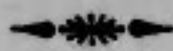


III

To the meeting for sufferings in Virginia

At the Meeting for Sufferings, held in New-York, the 6th of the 7th Month, 1829.



The Monthly Meeting of Westbury and Jericho, communicated to this meeting, by its minute of the 20th of the 5th Month last, its apprehension, that in consequence of the great extent to which the doctrines and opinions of *Elias Hicks* had spread, and the reproach thereby brought upon the society of Friends, that its testimony issued against him required further publicity.

The proposition was deliberately considered, and united with: and in order to communicate this information to our members, the clerk of this meeting was directed to furnish a copy of the said testimony of disownment, to each of the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings, within the limits of this Yearly Meeting.

Extracted from the Minutes of said meeting,

SAMUEL PARSONS, Clerk.



The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Westbury and Jericho against Elias Hicks and his Doctrines.

Elias Hicks, has been, for many years, in the station of a Minister in our Religious Society, and formerly well approved amongst us; in which character he has travelled extensively, and obtained great influence with the members of the Society: but for want of abiding in a state of humble watchfulness, in which, by the power of divine grace, he would have been preserved in the Truth, he has become exalted in his mind, and giving way to a disposition of reasoning, has indulged in speculative opinions; asserting that we must always take things rationally; and that we are not bound to believe any thing we do not understand. Thus declining to be restricted within the limits of the christian faith, he has refused to yield his assent to religious truths which he cannot comprehend; and has imbibed and adopted opinions at variance with some of the fundamental doctrines of the christian religion, always believed in, and maintained by the Society of Friends; denied the existence or influence of an evil spirit on the mind of man, distinct from his natural propensities; and has, in this state, entertained doubts of many of the important truths declared in the Holy Scriptures; especially as relates to the fall of man, and his redemption by Christ; and, in consequence, to call in question the divine authority of a great portion of the sacred writings, and even the authenticity of some parts thereof.

He has extensively promulgated his views in conversation, in writing, and in his public communications, endeavoring to destroy a belief in the miraculous conception of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, undervaluing the miracles wrought by him; and asserting that he was but a man, as liable to fall into sin, and lose his condition, as the rest of mankind; that he was on a level, and in a state of equality with them; an Israelite endued with a measure of divine grace, in common with the children of Abraham, and that the principal end of his coming was limited to the Jews.

And as he has denied the divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, he has totally rejected a belief in his holy offices, his propitiatory offering for the redemption of mankind; and has denied His resurrection and ascension into heaven, asserting that his body returned to the earth, where it will rest with our bodies to all eternity, and moulder into its mother dust. He has also denied His mediation and intercession with the Father as plainly set forth in Holy writ.