

1877 The Committee appointed at a former sitting to prepare Essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, produced one which was satisfactory to the meeting, and the clerk was directed to sign on behalf of the meeting, and forward copies to each of the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond.

The same Committee produced a minute, embodying some of the exercises of the meeting, which was approved and directed to be printed in the Extracts for the benefit of our absent members.

Minute of Exercises.

On entering into a consideration of the State of Society, the deficiencies in the attendance of our meetings especially those held near the middle of the week, as brought up in the answers to the queries, awakened a lively concern in the meeting and elicited much valuable counsel from concerned minds. We were encouraged to remember the advice of George Fox, "to hold all our meetings in the power of God", and endeavor to come under the influence of his Holy Spirit as the best preparation to worship him acceptably. We would then desire to strengthen our spiritual nature by communion one with another, in social worship, and would be led to take the dear children with us, that they too might enjoy the same blessing. Nor would we permit the business of every-day life to interfere with the discharge of so obvious a duty, but trust in the promise of the blessed Jesus, that to those who first seek the Kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness thereof, all necessary things will be added.

It was a consolation to know that our testimony against the use of intoxicants is so generally maintained by our members, and a concern arose in our meeting, whether there might not be a work for us, as a people, to aid these poor unfortunates who have become slaves to their perverted appetites. It was clearly set forth that the best preparation for this, or any other good work, is, for us, individually, to come under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and to be guided in all our actions by its direction. We shall then act with the Author of all good, and can not fail in any work in which we engage. We were also reminded that temperance applies to many things besides our eating and drinking, and that moderation should be observed in all things if we would guard against oppression in all its manifold forms.

Much exercise was expressed in regard to the appointment of the younger members on committees in our

1877 business meetings, as it might prove the means of interesting them in the affairs of society and thus fit them for its service. Another thought, however, in connection with it, was feelingly expressed that the young should not look too much for invitations from the old, but should seek that qualification which will of itself bring them into service and qualify them for the work. This would impress their elder brethren with the propriety of such appointments as the best means of promoting the cause of truth.

All were encouraged not to withhold any right impression made upon their minds at such times, but to be as brief as the clear understanding of their concern will admit of, and not to take up the time that properly belongs to other concerned minds, by too frequently expressing their own views.

Those of our friends who may be engaged in trade were cautioned to keep within the limits of those legitimate laws by which it is regulated, so as not to involve themselves in difficulties, which may bring ruin to themselves and injury to the cause of truth. In connection with the twelfth query, a deep feeling of solicitude was spread over us, that a more faithful watch shall be kept over the dawning of accountability in the tender minds of the young. That parents may be the faithful Eliza unto these little Samuels, that while we are in attendance at our religious gatherings, these innocent lambs of God, should early learn the Shepherd's voice, so as to follow him, and shall not be permitted to remain at home exposed to doubtful influences, but taken with them and placed where they may come under the heavenly influence of Divine grace.

We were also admonished that the best way of keeping our children from reading the pernicious literature of the day, is to furnish them with abundance of that kind which is not only useful but palatable and suited to their young minds.

The clerks were directed to have 2500 copies of Extracts from the Minutes of our Proceedings, together with those of Women's Meeting and the Epistles received at this time from other Yearly Meetings, for distribution among our members.

The Treasurer is directed to have them forwarded by mail, or otherwise, to the correspondent of each of our