

Summary of Answers to Queries

First. — All of our meetings for Worship and Discipline have been held, and Friends generally have been punctual in their attendance. Some neglect of mid-week meetings mentioned in two reports.

Second. — Friends maintain love towards each other becoming our Christian profession, and when differences arise endeavors are used to end them.

Third. — Most 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 and simplicity of life which the Gospel enjoins. They endeavor to guard them against reading pernicious books, and from the corrupt conversation of the world, and they are encouraged frequently to read the Holy Scriptures.

Fourth. — We believe that our testimony to a free Gospel ministry is generally maintained.

Fifth. — With a few exceptions, Friends have maintained our testimony against the use of all intoxicating liquors, and have acceded drinking houses and frivolous and demoralizing places of diversion.

Sixth. — The necessities of the poor have been suspected, and, when needed, relief has been afforded.

Seventh. — Friends' children have been placed at school, and, when practicable, in schools under the care of Friends: except that the Virginia report says: "Some are not at school for lack of a school being in reach of them."

Eighth. — With some qualification, in one report, Friends have maintained a faithful testimony against oaths, military service, clandestine trade, prize goods, lotteries, and slavery.

Ninth. — 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. We believe they have been just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their engagements, with one or two exceptions, under care.

Tenth. — Care has generally been taken to deal with offenders seasonably; and where done, it has been

impartial and in the spirit of meekness and love.

Eleventh. — Rachel P. Brown, a member and Elder of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, deceased, 10th month 27th 1853, in the 82^d year of her age.

Elizabeth S. Miller, a member and Elder of Centre Monthly Meeting, deceased, 9th month 5th 1854, in the 56th year of her age.

Joseph J. Pleasants, a Member, and Elder of Richmond Monthly Meeting, deceased 2^d month 20th 1854, in the 88th year of her age.

Twelfth. — None.

As on many former occasions, our attention has been called to the importance of our meetings for worship. The attendance of them should not be a mere form, but an evidence of a walk with God, and of our trust in Him from day to day. The value of the week-day meetings is great — they are not a custom taken up by the Society of Friends, but are in continuation of the feeling, which was universal in the early church, that it was essential for Christians to meet at least twice in a week. Business men, in giving up a portion of their time to unite with their brethren in waiting upon the Lord, will find themselves better fitted for their business; and if the daily occupation, whatever it may be, is fully consecrated to Him, meetings will become a necessity, and the greater the pressure of work the greater the need of gaining spiritual strength.

The hour thus spent is a most important time in our lives. It should not only be a duty, but also a privilege thus to meet in communion with our brethren and with our God. Religion is for every day life, and the Lord needs business men as much as He needs the ministers.

It is true of all our meetings, and especially of those in the middle of the week, that they will not be attractive unless they are live meetings. If each believer gave himself up to the Master to be used by Him, as he sees fit, meetings would be more lively, and thus others would be attracted.

Those who are prevented from attending need sympathy and encouragement. All Christians should be living epistles, bearing in love the fitting word in the fitting place.

The love becoming our Christian profession is the one which fulfils the new commandment — a love which is not neutral,