

Meetings were left at liberty to have this Minute read at such times as they may deem suitable.

Dear Friends:—The work before us is great: the laborers are few. Therefore let us be constant and united in prayer, "that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified." As the power of God makes the hills, the grass, and the stream to show forth each their several beauties, so will He give us the ability to labor according to our individual gifts. His guidance is sure, but, in order to understand it, we must be obedient to that which He has already shown us. Every Christian has received some gift for service, and "as every man hath received the gift, even so let him minister as a good steward of the manifold grace of God." Let each seek to know what his gift is and to exercise it faithfully. To him that hath, shall more be given. Not only will the gift itself be enlarged, but more gifts will be bestowed. The children of the Lord are not to be like plants or trees, growing in an artificially arranged garden, where each is made to bear some unnatural shape, but our growth is to be healthy and natural, and in our gifts we are to show not sameness, but variety.

Used power is increased, unused power diminishes. Let us therefore encourage in ourselves, and in others, its manifestation, and despise no service because of its apparent insignificance. Those who have seen and heard the Lord, must tell out to others what they have heard and seen, otherwise, what they have learned is lost to the world. We are not all required to do great things, but all are required to be faithful.

We are to have faith in the Lord, who gives the message, and faith also in those who receive it. The temptation is to put too much trust in the preacher and too little in the congregation. The preacher cannot exercise the functions of a Church. He is but part of it. A perfect church is where every member has received and exercises some gift.

Beware, dear friends, of a root of bitterness springing up among you. No gifts in the service of God, no amount of activity in the Lord's work, can ever make up for a lack of love. When we allow feelings of selfishness, or of injured pride, or of wrath, to enter and remain in our hearts, we are in danger of becoming like Esau, who, for one morsel of meat, sold

his birthright. The question in these cases is not whether we have the right side of the matter under dispute. This is of secondary importance. The question is whether we will choose our own way, or the way of self-sacrifice and humility, with the Lord. If we are in this latter spirit, and are willing to forgive, we shall be able, when differences do arise, to find means of reconciliation.

Finally, let us bring all we have to the Lord, and covet earnestly the best gifts. Let us take heed to ourselves, and be faithful in that which is required of us as individuals, nor forbid others who may be called into a different line of service from ourselves.

On behalf of the Meeting

Jos P. Elliott

67 We have felt from session to session of the Yearly Meeting the presence and power of the Lord. Our hearts have rejoiced in the dedication of many of our members to the work before us; and we separate with the earnest expectation that the Lord will crown the coming year with his blessing.

We have now concluded to meet at the usual time next year, if the Lord permit.

James Carey Thomas.
Margaret M. Elliott.

Secrets.