

35¹ had previously joined in the Separation from the Yearly Meeting, and from Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, refused to acknowledge the authority of the Committee, and proceeded to transact their business, accepting and approving of the Minutes and proceedings of those who had Separated from the Yearly Meeting. After they left the house, a clerk was appointed, the report from Deer Creek Reparative Meeting read, and the Minute of our appointment read and recorded. The printed Minute of our late Yearly Meeting were also read, and other business transacted to satisfaction. It is thus sorrowfully apparent that one of the Monthly Meetings and a part of the other have Separated from the body.

In laying before the Yearly Meeting for its Consideration, the present Condition of Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, and the Meetings Composing it, we think it not amiss to pass in review the Condition and State of things within its limits for several Years past, showing up to the time of our last Yearly Meeting the working of a dividing and Separating Spirit, both within and beyond the limits of our Yearly Meeting, whose life seems to consist in a want of that humility and Charity which so eminently become the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1845, our Yearly Meeting decided that Thomas B. Gould and his associates were seceders from New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, and declined to have fellowship or Correspondence with them. Soon after this decision a spirit of insubordination was manifested in Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, to the judgment of the Yearly Meeting on that Subject, and its authority annually dishonored by the refusal to have read in their Women's Quarterly Meeting the copy of the Epistle received from New England Yearly Meeting, which was transmitted with copies of the other epistles received by our Women's Yearly Meeting, and sent to their Subordinate Meetings to be read for the information and edification of their Members, who had not enjoyed the privilege of attending the Yearly Meeting. This disorder was for Years the Subject of painful Concern to many of our Members, and private labor and entreaty were used for its removal, but without effect. No doubt this spirit of insubordination was kept alive and strengthened by the State of things within the limits of Ohio and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings, respecting the division in New England Yearly Meeting, and in the 10th month last immediately preceding our Yearly Meeting

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Thomas B. Gould, then just returned from Ohio Yearly Meeting, accompanied by Morris Cope, a Minister of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, attended Nottingham Monthly Meeting, and his presence was allowed by the reading of his Certificate, regardless of the judgment of our Yearly Meeting in 1845, and they afterwards attended the Meeting for worship at Deer Creek.

Thus unhappily the minds of many of the Members of Nottingham Quarterly Meeting became prepossessed to reject the authority of the Yearly Meeting, and to act in open violation of the discipline and order of Society. It will be remembered that Samuel Cope, brother of Morris Cope and three other members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, attended our last Yearly Meeting, and apostatized from Nottingham Friends in effecting a Separation from the body, and in their attempt to organize a Yearly Meeting under our name. Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Hugh Balderson,
John A. Thomas,
Margaret Cheston,
Sarah H. Janney.

10 Month 25th 1855.

In order that our Friends of Nottingham Quarterly Meeting may be assisted and advised at their next Meeting, we have concluded to continue the Committee appointed last year, to attend at that time and extend such advice and assistance as may be necessary.

They are and directed to report to our next Yearly Meeting.

The remote Situation of many of our Subordinate Meetings, and their stripped Condition, in many places, being now brought into view, and our minds being dipped into Sympathy for them, and a living Concern to promote their prosperity in the Truth, it was concluded to appoint a Committee of Men & Women Friends to visit our Subordinate Meetings and their Members as way may open for it, during the present year, extend such Counsel and help to them as they may be qualified to impart, and report to our next Meeting. Committee:

John Scott, Richard H. Thomas, Hugh Balderson, Francis T. King, Bond Valentine, John A. Thomas, Joseph King Jr, Ely L. Hayward, Aaron H. Griffith and Richard M. Janney.
Women's Committee: Margaret Cheston, Julia Valentine, Ann J. Matthews, Elizabeth T. King, Ann Schofield, Hannah Bates, Sarah H. Janney, Tracy E. King, Hannah Ann Tyson, Sarah Shedd.