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*The following memorial of Baltimore Monthly Meeting concerning our late dear friend Joseph P. Elliott was read & approved & directed to be forwarded to the Representative Meeting.*

MEMORIAL OF BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,  
CONCERNING JOSEPH P. ELLIOTT, AN ELDER.

In this brief record of the life and character of one who endeavored to serve faithfully his Church and his fellow-men we would recognize the power of divine grace in the heart which is open to receive it, and ready to profit thereby.

He was naturally gentle and courteous, and these attractive characteristics were deepened and heightened as the love of Christ came to permeate his whole life, and shone out in his countenance and manner.

Joseph P. Elliott was the younger son of Joseph and Isabella Parker Elliott, and was born near Elizabeth City, North Carolina, in Twelfth month, 1833. His father dying soon afterwards, responsibility for the care and training of her two sons devolved wholly upon their mother, and was repaid by more than usual love and devotion.

After several years attendance at Eastern Quarterly Meeting School (now known as Belvidere Academy), in 1850 he entered Friends' School at Providence, R. I. Having completed a course of study at that institution, he came to Baltimore and was soon actively engaged in mercantile business, in which he continued successfully until his death.

In the Second month, 1870, he married Margaret H. Janney, a daughter of Richard M. and Sarah H. Janney, prominent members and Elders of Baltimore Meeting. Thus brought into close association with these earnest Friends in their family life, religious concern and steadfast faith, he was led to openly accept Christ as his personal Saviour, and under a sense of His love to consecrate himself to His service.

From this time forward his interest in the Meeting and in the general work of the Church steadily increased. Being by nature of a retiring and diffident disposition, he shrank from prominence and responsibilities until impelled by a sense of duty to take them up. As he saw the older and more active members passing away one after another, he realized the necessity for others to accept service and responsibilities, and cheerfully submitted to the calls which came to him from the Church. In 1878 he was appointed Overseer, and in 1883 an Elder, and acceptably filled these stations. As an Elder he was sympathetic and appreciative; ready with the word of encouragement, not only to acknowledged ministers, but also to others, in their simpler messages or testimonies of a Saviour's love.

His interest and activity in Home Mission work kept pace with and fostered his service in his own Meeting. It may encourage some who may be hesitating to enter into religious work because of feeling a lack of fitness for it to know that so successful a worker as our late dear Friend began by teaching a class of boys in the mission school, protesting that he had no gift whatever in teaching. Nevertheless, faithfully and prayerfully he prepared and taught each lesson, steadily growing in power and usefulness, until at the time he was called away he had a class of 75 men, who sincerely loved him, and were greatly helped by his teaching. The talents given him had been increased manifold by faithful exercise.

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During a series of meetings he would attend night after night, often notwithstanding evident weariness, and was remarkably successful in persuading the unconverted to decide for Christ. He would often speak in these meetings with power and effect, his ability to use apt illustrations being very helpful. His chief power, however, seemed to lie in his genuine heart-sympathy for others, both as to their spiritual and temporal interest. Many of his Bible Class have spoken of his bringing them some delicacy during their sickness, and of his earnest prayer by the bedside, bringing comfort to the soul also. When they were able to go to work, he would aid them in securing employment. In thus helping others he was careful to watch for opportunities for pointing them to Christ.

He took a special interest in young men coming to Baltimore from country homes, and to many of these his unfailing kindness and courtesy, his Christian counsel and assistance, were an incentive and inspiration to a higher and better life.

As Chairman of the Pastoral and Evangelistic Committee of the Yearly Meeting, he was active and efficient in the work, and constant in stirring up others to increased activity, showing tact and wisdom in adapting the means used to the varied conditions of the different localities, and having a special sympathy for the smaller country Meetings, because of his own experience in boyhood.

In his business life he was known and respected as a consistent Christian, who would not countenance deviations from truth and uprightness, nor willingly make engagements that would interfere with his religious meetings. When opportunity offered, he was not ashamed to own his Saviour, nor backward in pointing an acquaintance in trouble to the source of true comfort. His ability, integrity and courtesy won the esteem of all who knew him, and caused him to be sought for to fill positions of trust and prominence.

He was a Trustee of the Johns Hopkins University, and took an active, conscientious and intelligent part in its management. As Vice-President of the Board of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Chairman of the Committee having special charge of the Johns Hopkins Colored Orphan Asylum, he labored faithfully and earnestly to bring these institutions to the highest possible efficiency, and also took a deep and sympathetic personal interest in the sick or unfortunate individuals brought under their care, causing them to feel that in him they had an influential friend.

It was in his own home, however, that his character shone brightest, and none ever stayed under his hospitable roof without feeling the uplifting influence of his presence. He was diligent and faithful in the observance of daily family worship, which included reading each morning a portion of Scripture and offering vocal prayer, generally closing with, "Lord, bless us this day, and make us a blessing."

During the course of a series of meetings in Baltimore in which, as usual, he took earnest part, on returning home from a meeting in which he had offered a touching prayer (his last public act), he was attacked with severe illness, which after three days resulted in his death on the 14th of First month, 1898, in the 65th year of his age.

His sudden removal in the midst of his usefulness is a mystery we cannot fathom. May it impress deeply upon us the lessons of his life and character, the power of true sympathy, and the blessings upon faithful service in simple dependence on the Lord!

"The path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."