

But without the devoted interest of each member it is impossible for the spiritual life of the individual or the church to be thoroughly developed, and we have therefore dwelt on the importance of these meetings and urge absentees to be present at them. It is a very serious matter not to accept what the Lord is freely and lovingly offering us, while it is within our reach, and on the other hand there is great joy and peace in what the Lord appoints. We were called to search our hearts before the Lord and not to rest satisfied with any attainment or condition we may have already reached. We were also told to seek that humble and reverent frame of mind which recognizes the needs of grace and blessing and to exemplify our principles in our daily lives. Free Gospel Ministry means not only the unbought ministration through individuals of the word which has been freely given to them, but the church has its part to do in giving a free opportunity of exercising such gifts as are bestowed upon its members, by the head of the church, untrammelled, save by what is necessary in the spirit of love and sympathy for the guidance of individuals and the welfare of the church. While we have rejoiced that love and unity prevail in all our meetings, we have been cautioned not to let the enemy get between us and our brother — may this caution extend to our intercourse with our neighbours and that each one may be a true witness for our Lord before all men. Most of the interesting questions embraced in our Queries claimed our attention especially that of Temperance. We rejoice at the rapid spread of Total Abstinence during the past year and we hope that our members will continue to labor zealously in this field.

- 14 The subject of supplying each family of Friends and individuals when it is thought advisable, with a copy of our Book of Discipline, claimed the attention of the Meeting, and our Representative Meeting was directed to make such distribution through the Monthly Meetings.
- 15 The erection of a Meeting House in the City of Washington was brought to the attention of the Meeting, and after some discussion the subject was referred to the following Committee who were directed to report to a future sitting, viz; Francis T. King, John C. Thomas, James E. Underhill, George L. Scott, James C. Thomas, and John B. Crosshair.
- 16 The following report upon changing the times of holding the Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Quarterly Meeting was carefully considered and united with and the Meetings therein named will hereafter be held accordingly.
"The Committee in reference to changing time of Baltimore Yearly Meeting also the times and places of holding Baltimore Quarterly Meeting, are united in proposing that the Yearly Meeting begin hereafter on the Seventh Day after the first second day of the eleventh month at 4 P. M., and that Baltimore Quarterly Meeting be held on the Third Second day in Third mo. at Baltimore, the second day in Sixth month at Des Creek

the second Second day in Ninth month at Hopewell all at 11 A. M. and the second Second day in Twelfth month at Patuxent at 10 A. M.

On behalf of the Committee

John C. Thomas

Julia Valentine

Then adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning in joint session with Women Friends

25th of the month and 11th of the week.

Friends met in joint session according to adjournment

- 17 The London General Epistle was read to our comfort and instruction and we appoint James Cary Jr., Miles White Jr., John R. Cary to have 800 copies of it reprinted for distribution among our members and others. We advise the reading of the Epistle throughout our Yearly Meeting at the close of a Meeting for worship.
- 18 The Pastoral Committee made the following report which was acceptable to the Meeting. They were encouraged to continue their service and to report to our meeting next year, our Treasurer was authorized to place \$300. at the service of the Committee for their necessary expenses. John C. Thomas, Joseph P. Elliott, and Richard H. Thomas were added to the Committee.

The Pastoral Committee report that regular monthly meetings of the Committee were held during the year, except from Sixth to Tenth month. They were enabled by this means to take a more careful survey of the needed work than ever before. Four Religious Meetings were held by the Committee in private houses during the winter in Baltimore. A series of Meetings was held at Ashton in 11th mo. 1881. That Meeting was also visited in the 7th, 8th, and 9th months of this year. A series of Meetings was held at Hopewell in the First month; two of our members also visited that Meeting in Fourth mo., two in the Ninth mo. and two early in the Tenth mo., each time several appointed Meetings were held. Bellefonte was visited in the Seventh mo. and five appointed Meetings were held. It was also visited in the Ninth mo. Dunning's Creek was visited in the Ninth mo. at the time of the Four Months Meeting, and two appointed Meetings were held. Black Creek and Somerton were visited in the Fifth mo. at the time of the Half Year's meeting, and several appointed Meetings were held. Washington Meeting was visited thirteen times; Patuxent in the Third and the Tenth mos. Monallen in the First mo. Besides the attendance of all these Meetings, considerable advice and encouragement was extended to individuals. The Committee feel that the Lord has blessed their labors to the conversion of sinners and the strengthening of believers.

On behalf of the Committee

James Cary Thomas

Mary S. Thomas