174

viz:- A. Morris Carey, Miles White Jr., Anna K. Carey, John N. Parker, Anna B. Thomas, S. Thornton Nichols, L. Ella Harlshorne, Rachel J. Hopkins, J. Edw. Wetherald and Lewis N. Hoge to form a standing committee for one year to arrange (with the Friends residing where the Quarterly Meeting meets) for the holding of conferences should way open for it. We suggest that at the Quarterly Meeting held in 1st Mo in Baltimore, the conference should form an integral part of the Q. M. which should adjourn and hold an evening session for it. and that the same should be the case at the autumn Q. M, when the Q. M. would hold its first session on 7th day evening.

On behalf of the Committee

John R. Carey

Anna B. Thomas "

Marion B. Young, Thos. Wetherald, Mary McCullough, Lacy Hirst, Jane E. White and Elizabeth Smith were added to the Representatives to the Yearly Meeting. Then concluded

Sara H. Hoge } Clerks
John C. Thomas

175

175 A

the degree of doctor of medicine, began the practice of his profession in 1854. In the autumn of the following year he married a member of our religious Society, Mary Whitall, the daughter of John M. and Mary Whitall, of Philadelphia. Their union, which lasted until her death in 1888 was full of happiness and blessing. They had ten children, eight of whom survive him. In the midst of the brightness and joy of his early manhood the failure of his [illegible] whom were then minors. The sorrows and responsibilities of this period of his life had a profound effect in the development of his religious character.

In speaking of his earlier years, Dr. Thomas was accustomed to say that he had never known a time when he was without the convictions of the Holy Spirit, showing him when he had departed from what he knew to be right and leading him to long for communion with God. As a young man, however, he did not at once yield to these admonitions, and although always without reproach in his outward conduct, he was much absorbed in social pleasures; even in his later life he never lost his enjoyment of society, and, within the limits which he believed a Christian should [illegible] maintained [illegible]

175 B

Christ; so that he and she were united in the desire of service and worked together to bring others into the knowledge of Christ's love in which they themselves rejoiced. It was a time of great discouragement for Friends in Baltimore, for the meeting had recently been deprived by death of many who seemed essential to its strength; in addition to this, the excitement in the country incident to the Civil War greatly increased the difficulties of the situation. In this emergency the ministers and elders met together from time to time at one another's houses to wait on the Lord for his blessing, and we may believe that the new life that soon began to show itself in the membership had a direct connection with this earnest looking unto the Lord for His help.

The influence of Dr. Thomas and his wife on a number of the younger Friends at this time was very great. They started a Bible Class at their house, which was attended by a number of persons. Mission work on Federal Hill was begun with the Boys' Meeting, started by Dr. Thomas as a union effort in 1857, and continued by him until his death. Later the Girls' Sewing School and other forms of mission work were added by one and another of the workers, until in course of time, the present commodious building, situated on Light street, was erected, and a meeting for worship established. Dr. Thomas was often cheered by meeting men in unexpected places whose lives had been permanently changed and blessed through the influence of the Boys' Meeting. After his death an active and successful Christian worker in Baltimore remarked, "Dr. Thomas never knew of it, but I owe all that I am to him. I used to attend that Boys' Meeting years ago, and was there brought to know the Lord, and the whole course of my life was changed." This is only one instance among many.

Very soon after his father's death, Dr. Thomas began to speak as a minister in our meetings for worship, and though what he had to say was at first very brief, and his manner rather abrupt, his gift rapidly developed and he became a minister of much power. He was recorded in Twelfth month, 1866. His active mind, kept by social intercourse