

Their present Situation, as exhibited in the answers to the Queries, claimed the sympathy of the meeting, and produced a lively exercise and concern in the minds of many, which was precious much to our edification and comfort. That those of our members who were absent might participate with us in and profit by the exercise of the meeting, it was concluded to embody it in an Epistle of Advice, directed to our Subordinate meetings.

And first, we desire dear Friends, that we may consider the great deficiency, which is apparent, in regard to the attendance of our religious meetings. We desire that we may examine each one for himself, into the causes of this neglect, as well as into the consequences which are the result of it. We ask you, who were once diligent in your attendance upon your meetings and who knew what it was to say 'I was glad when they said unto me let us go up to the house of the Lord': we ask you, what has led to your present deficiencies? why are your seats so often vacant? Is it because you require less spiritual help than during your first love, when you might have almost adopted the language of the Psalmist 'one thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple'. You are seeking to accomplish an impossibility, 'you cannot serve God & Mammon'. Be watchful then, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die.

And you dear young friends, to whom the world looks bright and alluring, we beseech you not to shut your eyes to your danger: ask yourselves, if any heart were right with God could I so lightly neglect the assemblies of his people - could I prefer business or pleasure to this solemn duty? Be then we entreat you in time: now before your principles and habits are confirmed. Oh! Turn your faces inward, and by a diligent and faithful attendance upon your religious duties, set a good example to your companions & to the world. Such a course we believe would be blessed to you and to Society: for if you were concerned to seek Him who loves an early sacrifice He would be found of you, and you would enjoy that peace which the world can neither give nor take away. Forsake not then dear friends, the assembling of yourselves together, however small your numbers or discouraging your situation, remember, that if we

are only gathered together in the name of Jesus, he will be in the midst of us He will teach us.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we believe that our worthy forefathers were led to adopt those precious testimonies which it is our privilege to maintain. To you beloved Friends, who have not yet taken up the cross in regard to plainness in speech, deportment, and apparel, we would address the language of exhortation and entreaty. Is this a time for our members to hold back - to stumble as it were upon the threshold of our courts? Is not the call sounded in your ears 'come ye up also to the help of the Lord'? The Society of which you are members has claims upon you, which your want of conformity to its testimonies prevents you from fulfilling. Say not that these things are trifles - if they be so suffer them not to stand between you and your duty. You know that, without an obedience in these respects you cannot become consistent members of our Society, or useful in the church. Be willing then even to appear, if need be, as fools for Christ's sake - and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds. Then dear Friends, will you be made willing to take up your daily cross in this way & to follow the Good Shepherd wherever he may lead you.

In regard to our testimony against Slavery, we desire that we may, in our treatment of those of the African race under our care, evidence that we are entirely free from any thing of its spirit: that more endeavours may be extended for their instruction, and that we may be encouraged to assemble them with our families in the commendable practice of the daily reading of a portion of the Holy Scriptures.

Seeing then dear Friends, that such are our apparent short comings, and conscious of many others, what need have we for renewed watchfulness ^{even} unto prayer. How should we seek for a qualification, to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. May we follow the leadings of that Holy Spirit which will guide us into all truth, even unto Jesus Christ our Saviour: and as we come to experience the blessed assurance, that we are accepted for His sake, and have peace with God through Him, we shall not only know an establishment ourselves, but also be made the humble instruments of establishing each other upon that Rock, which cannot be moved, even Christ Jesus the Rock of Ages.