

1867 On considering the Condition of our religious Society, and our short Comings in relation to the Christian testimonies we have to bear before the World, the Meeting was baptized into a feeling sense of the our great responsibility to the Author of all our blessings. We feel assured there is no less need now than at any former period for upholding the testimonies of Truth and that the dedicated followers of the Lamb will always be led in the narrow path of Self-denial.

In answer to the question, What shall we do to increase the attendance of our Meetings? it was shown that nothing can effect this purpose and gather us as a people, but the operations of the Divine Spirit on the soul. The animated man must be subject to the spiritual and the spiritual man to God. Encouragement was held forth to Friends residing in places where our Meetings are small and neglected and where vocal Ministry is seldom heard. They may by watchfulness and obedience have access to the "true tabernacle which God hath pitched and not man" and thus they may hear the voice of the Son of God which gives life to the soul.

By this means a living Ministry would be found to increase among us, and though in the beginning it is usually in "weakness and fear, and much trembling" yet by the exercise of the gift, in humility, it grows and affords edification to the Church.

The language of George Fox on this subject is worthy of especial notice and remembrance. In one of his epistles he writes: "All my dear friends in the noble Seed of God, who have known his power, life and presence among you, let it be your joy to see or see the Springs of life break forth in any, through which we have all unity in the same feeling, life and power."

The Christian doctrine of regeneration has been held forth amongst us in accordance with the declaration of Jesus "except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" And the language of Paul "that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural, and afterwards that which is spiritual." The seed of Divine life implanted in man by the Author of our Being, if permitted to grow and overshadow the soul, will bring forth fruits to the glory of God and the good of Mankind, But in order that this growth may take place there is a work required on our part, to keep clear the ground of the heart, and eradicate from it every pernicious plant.

1867 We were earnestly exhorted to exercise towards those who, through weakness or unwatchfulness, may have strayed from the path of rectitude, a have failed to comply strictly with the rules of our Discipline, a Spirit of restoring love, remembering that it is the object of Christian Discipline to restore, rather than to cut off. If we rely only on rules of order to keep our Members in the enclosure we shall find briars and thorns to grow when we expected fruit.

The tenderness and gospel love recommended by Geo. Fox in dealing with offenders was revived in our Meeting: He says "Now Concerning Gospel Order: Through the doctrine of Jesus Christ requireth his people to admonish a brother or sister twice, before they tell the Church, yet that limiteth none, so that they shall use no longer forbearance before they tell the Church, but that they shall not less than twice, Admonish their brother or sister before they tell the Church. And it is desired of all that before they publicly complain, they wait in the power of God to feel if there is no more regard of them to their brother or sister before they expose him or her to the Church; let this be weightily considered." And further when the Church is told and the party admonished by the Church again and again and he or she remain still insensible and unrepentant let not final judgment go forth against him or her until every one of the Meeting have cleared this or her conscience that if any thing be upon any to further visit such transgressor they may clear themselves, that if possible the party may be reached and saved."

During the several sittings of the Yearly Meeting we have been comforted and refreshed by the evidences of Divine life and love felt among us, for which we are bound to ascribe thanksgiving unto that Eternal Power who rules the Universe, and yet condescends to visit his Creature Man.

The Committee Appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond now produced one embodying the Minute of the exercises of the Meeting, which the Clerk was directed to transcribe sign on behalf of the Meeting, and forward to the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia, New York, Genesee, Ohio, and Indiana respectively.