

326
myself of the request to submit in writing my
Verbal Statement relative to the exemption of
"Friends" from Military Services.

The Constitution of Maryland, Declaration of Rights,
Art 36, declares, "That it is the duty of every man
to worship God in such manner as he most acceptably
to Him, all persons are equally entitled to protection
in their religious liberty, wherefore no person ought
by any law to be molested in his person or estate,
on account of his religious persuasion or profession
or for his religious practices".

The views of Friends upon War, offensive and defensive,
have been a fundamental part of their religious "profession
& "practice". Since the origin of the Society, the world
over, and any violation of that testimony leads to the
disavowment of the members.

The Laws of Maryland, Chap 414, Sec 1, under
the head of Military, exempt those "who are exempted
by the laws of the United States"—

Art 11, Sec 104, Laws of the United States, 38th Congress
declares Friends to be "Non Combatants"—

This age of religious toleration is marked by the
removal of disabilities from all religious bodies, and
I feel sure that Maryland which has an honorable
record in this line in the past, will not now take a
retrograde step — Signed

Thy friend,

Francis T. King.

327
The Committee to prepare a short tract on the subject
of Worship for general distribution was continued.

The Committee to co-operate
with Friends of Other Yearly Meetings in efforts on behalf
of the Indians, reported the Minutes of a Conference, which
assembled in Baltimore, 1st mo. 1869 - which were directed
to be placed on our Minutes. The Committee was continued

Minutes of the Conference.

At a Conference of Representatives of Seven Yearly Meetings of the Society of Friends, held by appointment on the
20th of First month, 1869, to take into consideration our Christian duty in the present condition of Indian affairs, the following
Friends were present:

On behalf of

Ohio, Indiana, Western, and Iowa Yearly Meetings—

JOHN BUTLER,

ENOCH HOAG.

New England Yearly Meeting—

WILLIAM C. TARKER,

GEORGE HOWLAND, Jr.

New York Yearly Meeting—

GILBERT CONGDON.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting—

WILLIAM WOOD,

WILLIAM B. COLLINS,

ABRAHAM TARKER,

BENJAMIN TATHAM.

RICHARD M. JANNEY,

FRANCIS T. KING,

JAMES CARY,

JAMES C. THOMAS.

BENJAMIN TATHAM was appointed Clerk.

JOHN BUTLER and ENOCH HOAG informed the conference that they had received from Senator POMEROY, of Kansas, a copy
of the Bill presented by him to the Senate, and that he desired it should be examined by the members of the conference for such
suggestions as may appear to them desirable. The Bill was accordingly read, and referred to a Committee of six for examination
and report.

The attention of the conference was called to the Report of the Joint Special Committee of Congress and that of the Indian
Peace Commissioners and other documents relating to the condition and treatment of the Indians; and after discussing this subject,
it was decided to address a memorial to Congress to urge that sufficient provision be made to insure justice and protection to the
Indians, and for their civilization. A Committee of seven was accordingly appointed to draft an essay, and present it to a future
session. The conference then adjourned to 8 o'clock, P.M., at which time it met.

The Committee appointed to examine the bill of the Senator from Kansas to erect a department of Indian affairs, reported
that its provisions were generally approved, but that some parts of it appeared to require modification. The several clauses were
then read, and the Committee was requested to inform Senator POMEROY of our views in accordance with his request.

The Committee on the memorial presented an essay, which was read and referred back for amendment. The conference
then adjourned to half past 9 o'clock on the 21st instant.

1st mo., 21st. Conference assembled. The Committee presented a draft of memorial to Congress, which was read, and after
revision, adopted, and a committee was appointed to have 100 copies printed for presentation to Congress and for distribution in
our meetings.

It was then proposed, and after careful consideration, agreed, that an address to our fellow-citizens should be prepared,
setting forth the treatment and condition of the Indians, and our individual responsibility in reference to it, and to this service a
committee of six was appointed.

In order to allow time for members of the conference to proceed to Washington, to urge upon members of Congress this sub-
ject of our concern, the convention adjourned to the evening of 21st day, 23d, when it again convened. The Friends who had been
to Washington, reported that they were kindly received by several Members of Congress and others interested in the objects of our
meeting, and that arrangements had been made for an interview with the Committees of both houses of Congress on Indian affairs
in a joint meeting for that purpose; and also for a meeting with General GRANT, to take place on the 25th instant.

The Committee on the public address presented an essay which, upon a subsequent meeting was agreed upon, and referred
for completion and publication in pamphlet form, and in the public press. It was agreed that 10,000 copies should be printed and
distributed as follows:—for Iowa, Indiana and Ohio, and New York yearly meetings, each 1500 copies; Western and Baltimore,
each 1,000 copies and New England 2,000 copies. It was also agreed that the publication in the public press should be left to Friends
in their respective neighborhoods.

On 2nd day, evening, the conference met pursuant to adjournment, and the following Report was submitted to be entered on
our minutes.

We met the Committees of the two houses of Congress as previously arranged. Our memorial was read and the object of our
interview freely discussed. General HARNET, who had recently arrived from the scene of his peaceful operations with the Great
Sioux Nation, numbering 28,000 individuals, was present, and fully confirmed the position assumed by the Indian Peace Commission-
ers, that it is easier, better, and cheaper to conquer the Indians by kindness and justice than by all the forces of unmerciful war.

We then called upon General GRANT, and were introduced by Senator WILSON, of Massachusetts. After stating the object of
our visit, to which he listened with respectful attention, he informed us that he was familiar with the past management of Indian
affairs, and sensible of the injustice to which they have been subjected,—and he expressed his views sufficiently at length to show
that he desired, so far as he could, to remedy the abuses of our Indian system.

We then called upon the Committee on Appropriations, and had a satisfactory interview with a prominent member of that
committee, who explained some of the difficulties which surround the subject. He assured us of the desire of Congress to have the
money, to which the Indians were entitled, faithfully applied for their benefit; and he expressed the confident belief that if the
Society of Friends, or any other religious or benevolent association, in whom Congress could feel confidence, would establish mis-
sions amongst the Indians, and send competent and reliable persons to instruct and aid them in the arts of civilized life, Congress
would appropriate all the money necessary to that end.

Upon a review of the facts now reported, it is the judgment of the Conference that full information should be given to the
members of all our Yearly Meetings, so that any right concern to labor in the field which has thus opened before us, may be
encouraged and carried out. And it is our united belief that the remuneration of the agents and representatives of our Religious
Society should be defrayed by the society, and not diminish the Indians' funds.

We feel that in assembling together for a common purpose, we have been favored with harmony, and a sense that it has been
good for us thus to meet.

And now, under a sense of our own weakness and inability to labor in the vineyard of our Lord, except as called and aided
by His Holy Spirit, we separate in mutual love, and with desires that each of us shall faithfully attend to every duty that may open
before, and be laid upon us.

Signed, on behalf of the Conference,

BENJAMIN TATHAM, Clerk.

BALTIMORE, 1st mo. 25, 1869.