

5th Answer. We believe that, with a few exceptions, Friends maintain our testimony against the use of all intoxicating liquors, and avoid smoking, houses and frivolous and demoralizing places of diversion.

6th Answer. The necessities of the poor are inspected, and when there is occasion for it, relief is afforded.

7th Answer. With a few exceptions, Friends' children are placed at school, and, when practicable, in schools under the care of Friends.

8th Answer. We believe Friends maintain a faithful testimony against oaths, military service, clandestine trade, prize goods, lotteries, and slavery.

9th Answer. Friends appear to be 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. We believe they are just in their dealings, and generally punctual in complying with their engagements, and, where any give grounds for fear in these respects, care is extended to them.

10th Answer. Offenders are not always dealt with seasonably; but, when done, it has been impartially, and in a spirit of meekness and love.

11th Answer. Aaron S. Luffick, a member and clerk of Hopewell Monthly Meeting, died second month 8th 1871, aged 74 years, 10 months and 28 days.

12th Answer. None.

21 Minute on the State of Society

In considering the present state of society within our limits, our hearts turn with much interest and feeling to our absent members.

The regular attendance of our religious meetings was brought to view by the reading of the first Lesson, and the injunction of our Saviour was recited: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." It is God alone who can keep and bless us. We cannot keep ourselves. All our spiritual and temporal blessings come from him. May we live in daily remembrance of him, and may our hearts be filled with gratitude and praise.

As this is our experience, we shall be regularly on our places at meeting. The value of these meetings is in the headship of Christ. Seeking full communion with him, as we wait on him in the silence of all Christ, we witness his power. He gives spiritual life, and qualifies and blesses according to our needs.

We praise the name of the Lord that he has given us this access to the throne of grace, and that he has removed everything but the mediation and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We gain little and lose much if we surround the context of our meetings to any other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

May we be apt to place our dependence upon the ministers, and look for their presence in the gallery to assure us that we are to have an interesting or profitable meeting.

Let us however, not forget that we have a testimony to a free gospel ministry. A church that is alive in Christ will have a living, baptizing ministry of converted men and women who have yielded themselves fully into the Lord preparing hearts, have received spiritual gifts from the Head of the Church, and who, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, exercise them in faithfulness.