

1881

First

Our Meetings for Worship and Discipline have all been held, except sixteen for Worship, and five Preparative Meetings in some of the smaller branches, (some of these in very inclement weather,) and attended on First Days by many of our members. Those held near the middle of the week continue to be neglected by many; unbecoming behavior has been generally avoided and the hour of meeting nearly observed.

Second.

Love, as becomes our Christian Profession appears to be generally maintained. Tale bearing and detraction are discouraged and endeavors have been used to end differences when they appear. One report however acknowledges that in one of its branches deficiencies exist in regard to all these requisitions.

Answers
to
Queries

Third

Many Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children, and those under their care, in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. Other children in Friends' families are suitably provided for, and Friends generally guard them against pernicious reading, and ^{from} corrupt conversation, and encourage them to read the Scriptures of Truth. But more care in reading the Scriptures, it is acknowledged, would be profitable.

Fourth.

Our testimony against intoxicating liquors appears to be very generally maintained. One report makes an abatement in regard to the sale thereof. Frequenting taverns unnecessarily is mostly avoided, not so clear of attending places of diversion. Moderation in temperance generally observed. Many Friends are concerned to discourage the cultivation and use of tobacco.

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Fifth

The circumstances of those of our members who appear to require aid are inspected and relief afforded.

Sixth

Friends generally maintain our testimony in favor of a free Gospel ministry, resting upon Divine qualification alone.

Seventh

Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage, are generally just in their dealings, and endeavor to be punctual in complying with their engagements. When necessary care is extended

Answers
to
Queries
con.

Eighth

Friends bear a testimony against oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, and lotteries; also against oppression in its various forms.

Ninth.

Care is generally taken to deal with offenders seasonably and impartially, though delays sometimes occur. One report acknowledges much weakness in regard thereto.

Tenth.

Care is generally taken to keep a record of births, deaths and membership.

Eleventh

The Preparative Meetings at Sandy Spring, Gunpowder, Fairfax and Goose Creek have been discontinued. The midweek meetings

* In accordance with the privilege granted by the amended Discipline of 1850, where the Preparative and monthly meetings are practically the same body, the former meetings may be discontinued.