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you as brethren of the household of faith;  
desiring that "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
Ghost" may be with both you and us.

We are assembled at this season accompan-  
ied by circumstances of peculiar exercise and  
trial, under the weight of which, our hearts have  
been bowed in deep affliction and mourning;  
yet notwithstanding all the discouragements  
that attend us, we have cause thankfully  
to commemorate the goodness of Israel's Shepherd,  
who has graciously been pleased to open a way  
for our deliverance from a yoke of bondage  
under which we have groaned.

It is known to you Brethren and Sisters,  
that discord and disunion have been intro-  
duced into our once peaceful Society, by  
those who have privily brought in unsound  
doctrines. The minds of many friends within this  
Yearly Meeting have been under much suffering  
and concern for several years past, in consequence  
of the promulgation of sentiments in our religious  
meetings, and also in social conversation, the  
evident tendency of which is to invalidate ~~the~~  
some of the fundamental doctrines of the  
Christian religion; to undervalue the truths  
recorded in the Holy Scriptures; and to

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destroy a belief in the Eternal Divinity of our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ: his mediation and inter-  
cession for us as our advocate with the Father; and  
in that most precious sacrifice which he made  
of himself on the cross, without the gates of Jerusa-  
lem, whereby he became the propitiation for our  
sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins  
of the whole world." The sorrowful dissensions thus  
produced, have in several Yearly Meetings on  
this continent, resulted in the separation from our  
religious society of many who formerly went  
under our name, and these have set up meet-  
ings of their own, contrary to our established  
order.

At the Yearly Meeting last year, an epistle  
addressed to our men and women friends, was  
produced from one of these separate meetings  
held in Philadelphia, and in opposition to the  
solid judgment of many concerned friends, it  
was read and answered. Previous to the coming  
of the present session of this Yearly Meeting,  
it was known that the Yearly Meetings of Friends  
on this continent, except Baltimore Yearly Meet-  
ing, had officially testified their disunity  
with the doctrines and separate meetings of  
those who have seceded.

During some of the sittings of the present