hearts are affected with sorrow for the many widows who have fallen in the conflict, the many orphans and demoralizing effects of military service. We nevertheless hold fast our confidence in the wisdom, goodness, and power of that Almighty Being who rules in Heaven and on Earth, who permits the passions of men to work out their own chastisement, and brings forth in the operations of His providence, results that cannot be foreseen by human wisdom, nor frustrated by human depravity.

The testimony to the peaceful nature of Christ's Kingdom, maintained by our Fathers, is still dear to our hearts, and notwithstanding the cloud of discouragement that now overshadows us, we trust the Sun of Righteousness will yet arise, and the glory of the Lord be made manifest to the nations. As the Prophet saw in the visions of light, a stone cut out without hands, which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth, so we believe will that Redeemer's Kingdom be established in the fullness of time, by the word of Divine Power.

In order that this precious testimony may be advanced, there have been raised up in every age of the Christian Church, witnesses for the truth, who have often professed in words, or been slain for the testimony of Jesus. Such were the members of this Religious Society at its rise. They were faithful to the civil governments under which they lived, and when they could not actively comply with laws that conflicted with their

conscientious convictions, they patiently endured the penalties, until through suffering they obtained relief, and were thus made instrumental in promoting the cause of religious and civil liberty. May we be faithful in following their example, so far as they followed Christ. How instructive is the reply of the blessed Jesus to the disciple who inquired "Lord what shall this man do?" "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me." It is not our place to judge others, who may believe themselves called to pursue a different path from that in which we walk, but to follow the footsteps of our Holy Exemplar, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not, but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously.

Much solicitude and religious concern have been felt in this meeting, that in the education of our dear children we may seek for a qualification to lead them, both by precept and example, in the way of righteousness. In order to promote this end, provision should be made for a guarded religious training at school, and suitable books for use in the families.

We have been reminded, that this Yearly Meeting has, at various times, issued advice to its members inviting them to the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures, the authority of which has always been acknowledged by the Society of Friends. We believe it is not the part of true wisdom to dwell upon defects, whether real or imaginary, in the sacred records, but rather to use them as they are intended, "for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," remembering that it is only through the operation of the Spirit of Truth upon our hearts, that they can be made availing to us in the promotion of our salvation.

The large number of departed warthurs, reported in the answer to the tenth query, produced in the meeting a feeling of deep solemnity, and the enquiry was awakened, "the fathers—where are they?" and the prophetic—do they live forever? Such testimonies were borne to the worth of those dear friends, and earnest desires were raised, that we may live near to that Holy