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-tant concerns of society, as we believe, in the authority of the Tenth;
controlling our heads under a sense thereof, and bringing us near to
each other and uniting us in a measure of that love which is the
badge of discipleship.

Desiring to return thanksgiving and praise
unto Him to whom alone it is due, the Meeting concluded, to
meet at the usual time next year, if the Lord permit.

Richard H. Thomas

Clerk this year.

* From our Yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 21st
of the 5th month, to the 31st of the same inclusive 1851.

To the Several Yearly Meetings of Friends in America.

Dear Friends & Brethren:— In some renewed sense of the preciousness
of that fellowship which is in Christ, we offer you the expressions of our warm
desire that you may be all increasingly bound together as bodies and as
individuals in the unity of the one Eternal Spirit in which there is
strength, harmony and love. And may we also be permitted to know
an increase of the same blessed unity with you.

In the course of the last thirty years, the trials which have attended
our dear brethren in some of the Yearly Meetings on your Continent
have been brought distinctly before us. We also, beloved friends, have
not been wholly exempt from those trials which arise from a tenden-
cy to debarment in the Church, and hence we are, in some measure
prepared to sympathize with you. Your trials have been intro-
duced to our notice by your epistles, and by communications address-
ed to us from Meetings professing to be Meetings of Friends, of
the regular establishment of which we have not had information
from those Meetings with which we have been in regular correspondence.
We have thought it right to decline accepting the Communications
of such Meetings.

We believe that our early Friends were gathered together by the
Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the power of his love, he en-
abled them to bear a living testimony to His blessed truth, and
to make an open profession of the doctrines of his Gospel in their
spirituality, simplicity, and original purity. These doctrines are
precious to us, and if we depart from them, we do not expect to
be honored by the Lord. The unfaithfulness of individuals does
not invalidate the soundness of the principles; but we thankfully
acknowledge that we can recur to no period of our history at
which our Society as a body has departed from them.

Intimately connected with our religious Character, has been the
maintenance of our Christian discipline in accordance with what

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is set forth in the New Testament, and we are comforted in refer-
ring to the early acts and records of our body for the clear evidence
which they present that these principles are unchanged. The exercise
of the discipline towards the individual members in the care and
oversight one of another for good, has been brought about and con-
tinued by the holding of our Several Monthly, Quarterly, and other
Meetings for discipline, all in subordination to their respective Yearly
Meetings: An Epistolary intercourse between the Several bodies
was early introduced amongst us, and has been carried on to the
present time, under, as we believe, the renewings of light and
life from the Lord. Love and unity throughout the body have
been increased by this correspondence, and our Several Yearly
Meetings have thus been rendered a help and strength one to
the other.

How precious are true love and unity! Under their blessed influ-
ence a renewal of faith in Christ our holy Head is granted,
and living desires are raised for the advancement of His Spir-
itual Kingdom in our own hearts, in the Several meetings
of which we are members, among our brethren of the same
faith elsewhere, and in the world at large. Some Capacity
is thus granted to Churches to bear one another's burdens, to
rejoice with those who do rejoice, to weep with those that weep,
to sympathize with them in their trials, whether these arise
from persecution, from lukewarmness, from the love of the
world, from false doctrines creeping in unawares, or from
a departure from the true order of the Church. Unworthy
as we feel to speak of such an experience, we can reverently
and thankfully acknowledge, that in the love of Christ
such an exercise has from one time to another been granted
to us when assembled as a Yearly Meeting, and that even
when we have felt that we have great need to humble our-
selves before the Lord, under a sense of our unfaithfulness
to Him and to His holy cause of truth and righteousness.

Friends of this generation have been often permitted indi-
-vidually to feel the strength, the joy, and the privilege
of brotherly love and confidence—of an interest in the present
and eternal welfare of their fellow members wherever sit-
-uated. How conspicuously did the love and the unity of
the Spirit bind our early predecessors one to another,
brought together as they were, widely differing in education
in talents, and in their previously entertained religious views,
they were united in the faith and hope of the Gospel, and