

Removal of the yearly meeting from west river ¹⁸⁶ to the next yearly meeting This meeting Concluded under advice of Divine favour & a journey to the usual time at third haven

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Third Haven the end of the 6mo. 1781.

Representatives appointed to attend this Meeting from the Western Quarter are Mary Griffith Mary Parish and Rachel Schoolfield And from the Eastern Quarter Mary Berry Elizabeth Noth Sarah Edmondson Sarah Berry Jane Martha Edmondson Cassandra Forde Mary Kason Mary Brown & Mary Wilkinson who appeared except Rachel Schoolfield for whose Absence a satisfactory reason was given. Written reports were recd from each of our Quarterly Meetings in answer to the Queries Importing in substance as follows Vizt. That meetings for worship & Discipline are for the most part attended (except West River Herring Creek & the 11th mo. in the report from the Western Quarter from which they have had no accounts) the Hour nearly Observed, tho' some Deficiency appears in these Respects as well as a sorrowful increase of Drunkenness some no apparent breach of Unity, care appears to be taken by some to discourage backbiting &c. but a more earnest Labour to experience true Unity would be of Advantage. There appears a care on the Minds of Friends to bring up their Families according to the Direction of the 3rd Query, but Deficiencies appear particularly in respect to plainness of speech & apparel. A Degree of care is expressd respecting the fore part of the 6th Query, but a more fireworn respect conduct in regard to the latter part thought to be needful by the Eastern Quarter. The report from the Western Quarter says the Direction of the 6th Query is Observed in some Degree. And from the Eastern Quarter such as continue in the Use of the present passing currency, or buy goods now Imported cannot be said to be quite clear, tho' they believe remnant are careful in these respects. Deficiencies are expressd from both shores respecting the due observance of the 6th Query especially in the fore part. A care is expressd respecting the whole of the 7th Query from the Western Quarter, and from the Eastern Quarter respecting the excessive use of spirituous Liquors, & to discourage disorderly marriages, but Deficiencies in going to places of Diversion & Immorality & Temperance, both shores express bare respecting Certificates of Remission. And that friends appear to be clear of Buying and Selling Negroes. But a necessity for care respecting their Education is expressd from both Quarters. And a care in visiting Offenders is expressd, tho' one report intimates some unnecessary Delays.

^{inform} From the Eastern Quarter they that a visit hath been performed to the families of Friends ¹⁸⁷ Within the verge of one of their Monthly Meetings which was acceptable. And that the Extracts from the Minutes of our last Yearly Meeting are under notice. An Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in Philadelphia Dated in the 1st mo. last was read here to the satisfaction of Friends. Sarah Edmondson Mary Griffith & Rachel Matthews are Appointed to the said Epistle & produce the same to a future sitting of this Meeting. We then adjourned to Second Day Next at the Close of Meeting for worship. On the 6th mo. the Meeting met according to Adjournment, after a seasonable time of Silence Proceeded to Business, & the Representatives being called appeared as before. We were informed that the Necessary care has been taken respecting the Records & Minutes of this Meeting as directed last year. The friends Appointed to produce our Epistle of last Year to Friends in Philadelphia as a copy of the Philadelphia Epistle to each Quarterly report that they complied with that Appointment. Two Epistles sent from the Mens Meetings one the 11th mo. last from London dated in the 5th mo. 1780 the other from Philadelphia dated in the 9th mo. last were read here to the comfort of Friends. Then the Meeting adjourned to 15th Day next at the 9th Hour, and in the mean time to meet with Men friends to consider the expediency of Removing the Yearly Meeting from West river.

On the 6th. Ulk. the Meeting met near the time. Adjourned to the Representatives present as before, & after a time of Silence the Clerk Read the following Minute Concerning the result of Yesterday Vizt. "The Minute of last Year respecting the Consideration of the Expediency of Removing the Yearly Meeting from West river being read and Solidly Considered in conjunction with our Men friends, it was agreed to hold the next Yearly Meeting at this place, & at that time to resume the further Consideration thereof, & it is the Unanimous sense of Friends to Discontinue the Yearly meeting heretofore held at that Place." The Printed Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London was now read to the comfort & Satisfaction of Friends.

The friends appointed to prepare an answer to the Philadelphia Epistle Produce one which was read Approved & Signed by the Clerk, who is Directed to Transcribe & forward same to each Quarterly Meeting. Mary Berry & Sarah Parish are appointed to send copies of the Philadelphia Epistle to each Quarterly Meeting. We then adjourned to the 2nd Hour after noon. Pursuant to adjournment Friends again Assembled & Proceeded to Business. On reading the answers sent up from the Quarterly Meetings there appeared Deficiency in our Monthly Meetings with respect to Maintenance of our Christian Discipline & a slackness being apparent in the attendance of our Superior Meetings, as well as sorrowful Complaints of Drunkenness, & some of our Youth following the vain fashions & corrupt conversation of the world, There rests a Concern on many Minds, earnestly to