

The special points of Discipline which the several yearly meetings have offered for consideration have been examined as they stand in the different codes & we have believed it best in our Report to notice the result of our examination.

In liberating ministers to travel there is a considerable variety in the rules of the respective Yearly Meetings. In cases of general visits on this Continent, most of the Disciplines require only the unity of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings while in one the Concurrence of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders is required: visits to a limited extent beyond the verge of the Yearly Meeting of which the Minister is a member are allowed by most of the Disciplines to be performed with the Concurrence of the Monthly Meeting alone: In one Yearly Meeting the concurrence of the Quarter must be obtained if the visits embrace more than the attendance of a Yearly Meeting & some few meetings on the way - or if it extends to the appointment of Meetings.

In most of the Disciplines the approbation both of the Minister & Women's Meetings is to be obtained; in one, the concern is not required to be laid before Women's Friends, unless the Minister be of their own Sex.

In America prospects of this nature are opened in the Men's and Women's meetings separately: In England such subjects are opened in the Meetings before the shutters are closed, and the sanction of the Meeting obtained in that joint Capacity.

In Cases of Unclaiming with Ministers, while travelling with Certificates, although there have been some precedents we are not aware that there are any specific Rules of Discipline which without inference would apply.

The manner of reinstating disowned persons is different in different places. And as the subject frequently involves transactions between Monthly Meetings belonging to different Yearly Meetings, inconveniences & embarrassments have been the consequence. In one Yearly Meeting such persons are received as other applicants for admission into membership; in others, the consent of the Meeting which disowned is required & in others satisfactory acknowledgements must be made to such Meetings whether the party may have continued within their limits or not.

The right of Monthly Meetings to reject Certificates of Removal appears to be recognized, by inference in some of the Disciplines but not in others.

The Discipline of the Yearly Meetings on this Continent all authorize the respective Meetings for Sufferings to sanction & publish in the Character of the Society, Works on its Doctrines & History immediately affecting its reputation as a Christian Community. In the Proceedings of the Society instances have occurred in which obvious advantage has attended embracing, in the consideration of Doctrinal works a larger portion of the Society

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Society than a single meeting for Sufferings. The Present rules of Discipline were evidently intended to give the Society an opportunity in an official Capacity to judge of the propriety of such works as were designed to be published in its name & for which it would be responsible in Character: Whether that object is sufficiently secured & especially whether it will be in the future progress of the Society in territorial limits & in local divisions is the object of the present Enquiry.

The proposition relating to the more general & easy circulation of Tracts & Books seems to look towards some mode by which the different Yearly Meetings might unite in the republication of the approved writings of the Society in editions so large as to reach the objects proposed.

A proposition it appears has recently been made by one of the Meetings for Sufferings to the other meetings of the same description on this Continent in regard to an application to the General Government on behalf of the African descendants. The subject has thus been presented to the attention of Friends in a more general way than at any former period for a number of Years. We regard it as one of deep & affecting interest. The present & future welfare of the two great Clashes is immediately involved in it. We can but regard it, at sometime, as being in accordance with the responsibility resting upon us as a Christian Community, to raise our voices on behalf of suffering humanity. But we are aware that it is a subject involved in no small difficulty & even danger - and one in which the direction of Divine Wisdom & the mutual counsel & aid of the different portions of the Society will be peculiarly necessary.

On the Proposition relating to fixing stated times for holding meetings of the General Committee we have no remark to make.

Though we have believed that an advantage might arise from taking a view of the subjects presented for the consideration of the General Committee we do not think it expedient or proper at this time to make any proposition as to the final disposition of any of them. To bring them into consideration & leave them for future decision is all that we are prepared to propose. A large proportion of our friends, who are under appointment to unite in the consideration of these subjects, are now absent in consequence of Causes to which we have already adverted. In the peculiar state of affairs we can only inform the respective Yearly Meetings of the attention we have given to the objects of our appointment & after stating the cause, acknowledge that the services confided to us cannot be accomplished at the present meeting; we do not apprehend however that the delay will be attended with any material disadvantage.

Should the propriety & importance of the concern be duly appreciated & should our members generally become more fully acquainted with the necessity of a greater assimilation in our Rules of Discipline & of drawing more