

1889 minute of appointment.

Reports have been received from 14 of the 16 different Monthly Meetings. Three of these report no work at all having been done and 6 report no work accomplished under the auspices of the Committee, but some individual work in connection with other organizations. Five give full reports. We condense the reports of those Meetings that are given in full and in part, as follows:

Prison Reform.

Report of Philanthropic Committee
There has been no organized work done by the sub-committee under this head. In many places the prisons, almshouses and reformatory institutions have been visited by the Committee and much valuable aid and comfort given the inmates. Suitable literature has been distributed amongst them and they have, in some localities, been tenderly and earnestly admonished to lead better lives. Influence has been brought to bear, on legislative bodies, by members of two of the sub-committees on Prison Reform, to secure larger appropriations for some of our prisons and reformatories and charitable institutions, and they have been successful in bringing about, in some cases, important improvements.

Arbitration

In the matter of advocating National Arbitration, a measure which is now being agitated by various countries, and which is attracting the attention of the people of all nations, our Committee has not been able to do much ^{direct} work. We are alive to the importance of the subject, however, and feel that on this question the Society of Friends should be heard and its influence distinctly felt.

With the view of placing our Society correctly before the world on this subject, this Committee had our testimony in favor of Arbitration as a matter of settling International differences, translated into the French language, handsomely engrossed and framed, and placed in the International Peace exhibit in Paris last Spring. Arbitration between individuals has been encouraged, and instances are given where friendships, after long estrangements, have been re-established between persons, through the influence of members of this Committee.

Compulsory Education.

No effort seem to have been made in any of our Monthly Meetings to bring an influence to bear for the establishment of this reform. An appeal comes from one Meeting however that Friends unite in a

1889 memorial to the Legislature asking the enactment of a law compelling the attendance at school of all children between the ages of 8 and 14 years.

Temperance.

Report of Philanthropic Committee
The work of the sub-committee on Temperance is most of the Monthly Meetings throughout the Yearly Meeting has, as usual, far exceeded that on other subjects in activity and earnestness. Through nearly all the reports mention little work done in Committee capacity, instances are given of the individual labor in connection with other organizations where good has been found to result from the seed thus scattered. Two of the Monthly Meetings report regular meetings of the Committee held monthly, others met on the call of the Chairman but the latter plan has proved unsuccessful. Lectures have been delivered from time to time, and some articles contributed to the public journals, among which was a paper entitled, "The Church and the Liquor Traffic" published in the "Intelligencer and Journal" of 3rd Month 9th '89. Five hundred copies of this article were also printed in pamphlet form for distribution. There has been circulated a large number of Temperance leaflets amongst those who we hope will be benefitted by their perusal.

The sale and use of alcoholic liquors is a matter of which the Society of Friends, together with other Religious bodies, is greatly concerned. How to suppress their use is one of the most serious and important questions of the day. The method called High License is not in accord with the principles of our Society since it allows an evil traffic to continue for a price and is a compromise with wrong. The opinion of those who give this subject the closest attention is that the only efficient method - a method which has been the most effectual wherever it has been given a fair trial - is the prohibition by law of the manufacture, sale, transportation and importation of alcoholic beverages, and the proper enforcement of such laws. One Monthly Meeting reports that some of its members still continue the sale of intoxicants in connection with their grocery business.