

Eighth — Friends maintain a testimony against oaths, military service, clandestine trade, prize goods, lotteries and slavery.

Ninth — 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 punctilious in complying with their engagements.

Tenth — Care is generally taken to deal with offenders seasonably, and when done, it has been impartial and in the spirit of amends and love.

Eleventh — Matthew Harris, an Elder and member of Black River Monthly Meeting died 11th month 27th 1852, aged 82 years.

Twelfth — Ann.

The attendance of our Yearly Meeting this year has been larger than usual, and the occasion throughout has been one of much interest and blessing.

It is a great privilege to come together from scattered neighborhoods and isolated homes, and as an organized Church, unite in building one another up in the most holy faith, in the exercise of the various gifts which our Blessed Lord has been pleased to bestow upon us.

We want our Yearly Meeting, and each particular Meeting to be a greater power in the Lord's hands than they now are; we rejoice that there has been an increased membership and more life and service in all our Meetings of late years, but let us not be satisfied with anything short of what the Lord himself would have us to be.

Each Friends Meeting should be a congregation of people holding out their hands to others to come and partake of the blessings which they enjoy who truly seek in the name and power of the Lord Jesus. If we recognize the privileges of believers in our Meetings and elsewhere, we shall have a united Church, and draw the old and young closely together in fellowship and service. We shall in this way develop spiritual gifts, harmonize the body of believers, strengthen and settle Meetings everywhere, and not depend too much for help upon others — not in our own strength, but in the ability which God gives, for the Lord Jesus is the living head of this our Church, for which He gave His precious life — and He is ever present to touch the lips of the speaker and move the hearts of the people.

The Meeting was much concerned that we should maintain our testimony to a free Gospel ministry, and the desire was expressed that our members generally should read the excellent article upon that subject in our Book of Discipline.

We were encouraged to labor faithfully on behalf of Total Abstinence and Peace, and to begin early to instill into the minds of our children sound views upon those important moral and political questions. We desire to raise the standard of education in all our families, and see that each child receives a thorough education, at a Friends' school, if possible. Our Committee on Education will be pleased to confer with parents in advising and assisting them to do so.

We commend to all our members, especially the young, the reports of the various committees upon religious and benevolent work published in the printed proceedings of the Yearly Meeting; also a careful reading and distribution of the London Annual Epistle. It is a great comfort and strength to us to know that love and unity continue to exist throughout our Yearly Meeting; may we be very watchful over our words and conduct to each other in love, seeking the unity of spirit in the bond of peace. This adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning to meet with our Friends in joint session.

14th of the month and 4th of the year
Friends met in joint session

16 The following salutation of loving remembrance from our dear Friend John Scott, of California, a valued minister of this Meeting for over 50 years, was read, and called forth a warm expression of feeling and sympathy. Our letters were directed to send him a copy of this minute:

Oakland, California
11th month 4th 1853

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends: — As the time of holding the Yearly Meeting approaches, my mind is drawn towards you in heartfelt prayer that the Yearly Meeting may be held in the power of God, and that each member may be in his true place, feeling the Lord's presence to be with him, harmonizing your spirits together and qualifying you to perform your duty to His praise, and honor, to the advancement of the Kingdom of the Blessed Redeemer on earth, and to the welfare of your everlasting souls.

May there be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and an ingathering of precious souls unto Christ's Kingdom, is the prayer of your aged brother, frail in body, but strong in faith in Him, who holds sustained me in my trench deep affliction and sustained it unto me.

In much love, your friend

John Scott.

17 The London Annual Epistle was read to our comfort and edification, and in order that its valuable truths and teachings may be enjoyed by our absent members and others, we appointed Mrs. White, Jr. and John R. Cary to have 800 copies reprinted for distribution.

18 The following satisfactory report was read from the Mrs. White Beneficial Association:

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Dear Friends: — In accordance with their Act of Incorporation, the Trustees of the Mrs. White Beneficial Association present the following report of their transactions for the past year:

Balance on hand to mo. 2nd 1852
Received for interest on Government Bond

2,149.17

How.

2,549.17