

1888 proposition from the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, asking for a change of discipline, which will admit of their Meeting at eleven instead of ten o'clock a.m. as heretofore, met and conferred together and were united in recommending the change proposed.*

On behalf of the Committee,

Baltimore, 10 month, 30th, 1888.

James Wood,

Maria E. Tyson.

* See page 9 of Book of Discipline, second line from the bottom of page.

17 The Epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting was received and read at this time.

Reading of Illinois Epistle. Feelings of encouragement were expressed upon the reading of this excellent Epistle, and also in reference to those read at a former session; it being thought these greetings from other bodies of a people, united in the advancement of Truth and Spiritual Religion, though widely separated by distance, were of unusual excellence and value.

18 A memorial of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, read in and approved by Baltimore Quarterly Meeting concerning our deceased friend Mary L. Roberts, was received from the Representative Committee, read and approved, and directed to be signed by the clerks and returned to that body for recording.

Memorial of Mary L. Roberts. Then adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Thursday Afternoon.

The Meeting convened at 3 o'clock, the hour adjourned to from the morning session.

19 The Central Committee on Firstday Schools, within the limits of this Yearly Meeting, submitted the following report, which was read at this time: To Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Dear Friends:—

The Central Committee on Firstday Schools have labored to promote the best interests of a cause committed to their care, as best wisdom might direct. It has been gratifying to us that throughout the whole Yearly Meeting, have been found earnest and competent workers for this concern of the Yearly Meeting, and further more that the youth of our Society have shown themselves always ready to second the efforts of those who seek them as helpers in this

1888 work of the Church.

During the year by correspondence and by conferences we have endeavored to keep ourselves informed as to the status of affairs and the progress of this important matter, so that whenever opportunity presented such aid as would be proper might be afforded.

The preparation of the Lesson Leaves has been a work in which the Committee has been engaged since last Yearly Meeting as far as was possible. These have been in constant use in all of the schools, and, from reports received by us, we are led to infer that they are supplying a need in our work. In the preparation of these leaves the General Conference Committee have always aimed at the dissemination of the views and testimonies of the Society of Friends.

We consider the outlook of our work more encouraging than ever before, because we are now assisted therein by our elder brothers and sisters as well as by our Meetings, yet from reports we infer that there are neighborhoods where some members are not willing to come forward and help. The Committee are willing to assert that the best way to have these adjuncts of our Society work, to accomplish their highest possibilities, is for all members to use their influence to have them conducted on a sure basis, which is Truth, for which we are seekers. We know the probabilities of finding what we seek are greatly increased if a multitude earnestly engage in the search.

Firstday School Committee Report

In the work of our schools today the devotional feature is more prominent than ever before and is constantly on the increase. Teachers we think are coming to rely more and more upon the Divine Source of all strength and wisdom for guidance.

From reports received we find that nearly all Firstday School children, as well as adults, attend regularly our meetings for worship, and that teachers are giving attention to that matter too.

Since last Yearly Meeting all of our schools have been sustained. In most instances reports say those engaged therein are encouraged. In the aggregate our schools show an increase of one hundred and sixty six scholars over last report, while only one or two show a decrease, attributable mainly to force of circumstances but not to any lack of interest in them.

Our Youth's Meeting held on Firstday afternoon was a season of deep feeling and much interest. Owing to some delays, possibly neglect, but little came from two or three of our Monthly Meetings, which we regret. We hope that experience has taught us to overcome