

1887 Meeting, read in and approved by Fairfax Quarterly Meeting, of our deceased friend, William Holmes, were received from the Representative Committee, read and approved, and directed to be signed by the Clerks and returned to that body for recording.

37 The Committee standing appointed from the Yearly Meeting of 1885 to assist in providing homes for our members in attendance upon the Yearly Meeting, reported as follows:

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting:

The Committee appointed at the Yearly Meeting in 1885, to provide homes for our members, etc., made report last year, because they could not ascertain the amount of money expended until after the close of the Meeting. We had \$200 placed at our disposal by the Yearly Meeting, of which we spent \$101.42 in payment of board and lodging for our members at various places.

No appropriation having been made last year to carry out the object for which this Committee was appointed, we have not been able to do anything further than to assist Friends in procuring homes.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Elisha H. Walker,

Baltimore, 11th Month 4th, 1887.

Joseph Matthews.

The report was approved, the Committee further continued, and Charles Russell added thereto, to fill a vacancy reported as existing thereon in the representation from Baltimore Monthly Meeting.

38 The Committee appointed to prepare a suitable reply to the Epistles received from the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, now submitted a draft of one, which was read, and, after a slight alteration, was adopted, and the Clerk was directed to transcribe it, sign it on behalf of this Branch, and forward a copy each to the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia, New York, Genesee, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

39 The Committee also, in conformity with their appointment, presented a Minute embodying some of the religious exercises of our annual sessions. The same was read, and after some verbal alterations, was ordered to be printed with the other proceedings of the Meeting, for the benefit

1887 of our absent members, as follows:

Minute of Exercises.

To Our Absent Members:

We who have been favored beyond you, in having been permitted to again assemble together in our Annual Meeting, feel in our hearts a desire to express our thanks for the privilege of communing with our Heavenly Father and commingling with our fellow members, and our regret that you could not be present to partake of the feast with us.

While engaged in the consideration of the state of Society, as shown by the answers to the Queries, the fountain of Gospel Love seemed open and much salutary counsel was given. We were exhorted to a diligent attendance of all of our Meetings, and drawing the mind away from material affairs, when so gathered for social religious worship, striving for a more deeply devotional feeling, a more spiritual conception of Divine worship, resting in the peaceable kingdom, the Heavenly Jerusalem, we should "hear the shout of a King in our midst"; and reminded of the unequivocal and peculiar blessing promised those gathered in His name, as also of the impressive testimony to this form of worship by one convinced of its power: "When I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power that touched my heart, and, as I gave way to it, I found the evil in me awakening and the good raised up."

Our testimony to love one another was presented as perhaps the most important, being the foundation of all. As we draw near to the inexhaustible fountain of Divine love, man's true Christian relationships and duties are apparent.

It is a perennial feast, whereat he will be strengthened to perform his duty, "first to God, next to his Society, and then to the world around." And this being so, our Society will be enabled to work aright and effectually in the direction of the great moral movements of the age. We are inspired with fresh hope to believe that there is at this time an awakening to a deep sense of the need there is of working in accord with the spirit of the declaration of the blessed Jesus, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I worketh."

It was a cause of much regret that some of our members still continue the sale of spirituous liquors, under the opinion that it is