1864 In the afternoon the Meeting resumed the consideration of the State of Society and proceeded through the Queries, with the Answers thereto, under a covering that manifested a continuance of the love and care of the Divine Master, in that notwithstanding our many deficiencies He has not forsaken us, but continues to be gracious. The following summary was agreed upon, as nearly representing the State of Society within our borders for the past year.

—Answers to the Queries—

First All our Meetings, both for Worship and Discipline have been held except one, within the limits of Baltimore Quarterly Meeting some (the number not specified) within the limits of Warrington Quarter and also within the limits of Fairfax Quarter, thirteen within the limits of Gothenham Quarter, and one within the limits of Centre Quarter, several of which were prevented from being held by inclement weather and other causes beyond the control of the members composing them. The meetings on First Day mornings have generally been attended by most of our members. Those in the middle of the week, and for Discipline are neglected by many. Unbecoming behaviour, when assembled, is mostly avoided and the hour for meeting is nearly observed by most Friends, though one Spot makes an Statement in this last particular.

—Second—

Most Friends appear to maintain love towards one another becoming our Christian profession, though one Spot states that an increase of that love would draw us together in the more frequent attendance of our religious meetings appears to be much wanting. Tale bearing and detraction are discouraged by most Friends, and endeavors are used to end differences when they appear.

—Third—

Many 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 against reading pernicious books, and from the corrupt conversation of the world, and to encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures. But a more general care in these important particulars is acknowledged to be desirable.

—Fourth—

Our testimony against distilled spirituous liquors appears to be generally maintained as well as to our Discipline. And most Friends are careful to avoid frequenting taverns, and attending places of diversion, and moderation and temperance are mostly observed.

—Fifth—

The necessities of the poor, and the circumstances of those who may appear likely to require aid, where any exist amongst us, are inspected, and relief afforded.

—Sixth—

Our testimony against a hireling ministry, all clandestine trade, free goods, and lotteries, appears to be generally maintained. But many of our members have deviated from our precious testimony in relation to military services. Some cases of infringement thereof, are under care.

—Seventh—

Friends appear to be generally careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; they are mostly just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their engagements. Where reasonable requests for favor in these respects have been given, care has been extended.

—Eighth—

Our testimony against slavery appears to be maintained. Those of the African race in Friends families are suitably provided for, and some care is taken to instruct them in useful learning.

—Ninth—

Care is mostly taken to deal with known offenders seasonably and impartially, and to convince those who will not be reclaimed the spirit of