

1865 Meeting and that by Mail.

One of these Friends from Hanford Quarterly Meeting subsequently attended with a Minute, the same Quarterly Meeting which held at Blue River, near Salem in the South-west part of Indiana, where it is held twice in the year. One woman Friend and, few few, were all from within the immediate neighborhood that attended that Quarterly Meeting. Only one of the other Meeting reported to either Meeting. This was the Quarterly Meeting, too, immediately preceding the Weekly Meeting, at which all the Friends had to read and answer.

These things are not stated as any disparagement to the Friends of that Quarterly Meeting, by any means, but merely as facts having an important bearing upon the case. The difficulty arising from their numerous and meeting being so widely separated. Between Monthly Meetings which are nearest to each other, and over 100 miles from each other, travelling distances, while the same are separated by about 200 miles, and then are the places, at which the Quarterly Meeting is held in rotation, making it so difficult, when held at any one place, for the members from other places to attend. And our Iowa Friends attached to that Quarterly Meeting, it would be still worse for them, by their being so much farther off, and having the great Mississippi River to cross in addition.

In addition to all which, letters were at this time received by Friends of Honey Creek, one of which was read to the Friends in attendance from Hanford, just before they left, by an Elder of Honey Creek Monthly Meeting, by which these Friends were made to understand, that their Iowa Friends could not be attached to Blue River Quarterly Meeting, in the unity of the Friends of that Quarter, and of Indiana Quarterly Meeting of which it is a branch.

Seeing the condition of things, and believing there was nothing that justify our Iowa Friends in travelling so far as they would necessarily have to do, in order to attend Blue River Quarterly Meeting, the two Friends from Hanford Quarterly, who attended at Honey Creek, felt their way entirely closed from making any allusion whatever to the subject that had been such a concern in their minds, and in regard to which they had confidently hoped to find at that Meeting, a prospect of relief.

They then proceeded to visit Meetings and Friends in the different settlements in Iowa, and the result of their visit, ~~as it is~~, and their views and endeavours in the following Report made to Hanford Quarterly Meeting in the 8th Month 1865, by a committee that was

1865 appointed in the Second Month to aid the Clerk in preparing an abstract of the proceedings of the Quarterly Meeting, and communicate with Friends in Iowa for their encouragement and advancement in the Church. &c.

"The Committee report that they have given careful attention to the object of their appointment. They addressed a communication, to the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and one to the Monthly Meeting of Prairie Grove, and served the last Quarterly Meeting, a part of the members of the Committee made a visit to those distant Friends in Iowa, mingling with them at their homes, and in their Meetings, all of which was strengthening to them as it was comforting and encouraging to us. Although the matter was unpleasant, nearly one hundred attended the Monthly Meeting at Prairie Grove, which was a very solemn, orderly and instructing meeting. Several members have been received by exhortation, and many have brought Certificates from other Monthly Meetings and there is quite an encouraging prospect that this little band, who left our Quarterly Meeting, to settle in the far West, may through the Divine Blessing, which they seem anxious to implore, by the means of establishing a strong presence, settlements, of the supporters of the independent principles and testimony, which are as a religious society profess.

"Besides the Friends at Prairie Grove in Henry County, there is another interesting body of the members of the Monthly Meeting about 40 miles northward, near the borders of Muscatine and Cedar Counties, where a Meeting is held on First days. The hope and expectation only that at no distant day, these Friends will experience strength sufficient to have a Separation Meeting established amongst them, and then hold their Monthly Meetings alternately, at Prairie Grove, and at Pappan rocks in Cedar County, so as to allow the precious young people, of whom there is quite a large number in each settlement, an opportunity of attending the Monthly Meeting, and witnessing the beautiful scenes of conducting our business there in, at least once in two months.

"From all that we could gather by personal observation and otherwise, we are well satisfied with our present arrangement, and the practice of sending, by mail, their Reports and our letters forwarding through the same channel, an abstract of the proceedings of our Quarterly Meetings, and of the concerns that claim our attention, to be read in their Monthly Meetings, by which their Meetings are brought into near and lively communication and sympathy with us, perhaps as generally