

1868

Twenty Ninth of the Month, And Fifth of the Week.

Friends Assembled Near the time adjourned to.

The Committee Appointed at a former sitting to endeavor to embody some of the exercises of the Meeting, now produced the following Minutes which was approved, and directed to be inserted in our printed extracts for the benefit of our absent Members:-

Soon after assembling together, the Meeting was brought under the solemnizing influence of Heavenly love, and many testimonies were borne to the Sufficiency of Divine Grace to deliver us from evil, and establish us on the rock of eternal truth. To love God supremely and our Neighbor as ourselves, is the fulfilling of the law; for to love God is to love goodness, purity and truth. In this state of mind, the public worship of the Most High is felt to be not only a solemn duty, but a precious privilege. To meditate on his providential government, and on his goodness and mercy as manifested in the life and character of his beloved Son Jesus Christ, is an exercise well adapted to create in us pure desires, and heavenly affections, for "we beholding as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

An earnest desire has been felt that those of our members who are or may be called to the gospel Ministry, may be obedient to the call: watching unto prayer, and humbly following the guidance of the Heavenly Shepherd "who putteth forth his own sheep and goeth before them." "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit; differences of administrations, but the same Lord, and diversities of operations, but the same God that worketh all in all." We believe that all the faithful servants of Christ are called to some service in the Church, and that their growth in the spiritual life depends upon their fidelity to their religious convictions. Those who are faithful in the little which may be committed to them, will be made rulers over more; and all such will at last be rewarded with the welcome assurance "well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

From the evidence manifested at this time we derive a renewed visitation of Divine Love has been extended to our younger members, towards whom we look for a succession of testimony bearers in the Church. Much counsel was given on the subject of the religious guarded education of our children and parents were encouraged to be more faithful in the discharge of the important duties which devolve upon them in training the young and tender mind in accordance with the Scriptural injunction

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." In order to promote this very important end, it is believed by many, that First day schools will prove to be efficient aids in imparting religious instruction to the young, and an earnest concern is felt that they may be so conducted as to promote the Cause of truth.

It is an acknowledged duty of parents to guard their children from the contamination of evil examples, but this alone, without religious instruction will not avail to preserve them in purity, for in the pursuits of business they must mingle with the world, and nothing short of well grounded Christian principles can withstand the seductive influences that await them on every hand. It was the prayer of the Divine Master on behalf of his disciples - not that they should be taken out of this world but preserved from the evil.

The reading of the Scriptures in the family circle, accompanied by retirement of mind and waiting upon God, is felt to be a salutary practice and in addition to this we have been earnestly recommended to provide for our children suitable reading to improve their minds and promote their spiritual progress. The earnest inquiring minds of the young will prompt them to seek for knowledge; and when suitable mental food is not provided, they will often be induced to partake of that which is unwholesome or poisonous.

A tender solicitude was expressed, that in dealing with those who have transgressed our rules of Discipline, the spirit of meekness and restoring love may be manifested, the were reminded of the instructive language of him who "came to save that which was lost." "How think ye? if a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you he rejoiceth more of that sheep than of the ninety and nine which went not astray."

The desolating effects of intemperance and the inhuman consumption of grain in the distillation of spirituous liquors - thus converting the staff of life into an instrument of death - was brought before our view, as an incentive to maintain a faithful testimony against the use of intoxicating drinks.

A concern in relation to the use of tobacco was introduced by the reading of the epistles. And Friends were exhorted to abstain from a practice, that is not only useless, but generally injurious to health. The lamentable fact that so much labor is expended and so great an extent of valuable land, occupied in its production is a