

1871 ended to our printed Extracts.

Then adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Second of the Month and Fifth of the Week.

Friends gathered near the time adjourned to.

The Committee appointed at a former sitting to endeavor to embody some of the exercises of the meeting, for the benefit of our absent members produced the following minute, which was read and approved, and was directed to be embodied in our printed extracts, viz:

At the opening of the meeting a living exercise was spread over the large gathering, that every member might be found filling his place in the Church, in harmony with the Body, and prepared, through obedience to the manifestations of Divine Life in the soul, for the performance of his part of the service thereof, which are as essential to its health and vigor as any of the organs of the physical system to the harmonious performance of all the functions of animal life.

As well might the eye say to the ear, "I have no need of thee," or the hand say to the foot, "I have no need of thee," as that the Body of a religious organization should think to prosper without the aid of all its members, in their various allotments of service, all working in that beautiful order which is declared to be Heavenly first law, and must be in conformity to the will of the Great Head of the Church.

The readings of the answers to the Queries revealed the existence of many deficiencies still existing in different parts of our vineyard, which was the cause of deep exercises, and brought forth many living testimonies from concerned minds, particularly in the want of due regard to the first and greatest commandment, in the non-attendance of our religious meetings.

For, if the love of our Heavenly Father was paramount to all earthly considerations, we would prize, above all things, these opportunities for communing with His Holy Spirit in company with our Friends and neighbors, whom, from the cementing influences of the love of God in the soul, we should be prepared to love "as ourselves," or "as becomes our Christian Profession," thus fulfilling the second commandment, and realizing in our own experience, the truth of the declaration, that "upon these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets."

We were affectionately cautioned to remember, that there was something due to those who neglect their meetings, in the way of encouragement, by seeking after them in the Spirit of love, showing them that they are missed from our gatherings, and kindly saying to them, "Come, brother, come sister, let us go up together to the Mountain of the

Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths, for His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths are Peace.

We were encouraged, to manifest by our life between meetings, that we are under the gathering influence of that active principle of Divine Love which first gathered our meetings, and this living worship of God, will continue to gather those who dwell under its holy influence. For, the true worship of our Heavenly Father, consists in doing His will. Obedience thereto is life, and disobedience is death.

The necessity of preserving our religious organization being apparent, it was shown that this requires the attendance of our meetings for Discipline, particularly the Preparative and Monthly Meetings, and Friends were earnestly encouraged to greater faithfulness in this important matter.

Effective testimony was borne to the sufficiency of Divine Grace in the soul, - the free gift of our Heavenly Father for our Salvation from Sin, and the means of growth in the Truth and Spiritual advancement. Our highest enjoyment would then be, in experiencing a Spirit devoted to God, striving to obtain His blessing, and, like the ancient Patriarch, saying, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me," he would then find His blessing would more than counterbalance all the troubles of this world, and life would become a scene of joy and thanksgiving.

A strong testimony was borne to the hurtful effects of using Tobacco by a Friend who was still suffering, as he believed, from its deleterious influence, although he had discontinued its use for over twenty-five years.

Although we recognize individual freedom in all such matters, and would by no means wish to interfere therewith, yet in a feeling which we believe to be prompted by Gospel Love, we would encourage all our members who are addicted to the practice, to examine the subject in the light of truth, and see if there is not a sacrifice of the animal appetite in this respect required of them.

The subject of Intemperance was also regarded as having lost none of its important interest; we fully believe, that those who obey its laws in all things, will find a blessing to attend this obedience, to them and their families, which will far overbalance any enjoyment that will arise from the violation of them.

Our righteous testimony against