

1888

Minute of Exercises.

We have met in our annual gathering under rather peculiar circumstances.

Our new Meeting House not being finished, yet we have been comfortably accommodated, and although the attendance has been smaller than usual, we have enjoyed a rich feast by mingling in religious communion with our friends.

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In our Meetings for Worship we were feelingly exhorted to dwell near the inexhaustible fountain of Divine Love, where the soul can be refreshed from day to day, under which Heavenly influence, we can love our brother and seek the welfare of the whole human family. The young were earnestly appealed to, to seek to know the will of the Lord in the day of visitation and by giving heed to His requirements, avoid the many pitfalls that beset them in after life. An earnest caution was extended by a dear brother in our Israel against the creaturely activity, running hither and thither, so prevalent at the present day, and we were feelingly exhorted to retire frequently in the quiet and wait to know the will of the dear Father, ever keeping in view the declaration that without Him we can do nothing.

The Youth's Meeting held First-day afternoon under the auspices of the First-day Schools, was an interesting feature. Their cheerful countenances and interest manifested, presented a bright prospect for the future of this Society.

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The attendance of our members upon our Meetings in mid week and those for Discipline was the subject of earnest consideration.

The thought was expressed that if our Meetings for Discipline were held at the close of the Meetings for Worship, on First-days, the attendance would be much increased. It was also suggested that if our Meetings for Discipline were held in joint session, the attendance would be increased thereby, and the interest and life of the Meetings promoted and the best results would follow.

We are glad to see such a spirit of love and forbearance as is constantly exhibited by our members one for another, in discussions arising in the course of business Meetings, each member seeming to have the welfare of the Society at heart, and all trying for the best methods, that there may be an advancement in keeping with the times; for we think it very evident to all that we must go forward, not stand still, if we hope to be a force felt for good in the world and do our share of great work that is constantly presenting to all those who are led

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and guided by our loving Father and called to do His work. It seems to us that we ought to endorse all right methods of reform that are so much needed in the world and are being so heartily prosecuted by our sister Churches. The meeting of the Philanthropic Committee was especially interesting, and we think many of us came from there with a better understanding of what is needed in this great work and a determination to do more. By the answers to the Queries received from our different quarters we find the spiritual health of the Society to be good, but still capable of improvement.

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The Clerks were directed to have two thousand copies of the extracts from the proceedings of this Meeting, together with those of Women's Branch, the Memorials read at this time, the Epistles received from other Yearly Meetings, some extracts from the proceedings of the Representative Committee and Epistles received from the First-day School Associations of other Yearly Meetings, as the Committee on printing may elect, printed for the use of our members as heretofore.

The Treasurer is directed to forward these to the Correspondents of our Monthly Meetings in the usual manner, as soon as they are ready for distribution, and to pay the bill of expenses incurred in the printing and forwarding the same, when approved by the Committee.

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The Meeting now directs that the Representative Committee convene for organization and for the transaction of business coming properly before them, at two o'clock this afternoon.

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Meetings in joint sessions

The subject of holding of our Preparative, Monthly, and Quarterly Meetings in joint session, was spread before the Meeting, and a very general expression was given in favor of such change. It was conceded that the assembling in joint session would promote the more general attendance of our members, of both sexes, and would add renewed life and strength to the Society in the administration of its Discipline.

The subject of holding the Yearly Meeting in joint session also engaged the weighty attention of the Meeting, and the proposition to proposition to make such change in the assembling of that body in the near future, is now directed to the careful and serious consideration of our members.