

which we are now convened has been adopted as occasions have appeared to demand. We do not look to stated or frequent recurrence of meetings of Committees of this character but we apprehend that the best interests of our Society demand, that the necessity of mutual counsel and assistance, in cases of a general nature, should be strongly impressed on the minds of Friends. While the Yearly Meetings must exercise their own discretion in fulfilling their reciprocal obligations, in such manner as the wisdom of the Great Head of the Church may direct, whether by Epistolary Communications, or by Committees from the several Yearly Meetings, mingling with the Meetings requesting assistance or by Committees in general conference, or whatever mode may be best adapted to the object.

Under these solemn impressions, we have approached the consideration of the specific subjects referred to us by the different Yearly Meetings. These may chiefly be comprehended in three divisions. 1st The settling up and discontinuance of Yearly Meetings, with the different objects connected with or growing out of such proceedings. 2^d A greater uniformity and agreement of the Disciplines of the several Yearly Meetings, in their more important points. And lastly, the examination and circulation of Books of a Doctrinal or Historical character, affecting the reputation or interests of the Society; together with the presentation of memorials to the General Government, on behalf of the African descendants.

In regard to the settling up and laying down of Yearly Meetings and what may be necessarily connected with such transactions, we apprehend there is a general assent throughout the Society, that some regulations touching these objects are demanded. We have no doubt that it is the prevailing sentiment in the different Yearly Meetings, that the body of Society should be, in some way, consulted on such occasions. If therefore it should be found that the subject has so long rested on the minds of Friends as to have ripened into a conclusion, that no single Yearly Meeting should take a step of so much importance; if Friends are prepared (which we have no doubt is the case) when a Yearly Meeting is improprio with a belief that it would be proper for it to be divided or for its own character as a Yearly Meeting to cease - to communicate their prospect to the other Yearly Meetings, and invite their participation in the concern - we do not apprehend that any injury will arise from our not proposing the manner in which that assistance may be afforded. The several Yearly

Meetings so invited will exercise their own discretion and freedom, whether to participate in the consideration or not, or whether in rendering their fraternal assistance, to do it by written communications or by committees to meet at the Yearly Meeting concerned or elsewhere.

The second Subject, relating to the discrepancies now found in the Disciplines of the several Yearly Meetings, has also engaged our weighty deliberation. These discrepancies on important points affecting the order of Society, the intercourse of Meetings & the rights of membership, or cases requiring disownment, have increased to an extent, involving as we apprehend very serious consequences at present, and portending, unless some remedy should be applied results which cannot be anticipated without a deep feeling of concern. We are aware, however, that notwithstanding the importance of this object has long been felt, and perhaps, before this time universally acknowledged in the Society, it will necessarily be a work of time, and even the very manner of obtaining it will require still further to be ripened in the minds of Friends. But as we continue under the concern as we look for the unfoldings of that Wisdom by which alone the prosperity of the Church can be promoted, the difficulties which now appear to be in the way will be removed: and the prevalence of harmony and brotherly love, and the nearer approximation of our codes of Discipline will be advanced together. If this concern should rest on the minds of Friends of the several Yearly Meetings, and when any of these may apprehend that any important change of a general nature in their own Disciplines may be attended with advantage, this information should be communicated to the other Yearly Meetings with an invitation in brotherly love, for their participation in the consideration of the subject, we doubt not, that way will be made for such an interchange of sentiment and feeling as will tend to promote the desired object. The Wisdom which is from above, as it is wanted for, we believe will not only incline our hearts to bear one another's burdens, but will point out the manner by which the united sense of the body can be most effectually obtained.

The Sanctioning of works affecting the character of the Society and the presentation of Memorials to the General Government - are both subjects of importance: and have been forwarded for the consideration of this Committee. In our deliberations on them, we have believed that an increasing concern prevails in the Society at large, that a greater guard may be placed around them.