

1866, In the early part of the Meeting, the injunction of the Divine Matter to his Disciples, was revived among us. "As I have washed your feet, so ought you to wash one another's feet," and it was shown that the stream of gospel love, which flows from vessel to vessel, in an assembly of devout worshippers, has a tendency to refresh the heart, and purify the understanding, enabling us to go forward in the path of religious duty. By yielding to this holy influence, we may become one another's joy in the Lord, and partake together of that heavenly bread - that heavenly manna - which nourishes the soul unto everlasting life. They who attain to this happy experience, find in our Meetings for divine worship, a source of high spiritual enjoyment, and a means of preparation for the duties of life. Although our lips may be touched with the living coal from God's holy altar, calling for the exercise of vocal ministry, yet the sweet influence of religious peace may flow one to another, during our silent meditations.

The importance of abiding, always, under the harmonizing influence of divine love, was feelingly brought before us, as the only bond of our union, for if our love fail, our Meetings will fail with it, and all the benefits of religious society must cease. Let us, therefore, cherish this tender plant, that it may grow up and bring forth fruit, to the honor of the great Husbandman.

The devastating effects of a spirit of detraction were brought into view and their consequences were feelingly portrayed. From this cause arise dissensions among brethren, that obstruct spiritual communion, and impair the sweetness of social intercourse, and finally lay waste the heritage of God.

We have been affectionately cautioned against the indulgence of a critical and censorious spirit in relation to the communications of our ministering friends. If they err, let us remember, that like ourselves, they are subject to the frailties of human nature, and that nothing short of entire self-renunciation, and subjection to the divine will, can preserve the purer waters of life from contamination; for "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, ^{that} the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

The home education of our children has been impressively brought to our view, as a subject of deep and abiding interest. It was evidently the design of our heavenly Creator, in endowing the human mind with intellectual and moral faculties, susceptible of improvement, that we should assiduously cultivate these powers, and devote them to his service. In the

quietude of domestic life and under the fostering care of parental affection, the young mind expands and receives those early impressions which mould its future character. How important then is the charge entrusted to parents and guardians, to watch over the opening mind, and guide the inexperienced steps in the paths of purity and wisdom.

The love of God, is the basis of all true religion; when it prevails the heart is expanded into love for all our fellow creatures, and through the operation of the Holy Spirit, the faithful followers of the Lamb, are created anew in Christ Jesus. In order to attain this blessed experience, we must not "supine the way of smooth things" for those who do so, shall "fall by little and little." On the contrary, we must watch over ourselves, check the first suggestions of evil as they arise in the mind, and turn our thoughts towards that ever present Divine power, who alone can save us in the hour of temptation. By this means, may we "work out our salvation with fear and trembling," sincerely acknowledging, that the ability is not of us; for "it is God, that worketh in us, both to will, and to do of his good pleasure."

A deep conviction has been felt, that our testimony against the unnecessary use of ardent spirits, may be maintained, and as desired has been expressed that this testimony, may be extended to the abuse, as a beverage, of all fermented drinks. The fearful ravages of intemperance throughout our land, should incite us to make some sacrifices, in order to discontinue a practice which is fraught with so much evil to the human family; and experience teaches that it can only be availed by watching, and checking the first approaches of the insidious foe.

While rejoicing, that the conflict of arms has ceased in our land, and that the blessings of peace, are measurably enjoyed, we have anxiously to reflect, that the elements of strife still exist in our midst. Many are there, as the professed followers of the Prince of Peace, sleep close to our borders, and follow the example, who when Jesus was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to Him, that judgeth righteously.

The Committee appointed at a former sitting on the Treasury accounts, presented the following report, which was approved by the Meeting, and Richard H. Townsend was accordingly appointed