1864 Society may thereby Divine mercy be preserved from the contamination of evil example and corrupt conversation, and that they may be guided in the path of truth which leads to peace.

The sanguinary conflict that now rages in our beloved country, laying waste some of its fairest scenes bringing to the untimely grave many thousands of its inhabitants and causing bereavement throughout the land has called forth the expression of much sympathy for those who are suffering from this awful calamity. It has been our earnest prayer that we may not put our trust in the arm of flesh but rather rely upon the unerring arm of Divine power which sustained our worthy ancestors in seasons of severe suffering, made them instrumental in promoting the cause of truth and in his own good time delivered them from all their afflictions.

Our ancient testimony to the peaceable nature of Christs kingdom, has been made more dear to our hearts by contemplating the scenes of carnage and destruction that abound in our land. It was doubtless the intention of the Most High in sending his beloved Son into the world to redeem mankind from the damnation of evil to influence them by his sinless example and sublime precepts, and through the guidance of his pure spirit, to bring them into the arms and paternal love. This happy condition was shadowed forth in the figurative language of prophecy. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together and a little child shall lead them.

The primitive Christian Church was the depository of this pure doctrine which subsequently became obscured through the false teaching of a corrupt priesthood and an alliance with the World but having survived by the early friends the precious legacy has been transmitted to us. May we ever remember that the Truth of God can only be promoted by obedience to his Spiritual Law; and by placing the light upon the candlestick by a consistent example may we keep alive the sacred flame which must spread far and wide, before the prophecy shall be fulfilled The kingdom of this world all become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.

We have rejoiced in the announcement that throughout the State of Maryland liberty has been proclaimed to the long-oppressed bondmen of Africa: and an earnest desire has been expressed in this Meeting, that we may not be unmindful of the great work yet to be accomplished in extending to the freed people who dwell among us the benefits of education and Christian care. In contemplating the progress of our testimony against slavery, from its small beginning near the close of the 17th century to the present day, our hearts are filled with gratitude and love to that Almighty Being who called our predecessors to labor in this cause and led them safely along through the guidance of his grace. The prophetic language of John Woolman written nearly one hundred years ago has been fulfilled among us as it is now in the process of fulfilment. I have seen in the light of the Lord, that the day is approaching when the man that is most wise in human policy shall be the greatest fool, and the arm that is mighty to support unrighteousness shall be broken to pieces. The enemies of righteousness shall make a terrible rattle, and shall mightily lament one another for he that is omnipotent is rising up to judgment and will plead the cause of the oppressed and he commanded me to open the secret.

The Christian duty of dealing with offenders in the spirit of meekness and love has been a subject of solemn interest, and an earnest desire is felt that at this trying season we may be favored by Divine wisdom to discern that the spirit best calculated to the restoration of the diseased member to health is that which is separation from the body.