

14. The Queries were read and the following answers adopted to represent the present state of this Meeting

Summary of answers to the Queries

1st Ans. - All our Meetings for worship and discipline, have been held, except the Fifth Day Meeting, at Cedar Creek, in Virginia. Those on First Day mornings, were well attended by many Friends; those in the evening were not so well attended, and on Fifth Day they are very small. Unbecoming behavior is mostly avoided, and the order of Meetings generally observed, though our reports say, that some continue to be scrupled in this respect.

2nd Ans. Friends appear to maintain love towards each other becoming our Christian profession. Talk bearing and detraction are discouraged, and when differences arise, endeavors are used to end them.

3rd Ans. We believe, many Friends endeavor by example and precept, to bring up their children and those under their care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the plainness of speech, deportment and apparel, which the Quakers rejoice in. 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 Ans. We believe that our testimony to a free Gospel Ministry is maintained, except the occasional attendance of some of our members on a paid ministry.

5th Ans. We believe our testimony against distilled spirituous liquors is maintained, except in a few cases, to which care has been extended. Frequentering taverns is generally avoided, some few of our members having attended places of dissipation - moderation and temperance are generally observed.

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

7th Ans. Friends maintain a faithful testimony against oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, Lotteries, and slavery, (with one exception in our reports) Those of the African race in Friends' families, are suitably provided for, and they are instructed in useful learning.

8th Ans. 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 depending the public welfare. They appear to be just in their dealings, and generally punctual in complying with their engagements.

9. Ans. Care has not always been taken to deal with offenders seasonably, but we believe it has been done impartially, and in the spirit of mercy and love.

10th Ans. Daniel Spackman, a Member & Elder of Centre Monthly Meeting, died 3rd Mo. 26. 1871. aged 94 years & 9 days.

High M^{rs} Roy a member & minister of Jennings' Creek Monthly Meeting died 6th Mo. 5. 1871. aged 79 years 11 months & 17 days.

Daniel P. Haviland a member & minister of Bates Monthly Meeting died 8th Mo. 12. 1871. in the 63rd year of his age.

11th Ans. Patuxent Preparative Meeting was established 6th Mo. 1. 1871. and Patuxent Monthly Meeting 8th Mo. 17. 1871. in Charles Co. Md.

13th Ans. Friends are careful as far as practicable to place their children for tuition, under the care of suitable teachers, in membership with us.

During the reading and answering of the Queries the meeting was introduced into much religious exercise, and fishing on behalf of our members and subordinate meetings.

The first Query asks, how much are our meetings regularly held, but are we a worshipping religious people - are they held in life and power - are we building each other up - are we gathering unto Christ. The subtext of members should have nothing to do with our individual faithfulness and life, nor try to stimulate us to greater diligence. We fear too many of us are looking to others, and not to ourselves, to know what service the Lord has for us. He will bless and honor our faithful offerings in His name, even to a cup of cold water. We want more faith, more individual consecration - more promptness and decision in showing on whose side we are. Everything must be subordinate to a religious life.

We are especially concerned that our members be faithful in the attendance of laid-week meetings; it is a great preservation and strength to the man of business, or to the woman with her household cares, to break in upon the routine of daily life, and seek the presence of the Lord, and the comfort and strength, which there is in the fellowship of believers - these seasons under the effort, which they sometimes cast, are often specially blessed to us, and it soon becomes a privation to be absent on these occasions.

We have cause to return thanks to Him, who has said: "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another", as all our answers have come up clear upon love and unity. Ours, dear friends may we know more of this preciousness of the Christian fellowship, and not