

40 The Meeting proceeded with the consideration of the Queries. The summary answers were as follows.

Summary

Ans. 1. All our meetings for worship and discipline have been held and punctually attended, except two meetings for worship, and one for discipline, in Baltimore Quarterly Meeting, and four for worship in Virginia Half Yearly Meeting. All omitted on account of stormy weather. Those on First day morning have been attended by our members generally. Those on First day evening and some in the middle of the week have been neglected by many. Unbecoming behavior has been avoided with slight exception.

Ans. 2. We believe Friends maintain love towards each, becoming our Christian profession. Pale-bearing, and detraction are discouraged and when differences arise, endeavors are used to end them.

Ans. 3. We believe most Friends endeavor to bring up their children and those under their care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to encourage them in that simplicity of life with the Gospel scriptures. They endeavor to guard them against pernicious reading, and corrupt conversation, and they encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures.

Ans. 4. Friends maintain our testimony to a free Gospel Ministry agreeably to our discipline.

Ans. 5. With a few exceptions, Friends maintain our testimony against the use of all intoxicating liquors, and attending frivolous and demoralizing places of diversion.

Ans. 6. The necessities of the poor, and those who appear likely to require aid, are inspected and advice and relief are extended when thought necessary.

Ans. 7. Friends children, with one or two exceptions, attend school, and when practicable, schools under the care of Friends.

Ans. 8. Friends generally maintain a faithful testimony against oaths, military service, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries, and slavery.

Ans. 9. Friends generally 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 are just in their dealings and generally punctual in complying with their engagements.

10 Care has not always been taken to deal with offenders seasonably, but when done, it has been impartially, and in the spirit of meekness and love.

11 Deborah C. Thomas, a member and minister of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, died 7th Month 9th 1889, in the 72nd year of her age.

Nannah McCoy, a member and Elder of Dunning's Creek Monthly Meeting, died 1st month 23rd 1889, in the 76th year of her age.

John B. Crenshaw, a member and minister of Richmond Monthly Meeting, died 5th month 9th 1889, in the 70th year of his age.

12 None

As in former years, the importance of our meetings for worship and discipline has claimed our earnest and thoughtful attention, all meetings should be held in the power of the Lord, and under the guidance of His Holy Spirit. Our Lord authorized meetings for worship when He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." No ministers, no auxiliaries are necessary, it is only needful for believers to meet in His name, and this, the simplest organization possible, will be blessed by Him. The Society of Friends early recognized this, and the Church at large, as well as our own branch of it, will lose much if our testimony to this sacred truth be given up. In meetings held upon this basis, it is the privilege of the Church to offer opportunities for the exercise of individual gifts, which will be hindered, perhaps cut off, if our manner of meeting be changed. The success of Christian Endeavor Societies in other branches of the Church is largely due to the fact that every member is expected and invited to do something. These Societies fell after that freedom which has come to us as a birthright. The early Friends did not adopt this basis for meetings in a formal manner, it was the natural outcome of what they believed. If our meetings are held in the power of God, silence or vocal utterance will be in accordance with His will. We profess the doctrine of the priesthood of believers, and if we wish to perpetuate this doctrine, let us all be faithful; for on the faithfulness of individual believers in obeying the will of the Lord, and upon the faithfulness of the Church in affording the opportunity