

1895

134

A summary of the exercises during the reading of the Queries in the first session of this meeting was presented and read, and it was directed to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting. It is as follows:

## EXERCISE OF MEETING ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT.

We have remembered the words of our Lord: "Give, and it shall be given to you." If we desire strength for ourselves, let us give what we have of courage, hope and enthusiasm to help others. Words of criticism or discouragement tend to hinder the good work, and are deadening to our own spiritual life. Let us rather invite others to partake of the good things we have, and all shall be cheered and edified together. Many are hungering for a better experience who would gain hope and inspiration by hearing what the Lord has done for us. Let us tell them that their hunger and thirst after righteousness can be filled; that they may realise the blessing of sanctification and holiness of life themselves, and be made in their turn the means of helping others. May the conscious presence of the Holy Spirit be so felt in our hearts and meetings that the spirit of criticism may have no place!

The promise to faithful Abraham, "I will bless thee and make thee a blessing," is equally applicable to all who are faithful. No blessing is received for ourselves only. It is intended to go out in ever-widening circles. We should therefore be watchful for opportunities to help others—to impart to them some of the good things we have learned in the school of Christ. The heart grows rich by giving.

The injunction to Peter upon his thrice-repeated declaration of love for the Good Shepherd was, "Feed My lambs;" "Tend My sheep;" "Feed My Sheep." (R. V.) Of these two offices, Peter, in his 1st Epistle, v. 2, dwells especially on tending, saying, "Tend the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof," etc. It is not enough to set food before the sheep—they must be looked after. Some one must have a care and oversight over them, and go after those who may be straying off. Even a child can often be used in this service; he can perhaps see danger and utter a warning cry, as well as those who are more advanced. Some again may need a word of encouragement or of comfort. Unfaithfulness in tending the sheep is often due to a lack of humility and a fear that our word of warning may be rebuffed. Let none think they have no qualifications for this service. Even trials, troubles and temptations are qualifications to help those who may be passing through similar experiences.

"God resisteth the proud;" He comes in conflict with self-will; He demands an unconditional surrender; "but He giveth grace unto the humble."

May the Lord help us ever to uphold both the Divinity and the humanity of our blessed Saviour, who was not only a perfect man, but also equal with God, and therefore a complete and pure offering for the sins of the whole world.

135

1895

Closing  
Minutes.

Now in closing, we want to record our sense of the blessing we have received as we have mingled together, and we desire to commit ourselves afresh to the Lord, asking for his guidance and strength and grace in our work the coming year. Then concluded.

D. P. Elliott

Clerk.