

1870 That we may truly witness an enlargement ^{of} the borders of our Israel, and a rebuilding of the walls of Zion.

Carnest desire was felt and expressed, that we might hold our position before the world, now looking toward us with deep interest, in truth, integrity and singleness of heart, showing by our walk in life, that we are endeavoring to live up to the high profession we make of being led by the Spirit of Truth — and that we will not that any man should back us, as we do this Holy Anointing Power teaches us.

Faithful obedience to the fundamental principles of Christianity — would lead us to love our Heavenly Father above all, and manifest by our love one to another. We want then to be found at our places, when Meeting day comes, because the love of God constrained us to be there, and hold out to our brethren the encouraging language, come follow us as we follow Christ. This love of God in the soul is the keystone stone of the Christian's Arch, without which it must totter and fall — and it is ^{the} only cementing power that can bind us together as a society — continued as we believe to bear testimony to the Church.

The importance and necessity of observing strict justice in all our dealings with our fellow men, was forcibly presented, and Friends were earnestly advised and cautioned to guard against ^{that} ~~any~~ spirit now so prevalent in our land of making exorbitant gains and excessive profits by extorting from those who may be in need, and that the eager pursuit of the treasures of this world will not bring peace to the soul.

Testimonies were borne by exercise, reminding us of the importance of a guarded education of our children, that we endeavor to place before them such maxims as will fill their minds with useful knowledge, and wealth — the young are supplied with books, useful matter it is ill to be filled with its opposite. We were told by a father in the church, who has long stood as a watchman on our walls, that the greatest care of his parents is very early life had been of great value to him in latter years, and the interest he felt in reading the Scriptures in childhood was now very fresh in his memory, and had been of greater benefit to him than at any other period of his life. A concern was also expressed that we should be careful not to fall into a lifeless, — formal habit of reading the Scriptures without the right feeling and interest. The subjects embraced in the query in regard to plainness claimed earnest attention, and we were appealed to, not to lose sight of the beauty and simplicity of the plain language. Plainness of apparel implies simplicity, and the avoidance of superfluity and needless expense, and those who exercise a wise economy in dress, furniture and manner of living, may be able to indulge in the blessing of extending help to the poor and otherwise increasing the sum of human happiness.

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And believing as we do that men can availingly hold up truths testimony until they come under the rule and influence thereof, our greatest desire is that ^{all} men yield our minds to it, and be willing to own Christ before men in whatever way his Spirit and power may require us to do — whether it be in the open and public acknowledgment of him before men as our Prince of peace or in the hidden operations in our hearts where he sets all things in order, causing all the creaturely passions and appetites to dwell together in peace, and the little child to lead them.

The reports received show, that during the past year a greater number than usual of Ministers and Elders have passed from work to reward, and the evening voice was sounded in our midst, "Sleep also ready".

The Clerk was directed to have two thousand copies of the Extracts from the minutes of our Yearly Meeting, together with those of Harmony Friends, and the Epistles received at this time, printed for distribution among our members; and the Treasurer is directed to have them forwarded by mail or otherwise to the Correspondent of each of Monthly Meetings as early as practicable.

The Committee appointed at a former sitting to prepare essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, now produced one embodying the minutes of the exercises of this Meeting, which was read, and was satisfactory. It was directed to be transcribed, signed by the Clerk, and forwarded to those Meetings respectively.

We have been favored through this annual gathering to feel that Holy presence to be with us, which has enabled us to transact the business, that has claimed our attention, in much harmony, and with desire for the welfare of another, this Meeting concludes to meet at the usual time next year, if so permitted.

William Wood, Clerk.