

1847 In His name, these records be in the midst. A fear was expressed that our members were losing sight of this cardinal principle of our Society, ^{and were} looking too much to an instrumental ministry for that instruction in righteous-ness, which can only come from this Divine source. (The testimony of Robert Barclay was read in our hearing, where he said: "When I came into the silent assemblies of God's people I felt a secret power that touched my heart." ^{and} when I gave way to it, I felt the evil in me weakened ^{and} the good raised up." We are so constituted that we sympathize with each other, ^{and} know by experience that there are times when the out-ward ^{power} of the Divine Spirit, ^{it} covers our minds that we are baptized into one spirit, the holy oil flowing from vessel to vessel until all are filled.

Closely connected and intimately blended with love to God, is that of love for one another, and we are reminded that unless we have love for our brother whom we have seen, it were in vain to bring our offering of sacrifice to that God whom we have not seen, for He hath said we must first be reconciled to our brother, ^{and} then our offering would be accepted. This body of Christian discipleship once so prominent in our Society must be preserved if we hope to remain a living organization. Under this influence the Meeting was clothed with a deep feeling of baptism, for the many sufferings entailed on our race, by an indulgence in those intemperate that was the temple of the living God. A departure from the plain way of living hath engendered a variety of diseases of the body, which create a desire for stimulants or narcotics to allay the feelings of uneasiness which the produce, ^{and} thus men are led to indulge in the wine-cup or in the use of tobacco, or other noxious stimulants, until the system becomes poisoned by their use. We were feelingly advised to abstain from the use of these, ^{and} many valuable friends gave us a knowledge of their experience as to their deleterious effects. We greatly fear that the use of one leads to a desire for the use of the other, ^{and} consider an abstinence from them all, as the safer course for all to pursue.

The answer to the queries showed that our ancient love for simplicity of attire and plainness of speech was becoming cold, ^{and} awakened a feeling of regret in the minds of many, that such should be the case. But we were advised to remember that obedience to God is the foundation on which true testimony rests, and that too much reliance on an outward garb sometimes lays the foundation for that hypocrisy, which is so offensive in His sight. While plainness and simplicity are Christian virtues, there is no prescribed form of apparel that should destroy our Christian liberty, but the mind that is stayed on God, will come out from under the influence of those

and foolish fashions and customs that make each generation so ridiculous in the eyes of those succeeding it.

In dealing with offenders we are reminded of the efficacy of extending a timely care, to those whose conduct evinces a disposition to depart from the straight and narrow way, as an interest manifested by concerned friends, often produces better results than other modes of treatment. A caution was also extended to our members to be careful how they joined in with others in game, and other kinds of amusement, lest their hands be weakened and their influence with the rising generation impaired.

The frequent perusal of the Holy Scriptures, as directed in our Book of Discipline, was earnestly recommended, ^{and} we were cautioned in regard to this important matter, to avoid both right hand errors and left hand errors. We believe that, as a Religious Society, we give to the sacred records the place assigned them by the writers of the New Testament, neither exalting them as the only rule of faith and practice, nor calling in question their authenticity and divine authority.

They may properly receive the inscription placed on a sundial, "Nothing without light." When they are read under the enlightening influence of Divine Grace, they are profitable "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

We still continue deeply interested in the Indian concern. Our Committee has produced a satisfactory report and is continued.

We have been favored with the company of several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, who have joined feelingly with us in the exercises of the meeting, whose living testimonies have, we hope, ^{and} stirred up anew earnest desires for a better life ^{and} closer adherence to purity ^{and} truth.

The committee appointed at a former sitting to prepare Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, produced one embodying the minute of Exercises of the Meeting, which was read ^{and} approved ^{and} directed to be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Meeting, ^{and} forwarded to the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia, New York, Genesee, Ohio ^{and} Indiana respectively.

The correspondents of this Meeting were

