

And now my friends there are three Epistles bearing on them the marks of brotherly affection which I am willing to own. I am willing now to leave the subject and I want us to be sober,--to be vigilant. I want each of us in giving our judgment neither to be awed by threats nor swayed by favours. Combinations of men cannot lead out of vice nor into truth. But though Societies cannot of themselves give strength yet association is for mutual help and when conducted under the influences of the Spirit and power of the Gospel it is conducive to edification, comfort and strength as we have been permitted through divine favour, abundantly to experience. But our Society is not one of those combinations which have been got up to support creeds and dogmas, for creeds and opinions of men never have been & I hope they never will be introduced into this society as a fundamental part of our religion. We know that attempts of this kind have been made and it has been stated in this meeting that we have a creed, but what is a creed? If I understand what a creed is, it is a confession of faith agreed to by men and imposed upon the minds of the community by those who govern. Such a creed we have never had. We have never been taught to own as fundamental any other creed than that which is infused by the living God into the soul of every individual. I am willing now to return to the first proposition--whether the Epistle from friends of Philadelphia shall be received and whether we can acknowledge them as brethren or not? For my part I can.

A very general expression of unity with friends of Phil^a and with the propriety of answering their Epistle was now expressed. A committee was next appointed to answer the three friendly Epistles [viz.] The one from Indiana, that from Phil^a and the one from New York.

4th day afternoon. The report from Fairfax Quarterly Meeting which proposed that elders and members of the Meeting for sufferings should be appointed for a limited time came up as a part of the unfinished business of last year.

At the instance of Edward Stabler the subject was referred to the consideration of the representatives who were desired to report to a future sitting of this meeting.

Hugh Balderston now rose and said that he was convinced by the request made for the committee on the Treasurer's A/C to take into consideration the propriety of appointing a new Treasurer, and by the fact that the quotas from the Q. Meetings had not yet as usual been paid into his hands, that he was not agreeable as Treasurer to at least a part of the meeting.

He would be better satisfied if the instruction should be given to the committee. Jeremiah Brown observed that he considered this busi-

ness as settled. Several others expressed satisfaction with the conduct of Hugh Balderston as Treasurer and he was continued in the office.

Edward Stabler proposed that the Epistle which was produced to a former sitting by the representatives should be again referred to them with instructions to alter or amend it as they might see proper.

Thomas Ellicott thought it ought not to be committed again to the representatives because they had already expressed in regard to it a unanimous sentiment. But he did not see the necessity of such a document.

In reply it was stated that the case was somewhat different since the Epistles from the Yearly Meetings had been read, and the representatives were as capable as any others of seeing this difference.

The proposition of Edward Stabler prevailed and the representatives were clothed with power to alter, amend, or suppress the Epistle as they might see best.

A proposition was now made and agreed to to adjourn to the next morning, but before the clerk could read the concluding minute

James Gillingham observed that it was now obvious this meeting had separated itself from the Society of Friends, and he proposed that all who were in favour of holding Baltimore Yearly Meeting on its original foundation should meet the next morning at 9 o'clock at the McK School House.

Hugh Balderston followed James Gillingham. He stated that they (this party) were forced to take this step, and called upon the meeting to notice the circumstances. He repeated the proposition made by James Gillingham and requested all those who were in its favour to keep their seats until the close of the present sitting to prevent any disorder.

At the close of the present sitting the meeting of the women friends was still in session.