

1865 limits of all our Yearly Meetings, or of any organization of our religious Society. The discipline of Indiana Yearly Meeting — which is the most Western, and consequently the nearest to Prairie Grove, says (page 98) "the Yearly Meeting of Indiana was set off from the Yearly Meeting of Ohio, and is composed of Friends in the Western part of the State of Ohio, and those of the States of Indiana and Illinois." The Western limits of the jurisdiction of Indiana Yearly Meeting, by its discipline was the Mississippi River. In addition to this objection and difficulty, there was no Monthly Meeting, even of that Yearly Meeting, to which their certificates could be sent, but which was so very remote from their settlement, as to render it wholly impracticable for them to attend. Moreover, it was their ardent wish to have a Monthly Meeting near home, in order that their precious children, as well as themselves, could attend it.

Under all these circumstances it appeared to the Committee safe and best to move forward, in the hope and confident belief — that should their request now be granted, to establish a Monthly Meeting at Prairie Grove, to be a branch of Synops Quarterly and — thus continue them members of that Quarterly Meeting, and should the right time arrive for them to be attached to another Quarterly, or branch of another Yearly Meeting, every, in the opening of Yearly, would be made easy, therefore, to all concerned.

The Committee communicated to the friends of Prairie Grove the views that prevailed in the Quarterly Meeting, and requested them to propose a name for the Monthly Meeting, and the time for opening and holding the different Meetings. In their reply, they proposed the name of Prairie Grove for the Monthly Meeting, and that it be held on the first Sabbath day in each month, and as the distance was so great, they requested to be permitted to report to the Quarterly Meeting, by letter, through the mails.

They also proposed a time for opening the first day Meeting, but they proposed holding no Mid-week Meeting for the present, "but to defer that part of the subject for a time, and await for the opening of light and truth." therein.

This reply was received and deliberately considered, by the Committee, at a Meeting held Sept 26th. The Committee was united in a feeling of deep sympathy with their brethren and sisters, with whom they had formerly mingled in social worship in their parts, and with strong desire to comply with their request, "as far as a new regard to our

1865 order and our religious testimonies, would permit."

"But in consideration of the important fact, that Mid-week Meetings have been long and rightfully regarded as of vital importance to the welfare and best interests of our members, and the regular attendance of them, — among the highest testimonies we have to bear, to the reality, efficiency, and spiritual nature of the Religion we profess, and to the great Truth, that Social Worship should not be confined to a particular age, and it appearing from their letters, that the Friends in Iowa did not contemplate holding Mid-week Meetings, may aid not open in the minds of the Committee, to recommend to the Quarterly Meeting, the granting of their request, at this time; hoping they could feel prepared upon further consideration of the subject, and knowing the deep concern of their Friends of the Quarterly Meeting therein to unite with us in the support of this important and long established regulation of our religious Society."

The Committee made this communication to the Quarterly Meeting which produced a deep concern, and united them; and notwithstanding the great sympathy that was felt for Friends in Iowa, it was the united judgment of the Meeting, that it would not be best to grant them any meeting until they should open with them to hold Mid-week Meetings also. The Committee was directed to communicate to Friends of Prairie Grove, that judgment of the Quarterly Meeting, which was done by letter as follows, viz:

Dear Friends, You will find by the accompanying extract (as just given) from the minutes of our late Quarterly Meeting, its proceedings on your request to have a Monthly Meeting, and Meetings for Worship — established among you. Your letter produced a deep feeling of interest and concern in both the Committee and the Quarterly Meeting. We have no doubt whatever, but that you, each and all, are viewing at the same thing — the exaltation of the testimony of Truth, and the promotion of Peace on Earth, and good will to men. We sympathize deeply in the feeling which we think we discern in your letter, of distrust in your ability to hold — Mid-week Meetings, in that authority which would answer them occasion — to Society and confessed to those who might attend them. But dear Friends, let us intend you not to be discouraged. Rely in humility, on that Almighty Arm of Power, which first gathered us to be a people, and which is still known, by His devoted and faithful servants, to be able and as graciously disposed at this time, as ever He was to gather and sustain those who depend on Him, and to bless all their endeavors to serve Him. Therefore, dear Friends, we entreat you, do not disappoint — with holding Mid-week Meetings, but come up faithfully to the