

Tenth Month 30th.  
(The following is a draft of an Epistle to other Yearly Meetings.)

The Meeting having been brought under great exercise on account of the circumstances developed in the information contained in the Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings of the dissensions among the members of our Society beyond the limits of this Yearly Meeting, and the excommunications promulgated in the form of charges against those who have hitherto been considered by us as brethren baptized by the same spirit into the same body,--has not seen its way to respond to the charges emanating from meetings possessing the same extent of powers with itself but over whose acts it can have no supervision or controul.

Believing as we do that each Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends constitutes of itself a body possessing not less of right than from necessity, all the powers of self-government, we neither claim the right to controul the judgment nor to animadvert upon the proceedings of others; nor can we, upon the same principles, recognize the right or the power in them to controul or prescribe rules for our conduct.

This Meeting has not considered itself called upon either to advance any new principles of Faith or to expound those principles which constituted the bond of union among its members since the first establishment of the Society; under a belief that these principles are well known not only to our Members but to the well informed portion of all Christian denominations throughout the world; and we are persuaded that if Friends in all sections of the Country where discord and disunion have appeared will settle down into that state of quietude where only true wisdom is to be found and ask counsel of him who "giveth liberally and upbraideth not" they may yet experience of the assurance of that blessing which is reserved for the righteous from the foundation of the world..

The Clerk was directed to forward to the several Yearly Meetings from whom Epistles have been received at this time a copy of the above Minute signed on behalf of this Meeting." Pp. 124, 125.

State of Society, 1929.

"The circumstances in which we are now placed call for great circumspection and care over ourselves and over each other. Our blessed Lord and Master when he inquired of one of the Disciples, "Simon, lovest thou me?", etc., (made love the basis of our union.) We should "experience for ourselves individually an increase of the knowledge and peace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Pp. 138, 139.

A lengthy printed epistle directed to constituent meetings and members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting used expressions:--

"Obedience to the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"The only Shepherd and Bishop of his Church, our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

"Charges that we deny the Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, however strenuously urged, and however often reiterated, are nevertheless unfounded. We believe what is written in the Scriptures concerning Christ, both as to his outward manifestation in the flesh and in relation to that Divine Principle of Light and Truth in man, which in Scripture is called 'the Christ'". P. 127.