

1865 Spirit and design of the Gospel. "They believed that the Spirit of Christ would ultimately lead all people to that peaceable kingdom, in which nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more, but that they knew that the work was progressive, and they did not expect outward wars to cease until the work should more generally yield obedience to the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which makes free from the law of sin & death."

The same principles which actuated them, and, we trust, remain-
turned to a considerable extent by the Society in our day.

During the sad civil war, through which the nation has just past, the members of our Society have been subjected to a severe test of these peaceable principles, and when we consider that many among us are members by birthright, and have not passed through the furnace of baptism, it is not surprising that they should be carried away by the current of popular enthusiasm. They saw their country involved in a contest, which threatened the destruction of our Government - the best civil-government, as we believe, that has ever been established among men, and some, we fear, have forgotten their allegiance, to that Higher Power, to whom we are ever indebted for our existence.

In consideration of the extraordinary circumstances in which Friends have been placed, we recommend, that in regard to past offences in the violation of our testimony against war and military service, a lenient course should be pursued. We therefore propose, that the Yearly Meeting direct Monthly Meetings, to appoint committees of judicious Friends, to whom voluntary acknowledgments may be made, and when such verbal acknowledgments are satisfactory to the committees, they may be accepted without repeating the names of the individuals to the Monthly Meeting.

Voluntary acknowledgments, may also be made in the Monthly Meetings, and accepted, if satisfactory, without recording the names of the parties.

In cases where the labors of the Committees are ineffectual, the names of the delinquent units should be reported to the Monthly Meeting.

In regard to the purchase and holding of Government bonds, and the payment of certain taxes, by some called war taxes, there appears to be a difference of sentiment among Friends, and we recommend, that each in individual be left, in these matters, to follow his own religious convictions, trusting that an enlightened conscience

1865 may be obtained; and that Friends will be charitable in judging of others when we recommend that the last clause of the 5th paragraph in the subject of War in our book of Discipline be omitted, and that the following clause be substituted for it, 1865:

"The bearing of arms, the practice of Military Exercises and the paying of money in lieu of personal military service, are regarded as violations of our testimony against war, and those of our members, who deviate in either of these particulars, are to be tenderly dealt with, and if they cannot be brought to a sense of their error, are to be disarmed."

The clause proposed to be omitted reads as follows, viz:

"It was attended to this concern is recommended, to Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings, and to Friends in general; it being our judgment that if any of our members do, either openly or by connivance pay any fine, penalty or tax, in lieu of personal service for carrying on war, or allow their children or apprentices, who are - manly, to act in the performance of what is called military duty, or are concerned in arming or equipping vessels with guns or real or public - cutigates, issued as a compensation for services rendered, or services performed in war, that they be tenderly dealt with, and if they cannot be brought to an acknowledgment of their error, they are to be disarmed."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Committee

Samuel M. Sarge.

This report claimed the assent and solid consideration of the Meeting and after a full expression of sentiment, the report was approved and adopted by the Meeting, and our Monthly Meetings are directed to proceed in the cases referred to in the report in the report in accordance with the principles and directions therein contained.

And our Monthly Meetings were earnestly encouraged, to hold themselves in view of a need to be tender towards all who have been drawn to violate our precious testimony against war, to be faithful in the maintenance of our sublimed principles and testimony in favor of universal peace and love.

Signed G. Dore, on behalf of the Standing Committee, to record the minutes of this Meeting, and the service had been performed.

The Clerk was directed to have 2,000 copies of the extracts from the minutes of this Meeting printed, and the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting was directed to pay the expense of printing these, and the extracts of Monthly Meetings, and forward the extracts of both Meetings as soon