

1891

90

Minutes
of
advice.

which was intended to draw you closer to Him, and make you more fruitful may through unbelief or impatience put you from Him.

We believe that a better day is coming for Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Let each of us occupy until The Lord comes, and ask ourselves continually, not "how little," but "how much may I do?" The strength of our Society in the work of the Lord lies largely in its recognition of the importance of individual life, and in the variety that this recognition allows in the development of character and service in each believer. In this variety we are to maintain unity in aim and service, not seeking our own, but the Lord's glory and will.

Attendance at our regular meetings has much to do with the efficiency of the work. In these meetings the Lord speaks to the heart, either directly or through His disciples. There is place not only for large gifts, or gifts exercised in one particular way, but for small gifts as well, and for great variety of service. Do not be satisfied with the desire that messages may be given on those occasions, but be ready to be the ones to deliver them. When a message is given to anyone, it should be delivered naturally and as

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briefly as the subject will allow. Often by too long a discourse we as effectually interfere with the gifts of others as though we intentionally suppressed them. On the other hand, we may interfere with the right exercise of others by our own unfaithfulness. Guard against any arrangement or artificial standard of propriety which interferes with true freedom in our meetings for worship. Let vocal prayer also be direct and as short as possible, and in a reverent spirit. During vocal prayer the attitude of those who are present should show by outward position their reverence for the Being who is addressed.

Our meetings for worship, our meeting-houses, our positions in our religious Society, are none of them ends in themselves, but means for the advancement of the Lord's cause. In encouraging the gifts of our members, let us endeavor to help them to develop symmetrically. Preaching, prayer exhortation, singing and personal work have their legitimate places, but we earnestly desire that all may be exercised under the guidance of the Lord, and that none may unduly overshadow the rest. There is an especial danger in this in singing, where we use the words of another. Let us be careful not to allow this to interfere with the spontaneous utterance in fresh words of what is given us to say.