

We desire most earnestly but affectionately to urge Friends every where solemnly to reflect upon these things, and where there has been any departure from the long established usage of our religious Society under whatever pretext; that they pause and endeavor to realize the effects that must inevitably result therefrom. It is not to be expected that the great body of Friends can long remain passive if important and vital practices and usages of our Society which are essential to our prosperity as a people are neglected or violated.

It is the united sense and judgment of this Conference that whenever there has been a departure from the usages to which we have assented - where Yearly Meetings have refused to correspond with us to receive the official communicating addressed to them by other Yearly Meetings, that harmony and unity cannot be restored without a return to established order and usages.

Most affectionately do we desire to press these considerations upon Friends - The consequences are momentous - and earnestly do we crave that the blessed Head of the Church may be pleased to grant - that our brotherly intercourse, offend in that love which during the good and precious time of all, may be received and heeded - that the breaches may be healed - and that in the love and fellowship of the Chapel we may be joined to walk together in the light of the Lord.

To all our dear friends wherever situated who feel themselves placed under circumstances of peculiar trial in consequence of the present difficulties in our beloved Society, we would offer the expression of our tender sympathy and the words of brotherly encouragement; to be patient under their present sufferings, and manifold discouragements, and not to sustain their own will and time for an escape before the Lord be pleased to open a way for their relief. If you cannot always rejoice in hope yet endeavor to be "patient in tribulation," "continuing instant in prayer," "constantly endeavoring and make not haste in the time of trouble." Let nothing weaken your attachment to the cause of Christ, or your adherence to those precious principles and testimonies which have been handed down to us from our forefathers in the faith, and be very careful not tenderly to treat you that none of the things which surround you draw away your attention from the work of the Lord in your own hearts. Take heed to the convincing of the Holy Spirit and be faithful to His

teachings, that you may "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." "Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge, even the Most High thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

Whilst we have been deeply concerned for the welfare of our own members, we have not been unmindful of those in different Yearly Meetings, who have separated themselves from their brethren. Towards these we have felt drawn in much tenderness for their good. And we are engaged affectionately to encourage Friends in all their different meetings to cultivate towards them feelings of true Christian fellowship and love, that if it shall please the blessed Head of the Church, to draw their hearts to return to us, the arms of Friends may be open to receive them into the unity and fellowship of the Church - that we may be permitted to rejoice in the experience of that day when we can all take sweet counsel together, and go up in company to the house of the Lord.

And now, beloved friends, everywhere, with feelings of tenderness and affectionate regard, under a grateful sense of the goodness of our Heavenly Father, in condescending to be near us in this interesting and solemn occasion, uniting our hearts together and bringing us very near to each other in unity and love, we commend you to God, and the word of His Grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Signed by direction and in behalf of the Conference,
Elyah Coffin, Clerk.

Baltimore, Md. 12th of June 1849

Our brethren of Indiana Yearly Meeting, inform us in their Epistle of Correspondence, that on further considering the important concern, which led to the appointment of Committees to meet last year in Conference at Baltimore, in reference to the true state of our Society, with a view to the restoration of harmony and unity; they had united in the conclusion to continue their Committee to the service another year. On considering the proposal