

1889

64

Minutes
of
Advice
Continued

others who are out of the way.

In this life of communion with God we shall know every day the fulfillment in our experience of the word "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." This rest does not in any degree imply laziness, for it is realized in every work to which He calls us.

We have been reminded of the importance of being able rightly to divide the word of truth, so that we may not, through inadvertence, be found to be teachers of unsound doctrine. To this end, let us frequently and carefully study the Holy Scriptures. If our Society today would take example from the early Friends, we should have at this time writings as well adapted to the needs of this generation as theirs were to the age in which they lived. But true unity does not exist only in agreement of opinion; for there is no true unity out of Christ. It is very possible for a man to hold correct views on most points, and yet fail

65

1889

Minutes
of
Advice
Continued

in the great essential of daily living. It is the life hid with Christ in God, the daily following of His guidance, exercising the gifts that He has given, that will make our Christian life a blessing to those around us. Let us be very careful how we claim that the views we hold as individuals are absolutely correct. We can but testify to that which we, through the Spirit, have seen and heard; but we are ever to advance to greater and greater knowledge.

Our meetings for worship give liberty for the exercise of the gifts of all those who have been called in them to give vocal utterance of any kind. Let us be careful that this liberty be not interfered with, either by any one person being given or assuming control of a meeting, or by allowing a prejudice to take possession of our minds that only a certain kind of vocal service by persons in official position in the meeting is to be expected. The first