

Under the specious and captivating pretence of increased spirituality, and advancement in light and knowledge beyond our primitive Friends, and even beyond the apostles of our Lord, he has insinuated his unsound opinions into the minds of many of the members of our Society, particularly within the limits of our own Yearly Meeting, and that of Philadelphia; and having gradually prepared them to receive his views, he has induced great numbers to embrace them; and has at length become the leader of a sect, distinguished by his name, yet, unjustly assuming the character of Friends; which first separated from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia in the 4th month 1827, on the ground of difference in doctrine, as they state in their printed address. They held a separate meeting in that month, and in the 6th and 10th months following; and also in the 4th month, 1828; which last meeting Elias Hicks attended, gave it his countenance, and received a minute of its unity with him and his services.

In the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New-York in the fifth month following, he encouraged and supported a large number of those Separatists in their intrusion into said meeting; many of whom had been regularly disowned from the Society; yet he manifested his full unity with them, and with their meetings; and also took an active part with his followers in their disorderly and tumultuous proceedings; and continued in connection with those of similar views, in holding a separate meeting, which they called a Yearly Meeting. Since that time he has travelled into Ohio, Indiana, and elsewhere, encouraging his followers in holding meetings in different parts, in opposition to the order of our society.

His erroneous opinions published to the world, under his own signature, and also in his printed sermons, which he has acknowledged to be generally correct, are recited and testified against, in the epistle and testimony of our last Yearly Meeting held in New-York, and in the declarations and testimonies of the Yearly Meetings of Friends in Philadelphia, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio and Indiana; who are also supported therein by the testimony of the Yearly Meeting of Rhode Island, and the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of London: hence it is evident, that Friends of all these Yearly Meetings remain united together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

For a number of years past, many of his friends have been deeply exercised on his account; and have been concerned from time to time tenderly to admonish and warn him; but he being in a confident state of mind, their admonitions have not had the desired effect: and the support which he received from many of his adherents, prevented the timely exercise of the discipline in his case, especially in the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of which he was a member: but the separation taking place at our last Yearly Meeting, and this Monthly Meeting being now in a situation to extend the necessary care therein, the same has been duly attended to, according to the order of our Society, to convince him of his errors; which having been in like manner rejected by him; it becomes our incumbent duty for the clearing of Truth, and our religious Society from the imputation of his unsound opinions, and the reproach thereby brought upon it, to testify and declare, that they are not, nor ever have been, the doctrines of the Society of Friends: and as we can have no unity with them, nor fellowship with him therein, we do hereby disown him, the said *Elias Hicks*, from being a member of the religious Society of Friends: desiring, nevertheless, that through the convictions produced by the operation of the Holy Spirit, he may be brought to a sense of his errors; and through sincere repentance, may obtain that salvation which is freely offered through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Westbury and Jericho, held at Westbury the 29th of the 4th month, 1829.

By VALENTINE WILLETS, Clerk.

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

The meeting was led into a consideration of the situation of Friends, in the different parts of the Yearly Meeting, apprehending that there are instances in various places, of the families of Friends being unprovided with the Holy Scriptures: and it considers it to be its incumbent duty, to take the necessary measures to carry into effect the concern of the Society, that all our members may have the privilege of perusing and profiting by their invaluable contents; a duty so pressing and enjoined and repeatedly enforced upon Friends in the advices of the Yearly Meeting.

The deliberation of the meeting, resulted in requesting the Quarterly Meetings to direct their Monthly Meetings to make a particular investigation, by appointment in each of their Preparative Meetings, to ascertain whether every family of Friends within their limits, is furnished with the Bible.

And should any Quarterly Meeting find its means insufficient to provide for the deficiencies which may exist, it is recommended that it give information to this meeting, in order that means may be used to supply all our members, who may be destitute of the Sacred Word.

Extracted from the minutes of said meeting,

SAMUEL PARSONS, Clerk.

*Mary Jane Bates
Esteemed Friend
Flushing Sat. 12 of 7m
1829*

*Our meeting for Sufferings
Having decided that copies of the foregoing
Testification be forwarded to all the meetings
for Sufferings in the Society, it accordingly
transmits this to thee for your meeting for
Sufferings. From thy respectful friend
Samuel Parsons*