

143 Thus preservation might be experienced from considering these important subjects in a lifeless and formal manner. Under these impressions the unity of the Spirit and Fellowship of the Gospel, as connected with the love which becomes our Christian Profession, was felt to be very precious to many minds.

The importance of a frequent perusal of the Holy Scriptures in Friends Families was renewedly felt, and Friends were affectionately invited and encouraged to greater faithfulness in this respect it being believed, that an attention to this practice would not only be blessed to heads of Families, but likewise to the dear youth, and prove in many instances to them, a safeguard against the devastating consequences of those pernicious views so abundantly disseminated in the present day.

Friends were recommended to be more careful in the education of their children "in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel" a concern being manifested that the Society should again return to that simplicity which characterized it in the days of our worthy forefathers.

The right exercise and application of our Christian discipline towards offenders, was believed to be very important, and Friends were tenderly exhorted to seek fervently for a renewal of divine strength in the discharge of this duty. It would thus prove not only a blessing to many of these, but also to the Society.

The Epistle of Correspondence from Indian a Yearly Meeting, was now received and read, and was acceptable to us. The Clerk was directed to enter it with the other Epistles on our records.

A proposition was contained in the Report from Baltimore quarterly, to change the time for holding that meeting from fourth day to fifth day at the usual hour, the meeting for ministers and Elders to be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the day preceding; which being considered was approved and that meeting directed to be held accordingly. The change in the time of holding that Quarterly Meeting to take place in the 12th month next. The clerk was directed to furnish Baltimore Yearly Meeting with a copy of this minute.

The following Report was produced by the Committee appointed last year, in relation to the meetings and members constituting this Yearly Meeting.

At the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee last year appointed to have the General oversight and care of the subordinate Meetings and members comprising them, as was might open for it. Report: That in pur-

suance of their appointment, they have constantly had in view the weighty duties assigned them. They have considered with deep interest and sympathy the painful circumstances of many of our members who last year became involved in the steps then taken by the body with whom we have been in religious association, having formed a connexion with the Separatists.

Soon after the close of the late yearly Meeting, the Committee taking into view, the peculiar and unprecedented nature of the trials to which we have been subjected, in connexion with the consideration that many of our members were not personally present to witness the occurrences which transpired during the sittings of the Yearly Meeting, they addressed an affectionate Epistle to our members, which was forwarded to the several neighborhoods of Friends, from which we extract the following.

"It was our earnest desire that at the late session of the yearly Meeting, no step might be taken which would dissolve the bonds of Union amongst us. With such views and feelings we continued to meet with our friends, until at the suggestion and by direction of those who had departed from the ancient doctrines and discipline of our religious Society, a minute was made, which goes to acknowledge their Fellowship and unity with those who had withdrawn from connexion, with the ancient Yearly Meetings of Friends on this continent, and established meetings of their own, contrary to the order of our religious Society. But having thus manifested their determination to identify themselves with the seceders, we felt ourselves constrained for the due support of our Christian discipline and the precious doctrines of our holy Religion, as well as to maintain our brotherly connexion with the ancient Society of Friends; to meet select from those who have thus departed from our regular order and to hold Baltimore Yearly Meeting agreeably to its original institution as part of the great body of Friends. We would earnestly call your attention to the propriety of acting with decision. The cause is not alone ours: generations yet to come are interested in it. And we ask, is it not time to come out from amongst those from whom we differ in religious sentiment? Remember our blessed Lord's declaration: 'he that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Is it not evident that our brethren sustain serious loss by remaining with such as deny some of the most precious truths of Holy Writ? and whose religious opinions are not consonant with their own? Desiring to receive the earliest information respecting the circumstances, which