

the corrupt conversation of the world; and they encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures.

4th Answer. - We believe that our testimony to a free Gospel ministry is maintained, with some few exceptions.

5th Answer. - Our testimony against distilled Spirituous liquors is maintained, with some exceptions. Frequenting taverns, and attending places of diversion, we believe, are avoided, and moderation and temperance are generally observed.

6th Answer. - The necessities of the poor are inspected, and occasion requires, relief is afforded.

7th Answer. - Friends maintain a faithful testimony against oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, lotteries and slavery, except some cases of payment in lieu of military service in one meeting. Those of the African race are suitably provided for, and care is taken to instruct them in useful learning.

8th Answer. - Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid engaging in business beyond their ability to manage, or engaging in hazardous or speculative trade, or defrauding the public revenue. They appear to be just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their engagements.

9th Answer. - Care has not always been taken to deal with offenders seasonably and impartially; when done, we believe it has been impartially, and care is taken to evince to those who will not be reclaimed the Spirit of meekness and love before judgment is placed upon them.

10th Answer. - None

11th Answer. - None

12th Answer. - Care is taken as far as practicable to place children for tuition under the charge of suitable teachers in membership with us.

The following Minute embodied the exercise of the Meeting during the consideration of the Queries:

As the life and prosperity of the Church consists in its nearness to Him who unto it is Head over all things, an earnest solicitude pervaded the Meeting, that all may perform, with willing hearts, the reasonable service of presenting our bodies before Him, a living sacrifice, waiting in adoring prostration of soul, for the Comforter whom He has sent to guide us into all truth, and to pour upon us the Anointing requisite to qualify for every work of our day. For this it was felt to be essential that the two commands, so like unto each other, upon which hang all the law and the prophets, be dutifully maintained. Loving the Lord with all the heart, we should love the assemblies of His people,

and the place where His honor dwelleth, and not merely attend religious meetings because we are concerned thus openly to confess our allegiance, but because we should know that all our springs are in Him, our Saviour and Redeemer, and that an hour spent with those who are truly gathered in His Name, where His presence in the midst is a certainty, a blessed reality, is worth more than any association for the purpose of earthly enjoyment. A living exercise of soul to seek first the Kingdom and the righteousness of heaven, will not admit of the neglect of a service acceptable to Him, in which the sincere seeker is not left merely to hope that perhaps His promise may be granted, but can rest upon the unequivocal assurance: "There Am I." When difficulties in the attendance of Meetings are surmounted in faith in our heavenly Father, and in the descending of His love, it will be found that He is rich in blessing, ready to hear and to help. Refreshment from His felt presence in the midst will be especially known at such seasons, and as the door of the heart is opened unto Him, He will come in, and the blessed communion will be experienced which constitutes the true Supper of the Lord.

A very solemn conviction prevailed that a preparation of heart should be observed for presenting ourselves before the Most High God, and that we should go to our Meetings prayerfully, desiring and seeking a blessing from Him whose hand is full of gifts, and who giveth as a King and as a tender Father, to those who as dear children, ask of Him in the confidence of true faith; remembering also that it is the hungry soul that seeks food and is fed by Him who will give meat in due season, and bread from heaven, which will nourish unto eternal life. So precious is the flowing of the Divine Life from vessel to vessel, when they are arranged in order for the service of the temple, that many a true worshipper can say as said the Psalmist: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up to the house of the Lord, to the mountain of the God of Jacob;" and being here taught, whether mediately or immediately, of His holy will, ability may be experienced, not only to walk in His paths, but even to run in the way of His commandments. The value was felt of a gospel ministry whose source is the Anointing, and whilst a high estimate was placed upon the preciousness of silent adoration, it was felt that worship consists in intercourse between the soul and its Creator, who for this purpose seeketh spiritual worshippers, it was also felt that if all were faithful, the Spirit's outpouring would render many more sons and daughters faithful in the field of vocal offering, making others with themselves joyful in the house of prayer.