

26 of our members who last year became involved in the steps then taken by the body with whom we have been in religious association, having formed a connection with the Separatists.

Soon after the close of the late Yearly Meeting the committee taking into view, the peculiar and unprecedented nature of the trials to which we have been subjected, in connection with the consideration that many of our members were not personally present to witness the occurrences which transpired during the sittings of the Yearly Meeting. They addressed an affectionate Epistle to our members, which was forwarded to the several neighbourhoods of Friends from which we extract the following.

It was our earnest desire at the late session of Yearly Meeting, no step might be taken which would dissolve the bond of union amongst us. With such views and feelings we continued to meet with our friends, until at the suggestion, and by the direction of those who have departed from the ancient doctrines and discipline of our religious Society; a minute was made which goes to acknowledge their

fellowship and unity with those who had ~~with~~^{drawn} from connection with the ancient Yearly Meetings of Friends on this continent, and established meetings of their own contrary to the order of our religious society. But having thus manifested their determination to identify themselves with the Separatists, we feel ourselves constrained for the due support of our christian discipline and the precious doctrines of our holy religion, as well as to maintain our brotherly connection with the ancient Society of Friends, to must select from those who have thus departed from our regular order, and to hold Baltimore Yearly Meeting agreeably to its original institutions as part of the great body of Friends. We would earnestly call your attention to the propriety of acting with decision. The cause is not alone ours, generations yet to come are interested in it. And we ask, is it not time to come out from amongst those from whom we differ in religious sentiment? Remember our blessed Lord's declaration, "he that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."