

Speech, deportment and apparel, which the gospel enjoins. They endeavor to guard them against reading pernicious books and from the corrupt conversation of the world, and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures.

4th Answer. - We believe our testimony to a free Gospel ministry is maintained, except the occasional attendance of some of our members upon a paid ministry.

5th Answer. - All the reports note a few exceptions to our testimony against distilled spirituous liquors, most of them under care. Frequenting taverns avoided - some cases of attending places of diversion - moderation and temperance are generally observed.

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

7th Answer. - We believe Friends maintain a faithful testimony against oaths, military service, clandestine trade, prize goods, lotteries and slavery. Those of the African race under our care are suitably provided for, and they are instructed in useful learning.

8th Answer. - Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves 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 generally punctual in complying with their engagements.

9th Answer. - Care is mostly taken to deal with offenders seasonably and impartially, and care to those who will not be reclaimed the spirit of meekness and love before judgment is placed upon them.

10th Answer. - John Griffith, a member and Elder of Hopewell Monthly Meeting, Va, died 3d mo. 18th, 1870 aged 91 years, 6 months and 2 days.

11th Answer. - None.

12th Answer. - Care is taken as far as practicable to place children for tuition under the care of suitable teachers in membership with us. A successful school, taught by members, has been recently established in our monthly meeting.

During the investigation of the State of Society, the Yearly Meeting was brought into living exercise and earnest yearning for the true well being of our members, present and absent.

It is of vital importance that meetings for Divine Worship be diligently attended, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as alas! the manner of some is, and has been from the

Apostolic days. The blessing of the Lord attends the gathering of two or three in His name, nor is His presence less precious or less certain in the larger meeting if thus held. He will teach His people directly by His Spirit or through the instrumentality of His commissioned servants. May the Lord be pleased to qualify faithful laborers in place of the fathers who have been removed, and grant them dedication of soul to His service. If Friends hold all their meetings in the life and power of God, the people will be gathered and built up in the most holy faith; the careless will be reached; those who have been negligent in their attendance will be warmed by the love of God, seeking souls will be comforted, the body will be edified together, and a succession will be raised as it is written, "a seed shall serve me." We need a living, operating, justifying faith. In a patient waiting for Christ the soul will be satisfied with His Presence, when no words are spoken, and it will respond to a living ministry, that leads to the fountain and leaves us there.

When the prayer is heard, "Spring up, O well," the hearts of the people will be ready to rejoice in the bubblings of life from the river of God, which is full of water. Let a body can be exercised, that the Spirit be not quenched nor stifled, nor His gentle motions reasoned away. Faithfulness in the little, is a necessary preliminary for being made rulers over more. Sympathy was expressed for those who are troubled with wandering thoughts presenting themselves, together with holy aspirations. But our blessed Saviour is in the midst, and when we are thus beset, He will not deny our petitions, but will grant to those who ask, sweet communion; even the true Supper of the Lord. A remedy for listlessness of Spirit and for many hindrances to spiritual progress is to be found in true love of God and man; - the first, the second and the new commandment; - the evidence of having passed from death unto life. It is love of Christ that gives the spring to all our relative duties - love is the great antidote to evil, the best seal to be placed in our lips against tale-bearing and detraction; it soothes the heart in prayer, fills it with tenderness and excludes hatred and jealousy.

The importance was felt afresh of the testimony to a free gospel ministry, and our duty to hand down unimpaired to those who shall succeed us, the gospel liberty which our predecessors suffered much to acquire. If other men labored and we have entered into their labor, may we be favored to approve ourselves as faithful stewards of the manifold grace of God. A deep concern was felt that a vigilant guard be maintained against unprofitable reading. The primary duty of reading the Holy Scriptures being duly observed, we shall be better prepared to judge what other books may be pursued.