1873

Levi K. Brown,
Priscilla Matthews,
Ellen G. Martindale.

All of which was united with by the Meeting, Women's Meeting
uniting therewith.

These subjects, with other recent changes of Discipline, were
directed to the care of the Representative Committee, for printing
and distribution to our subordinate meetings.

The Friends appointed at a former sitting, to endeavor to embody
some of the exercises of the Meeting, produced the following
minute, which was satisfactory, and directed to be inserted in our
printed Extracts, viz:

A solemn covering rested over our Assembly
when about to enter into the consideration of the State of our
Society, and as the deficiencies existing among us were made manifest
by the answers to the Queries, the feeling seemed to be one of
individual application.

The attendance of our religious Meetings was
shown to be a concern of the utmost importance, and we were
cited to the example of the believers in the early dawn of Christianity
when they met in each other's houses, in upper rooms and private
places, where they could pour out their souls in prayer before the
Divine Father, and seek in communion with his Holy Spirit the
consolations of the Gospel of Christ. Being impressed with a
sense of the purity and simplicity of this Gospel, they forsook the
gorgeous temples where idolatry and superstition had usurped the
worship that should be offered to the living God. When George
Fox came out proclaiming the sufficiency of the light of Christ in
the soul for redemption and salvation, he too called the people
away from the temples and "steeple-houses" of his day, to the fields
and orchards, and from a hay stack bore testimony to the
living truths of God, even as the blessed Jesus declared to the woman
at Jacob's well that it was not on the mountain of Samaria, nor on
Mount Moriah, that men must worship, but that "the hour cometh
and now is, when they that worship the Father must worship him in
spirit and in truth."

1873 It was brought to our remembrance that when the outward
Temple was to be built, the materials were prepared so that
when they were brought together every part might be fitted
in place, and the sound of the saw and the hammer was
not heard. So should we endeavor to be prepared, by ab-
dience to the operations of the Spirit of Truth, to fill our
various allotments of service in the Church, that when we
come together in our religious assemblies there may be no jar,
but a harmonious action in every part, and thus may we
witness in our midst the comforting evidence of the Divine
presence.

A feeling concern was expressed that the youth of our
Society may be preserved from the contaminating influence
of bad associates and pernicious publications, and that
they may carefully peruse and duly appreciate the sacred
writings. It was said by the Apostle Paul in addressing
Timothy "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures
which are able to make wise unto salvation through faith
which is in Christ Jesus." Testimonies were also borne to the
good results produced by gathering our children around us in
the family circle and endeavoring to imbue their minds with the
love of the Divine Father, and a belief was expressed that if
this practice were more prevalent among us, our meetings for
Divine Worship would be much better attended.

Our testimony
against the use of intoxicating liquors as an article of drink
appears, from the reports, to be generally maintained throughout
all our borders; this we thought to be very encouraging, when
we consider the high ground taken by our Society, total abstinence
as a drink, from all that will intoxicate. A warning was
sounded among us, that none be deceived by this insidious foe
of human life and human happiness, when it comes to them under
the guise of remedial agents; and Friends were reminded that the
various kinds of medicinal bitters, so much advertised in town and
country, are but another form of this many headed monster,
calculated to lead the unwary from the paths of sobriety and
peace.

Moral integrity and unquestioned reliability are the base on
which the true Friend must ever build. The fact that our fathers