

The end will soon come beloved Friends, when those who are found here on earth walking in the truth, will be joined with the Lord. The unspeakable joys which will then be theirs for an endless possession, ought surely to animate with the liveliest concern of heart, that we be found pursuing here, loving here & here delighting in that which will prepare us for our employment in heaven: & if in that home the Lord's redeemed & gathered children do find their highest occupation in ministering upon & ministering to Him, surely the same occupation should be their comfort & their perpetual endeavor here. Be faithful, therefore, in this respect we beseech you. Let not the world's interests, which perish with the using, keep you from that which perishes not with the using. Attend your meetings diligently, taking your families with you, & when there wait in spirit upon the Lord, who has promised to be in the midst of those who are gathered in his name. Be fervent & earnest for the blessing. Then will these seasons be found to be seasons of spiritual instruction, of enlargement in divine experience & heavenly refreshing.

The necessity of educating our children in accordance with our Christian profession, has been felt by us on this occasion to be a matter of very great importance. To train them up in the way that they should go - to guard them against evil of every kind - to exercise over them the due restraint of parental authority, in love & yet with firmness - to labour for their religious good under heavenly influence, teaching them in the spirit & with the ability that God giveth, & for this purpose to collect them in family retirement - these have been deemed by us as things calling for serious attention & performance. Dear Friends, may we never forget that upon the children must one day devolve the places which are now occupied by the fathers & the mothers, if the testimonies of our religious Society & its principles are maintained in the world, unless indeed, they being found unworthy, the almighty should raise up others out of our fold & give them inheritance to strangers. But do your part towards them. Feed them & guard them as those that must give account, & thus cleaning your own souls, you will likewise be instrumental in promoting the welfare of your offspring & in enlarging the borders of the Church.

In connection with this part of our exercises we have desired to encourage those of families who may have children under them needing mental instruction to keep alive in their minds the importance & advantage of placing them under the charge of suitable teachers who are members of our religious Society. Where this is practicable, we would exhort parents to its adoption, as that which would be likely to preserve their tender charge from many probable evils & at the same time bring them under an influence tending to gather them to the religion of their fathers.

We have at this time, removed had to consider & to appreciate the great

value & expediency of our Christian testimony against a ministry which demands & receives a pecuniary reward for its labors. We have been brought under exercise on this subject - & earnest has been our engagement that our members may be found true to our principles in this particular. We would affectionately caution them against weakening the good influence of this testimony upon the religious world. We may love all those of every name that love the Lord Jesus, & we may rejoice in the good that they do - but let us keep to our calling. This leads us to disown & not to encourage a ministry, which, while it asks compensation for its services, at the same time tends on occasions of public worship to fix the dependence upon man teaching, to the neglecting a net duty regarding the Lord's teaching, immediately by his Spirit. By giving attendance upon such ministry, or even upon that, which though it profess to be unpaid, is nevertheless in man's appointment & will, we yield the power of our testimony to the true nature of gospel preaching, which is, as we believe, to be under the immediate convincing, help, & direction of the Holy Spirit, to the exclusion of man's time & man's wisdom - that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory & dominion for ever."

Essay of Epistles to other Yearly Meetings now now offered by the Committee in that service, which being read & amended were approved, & our Clerk is requested to transcribe, sign & forward them as respectfully directed. And then adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Friends assembled.

Having been favoured to transact the affairs of Society, on the present annual occasion, which have come before us during our several sittings, in the unity & fellowship of the Gospel of Christ & under a sense of his help & favor, the Meeting concluded, to meet again at the usual time next year, if the Lord permit.

John P. Balderton  
Clerk This year