

100.484
No. 1
Sandwich Mo. Mtg.
Men Book of Discipline
Women
1762
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Christian and Brotherly
Advices

Given forth from time to time.
By the
Yearly Meeting.
In
London
Alphabetically Digested
under
Proper Heads.

Appeals
N^o: 3 Concerning Appeals
1727

1727
Committee
to be yearly
chosen to
Judge of all
appeals

This Meeting agrees, That for the time to come, A Committee be yearly chosen at the opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is chosen to Judge of the fitness of receiving all appeals that shall be offered, and to hear all appeals which they shall Judge come duly before them; and report their Opinion thereof, in order for the Approbation Rejection or Amendment of this Meeting: and that no Deputy of any City or County from which an Appeal shall come be Admitted a Member of that Committee in Relation to such appeals.

Time Limited

from Monthly or Two Weeks to Quarterly Meetings

And Whereas it is inconvenient that the time of Appeals ^{should} be unlimited, It is therefore agreed by this Meeting. That if any Person or Persons shall think him her or themselves Injured or Aggrieved by the Monthly two week or other Meeting of which he she or they were a Member or Members, such Person or Persons may then Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting to which the said Monthly two weeks or other Meeting doth belong. Provided notice be given of such Intended appeal in three months after such Judgment given, and ^{the} appeal be Lodged in such Quarterly Meeting within six months after such Notice.

From Quarterly to Yearly Meetings

And if any Person or Persons be Dissatisfied with the Judgment of any Quarterly Meeting they may Appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting, he she or they giving notice to the said Quarterly Meeting of their Intention to appeal within six months after the Judgment of such Quarterly Meeting be given, and such appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting, if it may with Conveniency, or to the next following after it.

And if any Monthly Two weeks or other Meeting, Do not belong to any Quarterly Meeting

But

Appeals

1727
from month-
ly or other
to the
yearly meet-
ing directly

But are immediate Members of the Yearly Meeting
That then Persons appealing from the Judgment of
Such Meeting, shall give notice to the said Meeting of
their Intentions to appeal within three months after
the Judgment given, and shall Lodge his her or their
appeal in the succeeding Yearly Meeting, if it may
Conveniently be done; if not the yearly Meeting that
shall next follow after it.

Persons not
pursuing these
Directions
Excluded

And that all Persons Testified against, not pur-
suing the Directions before given with respect to the time
of giving notice, and Lodging their appeals shall be ex-
cluded from any Right of appealing afterwards.

1728
Method for
choosing
the Committee

1728
In order to put the Directions of last Yearly Meeting
into Practice, respecting appeals it is now agreed that
Twelve Cities or Counties, as they stand Alphabetically in
the Correspondent Book, do Each for themselves name one
of their Members, who to constitute that Committee for
this year Except as before Excepted; and in Like man-
ner next year Twelve Cities or Counties as they do stand
next Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book,
are Each for themselves to name one of their Members
to constitute that Committee under the same Exception
and so successively every year; until all the Cities
and Counties have had their nomination. Which
being finished, the Correspondent Book is to be
begun Again:— And that the Service of this Committee
may be as little Burdensome as Possible to the
Friends to whose Lot it shall happen, it is Desir-
ed and Directed that all appeals which shall be
brought from any Person or place shall be
Lodged with the Clerk of this Meeting for
the time being, at the furthest in the after-
noon of the Sixth Day of the Week in the
Sitting of the Meeting.

Appeals to
be Delivered
on Sixth
Day &c

And it is appointed that at the rising of
the Meeting in the same Afternoon on the
Sixth Day of the week the Clerk for
the

Appeals

1728

any seven
to act

the time being shall read over the names of the Friends
Chosen on the Committee of Appeals, and then acquaint
them that he hath one or more Appeals, ~~and~~
(if such there be) and Deliver the same unto them, request-
ing them to proceed thereon According to the advice of
this Meeting; and that any seven of the said Committee
so Chosen shall have Power to act according to the di-
rection of the above Mentioned Minute and it is
also the agreement of this Meeting, that no member of
any City or County against whom an appeal may be
made, be admitted a Member of the said Committee.

1733

1733

to friend
of any
County from
or against
whom any
Appeal comes
to be named

This Meeting taking into their serious Consideration
Some inconveniencies that may Attend the Nominating
Persons to hear and Judge of the fitness or unfitness of
Appeals brought before this Meeting, do agree, that
for the time to come no Friends of any County from
whence or against whom such Appeals may come,
shall be deemed proper to be Nominated thereto;
But that the Meeting proceed to a Nomination
of other Persons in the next Counties, and that
Such Counties as are Omitted for the reason
afore said be first Called on next Year.

1736

1736

to prevent
appeals
coming

And Dear Friends, in the Spirit of the Gospel,
Which is Peace on Earth and good will to all men,
Labour to maintain the Discipline of the Church
Wherin you will be favoured with wisdom prudent-
ly to Determine affairs that may come before you;
And be Instrumental to prevent many troublesome
Appeals from coming to this Meeting which tend to
prolong it and give Uncasiness to Friends:
And we earnestly Desire all Friends who are
proper Members of the Society, Especially such
as are Qualified for Service would be Careful to
attend all Meetings for the Discipline of the Church.

Whereas

See Arbitrations, anno 1720, page 13

1745 Whereas it is Apprehended that the minute
 Concerning Appeals, made in 1727, may Leave
 room for some to Conclude, That on due no-
 tice being once given by the Appealant or
 Appealants to the Meeting against which he
 she or they may Appeal, that he she or they may
 be at Liberty, without any further notice to
 bring his her or their appeal either to the Year-
 ly Meeting Succeeding or that which follows;
 This Meeting Orders, to prevent Disputes that
 may arise on that head. That if any Appealant
 or Appealants Do not bring his her or their appeal
 to the Yearly Meeting Ensuing, Due notice once
 given, that then if he she or they Continue
 their Appeal notice shall be repeated in write-
 ing to the Meeting against which he she or they
 may Appeal, at least three months preceding
 the Yearly Meeting.

No appeals
 to be a
 second
 time

And it is Agreed by this Meeting to
 prevent its being Troubled with a Repetition
 of Appeals, That no Appeals shall be Received
 a second time which hath been once
 Determined here.

6

7

N^o 2 Concerning Arbitrations

1684

in what Cases Arbitrators are to be Chosen

Agreed That the Choosing of Arbitrators is Proper in Cases of Differences about a mans property; But in Differences about Religious matters, as Schism, &c. The rule of Christ is to be Observed, if Thy Brother shall Trespass against thee. &c. Matti: 18, 15, 16, 17. the Church being Judge.

1692

to Chose Arbitrators or to Submit to the Choice of Monthly Meeting.

all Controversies to be speedily ended.

Such as refuse are to be Disowned

1693

in a Doubtful point in Law

1692

Advised, that in all Cases of Controversie and Differences the Persons concerned therein, either speedily compose the Differences between themselves Or make Choice of some Faithful Unconcerned Friends to Determine the same, and they to stand to their Determination. Or Otherwise if they cannot agree upon the Choice, of Certain Persons to Submit to the Monthly Meetings Choice of Certain Persons Meet to Inspect, and Determine the Controversy; And to stand to their award and final Determination thereof; that such Controversys may not be Continued to Cause a stink, and Reproach, for they are great shame and scandal. — And that care be taken for the speedy ending of all Controversys and Differences among Friends; And all Friends to take heed of being parties with one or another for the prolonging thereof. And such persons as refuse to submit to truths Order, or to hear the Church of Christ, are to be Disowned and Testified against, according to Christ's Doctrine on that behalf.

1693

Advised, that all Differences happening in Personal or Temporal Occasions be speedily Ended According to the Advice given in our last Yearly Meeting Epistle; And if any Doubtful point in Law be in the Case, then both parties may advise with some well knowing in the Law, for if any Just to be Contentious we have no such Custom in the Churches of Christ.

Advised

1696

Not to
sue ano-
ther at
Law

Advised that no Friends shall go from the Order of Truth and former advice, to sue one Another at Law; but by themselves or by Reference, that all Differences among friends be Speedily Ended, and not prolonged or Delayed. — And Dear Friends shun all Occasions of Strife and Discord, and take care to make a speedy end of all Differences that are or may happen among your selves, as hath been often Advised, and that according to the holy Apostles Doctrine; Read. 1. Cor 6c vs. 4 to 8

1697

Friends
between
whom any
Difference
happens
to be advised
to Choose
Arbitrators

Whereas, it sometimes happeneth to the hurt of Truth, and grief of many Friends, that Differences do arise amongst some professing Truth, about outward things, it is therefore by this Meeting thought convenient and advised; That when any Friend or Friends shall hear of any such Differences betwixt any Friends in that Meeting to which they do belong, that they forthwith speak to & tenderly advise the Persons between whom the Difference is to make a Speedy end thereof; and if that Friends or Friends do not comply with their advise that then they take to them one or two Friends more, and again exhort them to end their Differences and if they or either of them refuse then let them know that it is the advice & Counsel of Friends that they should each choose an Equal Number of Indifferent impartial & Judicious Friends to hear & Speedily Determine the same, and that they do bind themselves to stand to their award & Determination, Or the award & Determination of the Major part of them that shall be made and signed by the Arbitrators, or the award & arbitration made & signed by Umpire if there be one agreed unto.

Also this Meeting doth advise that if any Person

1697

such as re-
fuse to end
their Differen-
ces or to refer
it are to be
Dealt with

the person
disowned
may be sued
at Law

Person professing the Truth among us, and Esteemed a Friend shall refuse speedily to end the Difference or refer it as before advised, Complaint be made of that Person or Persons unto the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong; and if after admonition he shall refuse so to refer his case that then the Meeting do Testify against such a Person and Disown him to be of our Society; until he shall comply with the Equal methods of agreements of our Society: and by such his Compliance doth Declare that he is for peace and doth seek and desire it; and when any Person so refusing is Testified against by the Meeting and Disowned, the other person may have his Liberty to seek his Remedy against him at Law.

Arbitrators
not to decline
acting after
they have
accepted it

And if any Friends that shall be chosen to hear and Determine any such Difference as aforesaid after they have accepted thereof and the parties Differing are become bound to stand to their Determination, shall Decline and refuse to stand and act as Arbitrators that then such Person or Persons so refusing be required to give their Reasons of their Refusal unto the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, and if that Meeting shall not Esteem those Reasons sufficient Justly to excuse them, then the Meeting to press them, to stand to what they have accepted.

Continuing
to decline
standing,
to be Testi-
fied Against

And if after such admonition they shall continue to Refuse to stand as Arbitrators, that then the Meeting do Testify against them or either of them as such as are not subject to the Just rules of our Society neither ought to be admitted thereunto, until he or they Condemn & Retract the same.

And it is the Advice of this Meeting that persons Differing about outward things, do as little as may be trouble Publick Ministering Friends with being Arbitrators in such Cases.

And

1697

all persons to perform the award made

And that all Persons Differing be Advised by the Monthly Meeting to which they belong when their Cases are refered, and Judgment and award made, Signed and given thereupon, as aforesaid, to stand to and perform the said award, which they have bound themselves to perform, ~~and~~ and if any shall refuse so to do, That then the Monthly Meeting to which ~~they~~ such Person doth belong, upon notice thereof to them given, shall Admonish him thereunto and if ~~after~~ admonition he persist to refuse, then the Monthly Meeting to Testify against him as before.

No friend to sue or another at Law

To conclude it, is the sense and Judgment of this Meeting that if any Person Professing Truth shall arrest sue or Implead at Law; any other Person Professing Truth before he hath Proceeded in the Methods herein Recommended: That such Person doth therein Depart from the Principle of Truth and the known way thereof, and acts contrary thereunto, and ought to be dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to, therefor, And if he shall not give satisfaction to the Meeting for such his disorderly Proceeding by condemning it and himself therein, that then he be Disowned by the Meeting therefor.

1705

meetings to take care that Differences be speedily ended

If any Difference is Depending or shall arise between any Persons Professing Truth amongst us, it is Advised and Desired that Effectual care in the Wisdom of God may be taken by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which such Persons belong, to put a full and speedy end thereto as has been formerly Advised - particularly in the year, 1697

1720

1720

Minutes of 1697 explained

The report of the Friends appointed on the Minute of 1697 Received with an Explanation which was several times Read & finally accepted by the Meeting;

The

The report and Explanation aforesaid are as followeth.

The report

It is the Sense & Judgment of this Committee, that the minute of 1697, relating to Arbitrations, is consistent with the practice of our Ancient Friends, and very fit for a General rule for the Proceedure of Friends on such Occasions.

none to be Disowned without tender consideration of the Circumstances

Yet since General Rules, ^{commonly} admit of Exceptions or Explanations, and divers Friends having Objected some particular Cases wherein they apprehended Difficulties may arise (which yet we apprehend is sufficiently provided for by the Discretionary Power vested in the respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings) yet in Condescension to those Friends, we Declare That as no Persons ought to be Disowned ^{without} tender Considerations of every Circumstance attending such Cases, and due Admonition by the Monthly Meetings to the Parties concerned, so we tenderly advise that the several Meetings proceed with the utmost Circumspection therein.

Liberty to Appeal

And that if any Person so Denied by any Monthly Meeting shall apprehend He is not Justly Dealt with, He hath his Liberty, as in all other Cases amongst us to Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting, who after thorough Examination of the Case, and all the Circumstances, and Proceedure attending it, shall proceed to confirm or reverse the same, as they in the fear & Wisdom of God shall see Cause.

And Whereas Sometimes it so happeneth that Persons under our Profession have proved so base and Unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to Endeavour fraudulently & hastily to remove themselves, or their Effects, to prevent Justice, whereby those Creditors, who are Friends have been Deprived of an opportunity of the Common method of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid; it is hereby Declared, that the last paragraph of the said Minute which prohibits Friends to sue or arrest one another, &c.

1720

Is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those practises from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the nature of the case may require of which Circumstances the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so it is not to be Doubted but they will do Justice to the parties Concerned therein.

Whereas upon the Dissatisfaction of several Friends with some parts of this Minute of this Meeting Anno. 1697, relating to Arbitrations of Differences about outward things there were some Friends appointed to read hear & consider the said minute & the Dissatisfaction therewith & make report, And accordingly the greater part of the Friends appointed for that service did bring in their Report which being read did not prove so generally to the Satisfaction of Friends as could have been Desired: Now this Meeting being fervently Desirous, that the universal Peace of the Church, & every sincere Member thereof, may as much as possible be preserved, & all Occasion of Uneasiness as much as may be removed, Doth accept & receive the report above mentioned, With this further Explanation,

That so much of the minute of 1697, before mentioned as doth relate simply to the entering into bonds, and so far as Arbitrations may be refused, on account of Disputes & Questions in Law relating to Executors or Trustees, in both these Cases that there be a particular & special Regard had to the nature & Circumstances of things: If not being either now nor at the time of making the said minute, the intent of this Meeting, to lay any unwarrantable Burthen upon any Brother, nor upon the Church of God.

Advised, that Due care be taken that all Offences Trespasses and Differences be speedily ended and composed; in

1720

In Gods Wisdom according to Gospel Order among us, either by mutual forgiveness, Christian Counsel or Just Arbitration as the case may require, and safely admit or allow; and the Choice of Arbitrators and Umpires, be of such Just Impartial men as neither party can Justly except against but both agree to their Choice.

1724

Speedy Ending of Differences by prudent and Just Arbitrations again Recommended.

1725

1725

Former Advice hath by this Meeting been given, With regard to the Honour of God, and his Truth, that the Religious Reputation of our Society might be Preserved from Blamish and all Just Occasion of Scandal; and which we now again Earnestly press & Desire, That all Friends avoid as much as possible Occasions of Difference one with another, but if notwithstanding such care, any Difference shall happen to arise, that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass whereof any such shall happen, take timely care to put an end thereunto by advising and Exhorting those between whom Difference may happen to refer the matter of their Difference to Impartial and proper Arbitrators, which may be a very likely means to avoid the Scandal of going to Law one with another and to shew forth to the world that we Love one another, which is a distinguishing mark of being Christs Disciples.

all Occasion of Difference to be avoided

Friends to put an end to Difference

to avoid of Scandal of going to Law

1737

1737

And we do again remind you, that Friends may be every where careful to get all Differences about outward things speedily composed between themselves or by Arbitrators without Troubling Monthly or Quarterly Meetings with such affairs.

And it would be well that Friends were at all times ready to submit their Differences even with Persons not of our Perswasion to Arbitrators rather than Contend at Law.

1744

See Last page 138

16

17

1775 3^{mo} then received
 Hezekiah Smith for Subscribed
 the Sum of $\text{£} 10 \text{ s } 6$
 Jonathan Willbur

N^o 3

Concerning Books

1672

1672
Committee
to correct
Books

A Committee of ten Friends appointed to see that Books be Carefully Corrected and that none be Printed but by Friends Order.

The Printer to give three or more of them notice when any Book is to be Printed.

That no old Books be sent to the Counties un-
sent for.

That no second Edition be Printed without Order.

That the Printer send those Ordered to the Counties before any be sent abroad.

1673

1673

Agreed that ~~whatever~~ ~~Books~~ the Quarterly Meetings return the Printer his money once a Quarter, for his further Encouragement & Assistance to carry on his Business.

1674

1674

Agreed that whatever Book is for time to come writ by any Friend in Scotland, and Printed here, they shall take off four hundred of each Book toward Defraying the Charge of Printing them.

1679

1679

to be given
by the Meet-
ing for Suffer-
ings
p. 26. 28. 29

Books to be Delivered to the King and his Counsel the Parliament and other Persons, Majestates and Governours within this Nation, as also in foreign parts beyond the Seas, as the Meeting for Sufferings shall from time to time Direct and appoint.

p. 26 b
p. 28. 1706

Agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings for the time being Do for the future take care to the Inspecting Ordering and Regulating the press, and Printing of Books: — And in whatever matter Relating to Printing of Books, the Country Friends find themselves aggrieved that they write to the Said Meeting, Who are to redress the same

1680

p 25

Agreed that the matter of Books and Printing; and method of sending them as well within this Nation as foreign parts, be wholly left & refer'd to the Meetings for Sufferings in London.

1691

two of a sort of each and one of a sort above to each monthly meeting

see page 27
551 monthly meetings

This Meeting Agrees for the taking off & spreading Friends Books for the service of Truth, that such a Number of Friends Books, as shall be hereafter Printed by the Approbation (excepting Collections of Books) be taken off by each Quarterly Meeting, as will only amount to two Books do not both exceed one Shilling in price, and if any one Book be above six pence price then but one of that sort to each Monthly Meeting who may send for ~~that~~ as many as they have Occasion for or Desire. — We understand there are about one Hundred and fifty, one Monthly Meetings in England & Wales. — And that the said Books, be sent the several Correspondents in London, or by their Order to the Correspondents of each County, who are Desired to send up the Money for the Books when received, to the Friends that are Correspondents in London, and be Diligent in spreading Friends Books for Truth's Service.

1692

see 1695

Agreed that those that print for Friends deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings for the several Correspondents of the Counties in England and Wales such a number of Books as agreed unto last Meeting, within one month after printed, which are two of a sort for each Monthly Meeting not exceeding six pence for Book, and one of a sort above six pence per Book.

and

1692

Books to be kept in each Quarterly and monthly meeting

And it is Advised by the Meeting, that one Book at Least of a Sort that shall be printed, (except Collections) be kept in each Monthly or Quarterly Meeting for the Service of Friends and Truth, as there shall be Occasion for the future: and this to be recommended to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings.

see 1695

Two of a sort under 2/6 one of a sort above to each Monthly Meeting

see 1697

This Meeting Agrees, That it may be Recommended from this Meeting to each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take off two Books of a sort newly Printed to each Monthly Meeting, under Two Shillings & Six pence for one year from this time, and one to a Meeting that is above; and that they be sent into the Counties Quarterly, about two weeks before each Quarterly Day, by those Printers that Print them: And that one Book of a sort be kept in each Quarterly Meeting in the several Counties.

1697

spreading friends Books

Friends in the several Counties in England are Desired to be Diligent to spread Friends Books, which are Answers to Adversaries, and to get them Exposed to Publick, where Adversaries Books are sold, that the Service of them may be answered, and the Printers are to be spoken to, to send Down the Books in Due time and not Delay them till the Service be partly over.

Two of a sort not exceeding 2/ per Book

This Meeting Understanding that the Minute of 1693 expired in 1696, with respect to printed Books of high price, It is Desired that all Books that are writ by such that are in Unity with Friends that was then agreed to be accepted by the Monthly Meetings to which they are sent, or the future Do accept of two Books of a sort that Do not exceed Two Shillings per Book, till this Meeting Doth Order otherwise

1698

1698

Printers
accounts
to be cleared
yearly

1698
This Meeting Adviseeth, That the Bookellers
Accounts be Cleared Yearly of such Books they
send, and Friends approve of; and that each Quar-
terly Meeting, Preceding the Yearly Meeting give
Directions to such Members they make Choice of
to attend the Yearly Meeting, to see it Done; and
the Printers to give timely Notice thereof to each
Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting.

1702

Friends
to read
over books
in Answer
to Calumnies

1702
Agreed to Recommend it to the Quarterly and
Monthly Meetings, in the several Counties to appoint
some Judicious Friends to read over ^{up} Books ~~in~~
~~Books~~ that are Published in vindication of Truths
and the Doctrine of Friends against Calumnies;
in order that they may both better understand
the Controversies & be prepared to vindicate
the Doctrine of Friends and Obviate Objections.

1706

1706
Agreed that when the Morning Meeting of
Ministering Friends Do see Cause or Necessity for to
Dispose of Books in Truths Service Gratis or freely
that they acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings
therewith, both as to Quantity and Charge, for
their Compliance before Disposed of ^{by} that Service.

1709

North
Britain

1709
Agreed, that North Britain be Desired
to send up an account to the Meeting for Suffer-
ings, how many Monthly Meetings they have;
And its proposed that they take off two Books
of a Sort in each Monthly Meeting.

1710

1710
This Meeting Desires, the Meeting for Suffer-
ings to take Care that the several Quarterly
Meetings,

in

1710

in England and Wales do take off and pay for all
such Friends Books, sent Pursuant to the Yearly
Meetings, Repeated Agreement.

1732

1732

see 1679
1680

1732
It is Agreed, That the Meeting for Sufferings
Do Distribute in such Manner and to such parts of
the World, as they think proper the Writings of such
Friends as have been Published by the Consent
of the Morning Meeting.

1735

1735

Copies
of Books

1735
The Meeting for Sufferings have Invested John
Davis, Samuel Arnold, Richard How & Joseph Olive,
with the Right of such Copies of Friends Books as
now are, or shall hereafter be, Printed for the Use of
this Meeting; But this Meeting Desires that the Me-
eting for Sufferings, Do take Care that the said Friends
may not have it in their Power to possess the said
Copies but only in Trust for this Meeting.

30.

to

to

31.

32

33

N^o 4 Concerning Certificates

1694

1694
to have
Certificates
on
Removing
into
Ireland

Desired That all Friends who Remove from any Part of England or Wales into Ireland, may have Certificates ~~from~~ from their respective Monthly Meetings, to which they belong, That They may be Informed of what Repute they are, as to Truth and Friends, there And also that no unnecessary Charge be brought upon Friends there.

or from one
Monthly or
Quarterly
Meeting to
another

Friends Removing from the Company of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another to have Certificates. See post, page, 236, 236, 238, 240, 241, 243.

1737

And see Removals & Settlements in 1737—
Page. 287, 288, 290.

Friends that Travel in the Work of the Ministry, To have Certificates. See Preachers. pp. 253, 254, 256.

1745

1745

See Preachers page 259.

1748

1748

See Marriage, page, 155.

1772

1772

At our yearly Meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhode Islands 8th 1772

That any Person coming from one Monthly Meeting to another, in order to propose their Intention of Marriage, that they bring a Certificate with them to the first Monthly Meeting, from the Monthly Meeting where they belong signifying there Parents or Guardians consent if they have any as well as their conversation and Disengagement with other Persons—

Travelling friends to have Certificates, See page 260

N^o. 5 Concerning Children

1688

1688

Not to
Indulge
them

We do Exhort and Desire you all, our dear Friends Brethren and Sisters, That are Parents & Governours of Families, That Ye Diligently lay to heart your work and Calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge Committed to you, not only in becoming good Examples to the younger Sort, But also to use your Power in your own Families, in the Educating your Children, and Servants in Modesty, Sobriety and in the fear of God Curbing the Extravagant humors in the young ones when it doth appear, and not to Indulge it & allow of it For you are set in your Families as Judges for God, and it is you ^{that} must give an account of the Power Committed to you; And when you see a Libertine and Wanton spirit appear in your Children and Servants that Lusteth after the vain Customs & Fashions of the World, either in Dressings Habits, or outward Adornings, and Craves your Assistance and Allowance, without which it cannot get forward while they are under your Government.

Oh! then look to your selves, and Discharge your Trust for God, and for the good of their Souls, Exhorting in Meekness and Commanding in Wisdom, that so you may Minister and reach to the Witness, and help them over their Temptations, in the Authority of Gods Power. And when they feel themselves helped and Delivered, Their Souls will Bless God for you, and you will reap the Comfort of your Labour.

1689

1689

And Dear Friends, for the Lords sake Exercise your Christian care for the Education of your Children in the Fear of God, and Plainness and Simplicity of the Truth both in Language and Habits.

1690

Children

1690
This Meeting Adviseeth, That Friends may be Careful not to train up their Children in the Worlds ways, Names of days & Months, and Language & Fashions, and that Friends may be Careful of Friends Children to Provide School-Masters & Mistresses that are Friends, where they are Capable, and not to send them to the Worlds Schools, to Corrupt them by Learning Heathen Authors, & the names of their gods, But to take care that they may train ~~they may~~ ~~train~~ them up in the Language of Truth, and that plainness which becomes the Truth, and to be good Examples to them, and not to say you to their Children, Nor suffer their Substance to be bestowed on their Children to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our Profession.

And Dear Friends, it is our Christian & Earnest Advice & Counsel to all Friends Concerned so far as they are able or may be Capable, to provide School-Masters and Mistresses who are Faithful Friends, to teach & Instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the Corrupt ways, Manners, Fashions, & Language of the World, & of the Heathen in their Authors; and names of the Heathenish Gods & Goddesses tending greatly to Corrupt and Alienate the minds of Children into an Averseness or Opposition against the Truth, and the Simplicity of it, But to take care that you train up your Children in the good nurture & Admonition & Fear of the Lord, in that Plainness & Language which becomes Truth, and Parents Masters &c. to be good Examples to them in a Sober & Godly Conversation & Plainness of speech, not to use the word you, or ye, to a Child or servant &c. nor suffer your Substance to be bestowed on your Children

Children

to furnish them with such things as tend to Pride, and to lift them up in Vanity, or affect them with the vain Fashions of the World.

1691
That Friends be Exemplary to their Children in Plainness of Language, Habit & Deportment & train them up therein that Modesty & Sobriety may be Countenanced, and the Fear of the Lord take place and Increase among them. See more in the same Printed Epistle.

See plainness, page 223.

1692
Being Sensible how Incident youth is to be Corrupted, & how liable to Corrupt & hurt one another by evil Example and Liberty, It is Earnestly Requested that all Parents among Friends take all Godly and Christian Care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, & not to allow them in any thing that may Gratefully a vain mind, in immodest Apparel or foolish garbs, or other Extravagancies tending to their hurt, and the reproach of our holy Profession and incurring Gods Displeasure & Judgment which stands against the Pride of Life and haughtiness, but Sincerely to use their best Endeavours to train them up in the nurture and Admonition of the Lord, in Sobriety, Modesty & Plainness of Apparel Language & Conversation, as becomes our holy Profession and Christian Religion.

1696
Agreed, That it be recommended to Friends to be very Careful in the Education of their Children and to see that it be as much as possible by Honest Friends, that while Children are getting Learning by such that are not Friends they are often hurt by having such things Instilled, or like seed sown into them that have taken root to the hurt of Children, and should therefore be prevented.

1696 We recommend to you that are parents the Plainness & holy Discipline of the Truth among your Children that they may be trained up in Truths way, and with a commendable Education according to your abilities; That a peculiar People we may be in the Life of Righteousness in our Generation Diligently Improving that good understanding, and those Heavenly Gifts, the Lord hath endued you with, and made you stewards of, to the Honour of him that hath called you, and the good & Comfort one of another.

1697 If being under Consideration how Friends Children might be Disposed of that are trained up in the way of Truth and fit to be put forth Apprentices; I to the Advise & Counsel of Friends that special Care be taken to put them Apprentices to honest Friends, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth

1700 } see plainness. p 223
 1701 }
 1703 }
 1704 See 1703. in p. 50. 1704

And Parents are again Reminded to Continue their Godly Care, & Exercise their Just & Due Authority & Command over their Children timely to Restrain them from the Worlds Corruptions & Extravagances both in habit & Language, Behaviour & Conversation, that they may keep the Way of the Lord & walk uprightly therein.

1706 Advised to keep Children out of the vain & foolish fashions & ways of the world & in Plainness of Language habit & Behaviour

1709

to be trained up in Truths way with a commendable Education

to be put Apprentices to Friends

1709 Advised, That all Heads of Families & especially such who are Elders in the Church of Christ, be all Diligent, and careful to watch over the young Generation, that Sobriety Plainness & Virtue may be Encouraged and Promoted, and Exemplarily Recommended by you to them, That the Liberty too many of our youth take in following the Fashions & Customs of the World, which tend to the Dishonour & Reproach of the Testimony of the blessed Truth, may be Discouraged, and such as are found in the same, Dealt with in the Fear wisdom and Love of God, that they may be Won and brought into Humility and Subjection to the Lord & his Truth; More in the same Epistle. — see plainness, p. 224.

1710 The Lord knows we would not have any of our Dear Friends Children, who are natural Branches of a good Stock, Degenerate from that good seed and tender Plant that He has sown & planted in them, nor Corrupted from Truths Simplicity or Innocency, by the Society or ill Examples of any other Children Which Friends who are Parents should take timely care to prevent.

1715 That our Children may be preserved from the Wiles of Satan, as ^{much as} in us lies Let a Godly Care & Concern be upon the Minds of all Parents to Watch over them, with Supplications to the Lord, that they may not be Drawn away from the Innocency, Simplicity & Plainness of the way of Truth; and Labour in a sense of Truth to reach the Witness in them, that they may feel in their own spirits a Degree of Fear and Reverence towards God, and Instruct them to follow his Counsel and obey his voice, as the Tribes of Israel were Required of God to teach his precepts Diligently unto their Children. Just 6 v 7, And thou shalt teach them Diligently unto thy Children, and shalt talk of them, when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, & when thou layest down & when thou risest up.

heads of Families & Elders to watch over the young &c p. 41 to be Dealt with

1710 Caution against Degeneracy

Parents to watch over Children

Labour with them

p 47

1715

So be you Concerned to acquaint them how the Lord Led you from one Degree of Faithfulness to Another, in a Denial of the Worlds Corrupt ways Language & Customs, which while We in Disobedience to Him walked in, We could not Enjoy true Peace But as we bore the Cross and bowed to his Will, We had an Evidence of Acceptance with him, And be Careful that none of you by a neglect herein, become Examples unto them to Depart from the Scripture Language, wherein is true Propriety of Speech.

1717

1717

As touching the Education of Friends Children for which this Meeting hath often found a Concern, We think it our Duty to Recommend unto you the Necessity that there is of a Care in preserving them in Plainness of Speech and Habits, Suitable to our Holy Profession; and also that no opportunity be Omitted, nor any Endeavours wanting to Instruct them in the Principle of Truth, which we Profess, that thereby they being Sensible of the Operation thereof in themselves, may find their spirits not only softened and tender'd fit to receive the Impression of the Divine Image, but may also from thence find themselves under a Necessity to appear Clear in the Several Branches of our Christian Testimony: And as this will be most beneficial to them, being the fruits of Conviction so it is the most Effectual way of propagating the same throughout the Churches of Christ: And there being times & Seasons wherein their spirits are more, than at

others

1717

Others Disposed to have those things Impressed upon them; so we Desire that all Parents and others Concerned in the Oversight of Youth, might wait in the Fear of God to know themselves Divinely Qualified for that Service, that in his Wisdom they may make use of every such Opportunity, which the Lord shall put into their hands, And we hereby warn and advise Friends in all places to flee every Appearance of Evil, and keep out of Pride and following the vain fashions and Customs of the World, as recommended in the Epistle, 1715.

1723

1723

Advised & Exhorled That all Parents, masters, and Mistresses of Families and Guardians of minors that they prevent as much as in them lies their Children, Servants and youth under their Respective Care and Tuition, from the having or reading Books or papers that have any Tendency to prejudice the Profession of the Christian Religion, to Create in them the least Doubt or Question concerning the truth of the Holy Scriptures, or those Necessary and Saving Truths Declared in them, Lest their infant & feeble minds should be poisoned thereby, and a foundation laid for the greatest Evils.

1724

1724

The Circumstances of our Youth having been again under our Consideration We Judge it Necessary to observe, That the undue Liberty too many of them take, both in their Conversation one with another as well as with those not of our Profession, hath been Cause of Grief to know and hear, Wherefore We tenderly Recommend to all Parents, and such as may have Care of Children that they do as far as in them lies Carefully Inspect & Narrowly Inquire into the manner of their Conversation; That where Counsel or Reproof may be wanting it may in the Spirit of Love, and in sound Judgment be given.

to inspect
their
Conversation

1725

1725

1725
to Labour
for an Inhe-
ritance
in y^e Truth
rather than
in this
World
p: 49
1 Tim: 6: 17

And you who are Parents of Children Labour fervently, in spirit, with supplication unto the Lord, that he may give them an Inheritance in the Truth, wherein they may be enabled to stand up in their Generation after you, to his Praise and Glory, rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World; which has proved a Snare & Temptation to some to shun the Cross, and Embrace the Glory of this present World, But that those to whom God hath given riches, may take the Apostles advice, that they be not high minded, but fear, and trust not in uncertain riches, But therewith be Rich in good works, willing to Communicate, ready to Distribute. And therein be a good Example to their Children.

1729

1729
Company

It ought to be the great care & concern of Parents, as they value the welfare of their Children & Posterity, and others who have youth under their care, that they Endeavour by their Example, as well as precept, to keep them from bad Company for many have found by sad Experience, the truth of that saying of the Apostle, Evil Communications doth corrupt good Manners. See Scriptures. p. 317.

1731

1731
Advice to
Parents &
Guardians

Inasmuch as we have a Large Body of youth growing up, the Offspring of Friends, these call for our special care & concern, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth in which our forefathers walked & in order thereto, We tenderly Recommend to all Parents & Guardians, first that they take heed to themselves that their own Spirits be rightly seasoned & Directed for the help & good Government of their Children

and

1731

p: 44

And then that they have a constant watchful Eye in Love, over them for their good & keep ^{them} as much as possible, within their notice and Observation for this we are sensible of, that the Miscarriages of youth have very much proceeded from being Impudently Indulged, or left to themselves, by which means they become Exposed to the Danger of Evil Examples on the one hand, and vicious Corrupt Principles on the other, with which the World too much abounds: and therefore we earnestly & tenderly Advise all Parents & Guardians, to be watchfully concerned in this respect, And that they take all proper Occasions both by Example and Instruction to help their Children: And that Mothers of Children as well as Fathers as they have frequently the best opportunities, would take particular care to instruct them in the Knowledge of Religion and the Holy Scriptures because it hath been found by Experience that good Impressions Early made on the tender minds of Children, have proved Lasting means of preserving them in a Religious Life & Conversation: This Practice was Enjoyed Strongly upon the People of Israel by Moses & Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who Required them to read or repeat the Law to their Children: And the Apostle Paul takes notice of Timothy's being well Instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child, and of the Unfeigned Faith which dwelt in his Grandmother Lois & his mother Eunice, 2 Tim: 1: 5 Who no Doubt had a Religious Care of his Education.

monthly
meetings
to stir up
parents to
this Duty

But when Parents or Guardians are deficient in such their Care, We Recommend Monthly Meetings that they stir them up thereto either by Visiting, them in their Families, or in such manner, as in the Wisdom of God they may see meet; that so the Doctrines of the Gospel, and a Conversation agreeable thereto may be maintained unto all Generations.

1732

See Scriptures. page. 318.

1732

1733

Children

- 1733 See Scriptures, page. 319
- 1734 See the same page 319
- 1735 See Plainness. p. 228
and see Scriptures, p. 320

1736 And Dear Friends, you who have Children under your care or Tuition, We beseech ^{you} to Accustom them early to the Reading of the holy Scriptures and to train them up in the way of the cross, as soon as they are Capable of receiving Impressions of good & evil that parents be careful how they Indulge them in any thing that has an evil tendency, Endeavouring to restrain them from every hurtful thing, which their Natural Inclinations may lead them to Desire after, this we think is the Indispensible Duty of all Parents and We cannot see how they can answer the Omision of it, in the Sight of God, for such a neglect too often Occasions ill habits which afterwards are not to be restrained without great Difficulties, at all. We therefore earnestly Entreat our young Friends, with all readines of mind to receive & give place to the Labour of Love and wholesome Admonitions bestowed upon them by their Parents & others for their Benefit & Instruction; And carefully ~~to avoid~~ to avoid all evil Company, which corrupts good Manners, and leads into Disorders and Extravagancies; And that the Endeavours of Parents may be Crowned with Success, it behoveth them to Enforce their advice by a Suitable Practice, and an Exemplary walking in all Holyness & Godliness of Conversation.

17th. En-
treated to
receive
Admonition

p. 39: 40,
41, 44, 46,

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, it has been the Concern of this our Annual Meeting, from the Relation and hopes given us of Truths spreading in Foreign

Countries

Children

1737 Countries, That Friends, who are of abilities and have the Prosperity of Truth at heart, would in the Education of their Children, take Care as Suitable Opportunities and Occasions may offer, to let them be Instructed in some Modern Tongue, as French, High & Low Dutch, Danish, &c. that so when they are grown up, they themselves if traders to Foreign Countries may reap the benefit thereof And as it shall please the Lord to Dispose & Incline them, may be of Service to the Church.

to be
instructed
in some
modern
Language

See Families. page, 338.

1751

1751 It has been matter of Affliction to this Meeting to Understand by the Accounts received from divers Countries that Notwithstanding the repeated Exhortations, and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting, to Parents & others Concerned for Youth, and that ought to be properly Engaged for their due Education, and the forming their tender Minds to the Exercise of Piety & Religion, yet too great a Deficiency appears in that Important Duty: Under a pressing Concern of Mind for the Revival of so Necessary a Care, early Enjoyed the Chosen people of God, i.e. the Israelites, and the Concern of the Faithful in every age; We Communicate this Additional Counsel, and Intreat them to consider that there Ought to be proper Foundations assigned to their Anxiety after this World, and an hearty Engagement to seek Primarily after that Blessing that makes truly Rich, and brings no sorrow with it: The neglect of this weighty Obligation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in many Places; The Life of Religion being lost by the Parents, they have been Disabled from Instructing their Children, and the most Excellent part of that near Relation, has been entirely Lost, their minds bent to the World, and devoted to its pursuits has centered them in the Acquisition of Earthly Possessions as their Principal & only Good

p. 46

and

Children

1751

And a Jealous righteous God has often punished such in themselves or Offspring as he did the people of Old, Saggai. s, Ye looked for much & So it came to little, and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it, Why? saith the Lord of Hosts;— Because of mine Rouse that is wast, and ye run every man into his own House.

There is great Reason to hope a Blessing would attend the honest Endeavours of Parents, that the minds of youth thus Seasoned, they might be render'd Useful in our Zion; and be brought up in Service According to the Will of God.

And Dearly Beloved youth, in an humble Sense of the Continued, Visitations of the Fathers Love and Experience of their Blessed Effects, We intreat you by the Mercies of God Receive its holy Impressions, Submit to its Discipline This will preserve you from the Deplorable Effect of Satans Transformations Inspire you with holy Resolutions & Support to maintain them in all Godly Conversation & purity of Faith and Life, adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by a blameless Demeanour, True Peace will thus flow as a River in your own minds, and the fruits of the tree of Righteousness, brought forth to your Inexpressible Consolation in Christ, the Revival of Leons Beauty, the Rebuilding her Devolutions, that by & through you She may yet appear beautiful to the Sincere hearted, But to her Enemies terrible as an Army with Banners.

1703

Man is created in the image of God

Advised that all Parents be watchful over their Children & not to suffer them to get up into Pride & Excess, but to keep them to that Decent plainness which becomes the People of God.

That

Children

1703

That the sin of the Children may not lie upon the Parents, nor they be exposed to Ruin by the Parents Neglect.

Brought up to useful employments

And that Friends of all Degrees take Due care to breed up their Children in some Useful & Necessary Employments; that they may not spend their precious Time in Idleness, which is of evil Example, and tends much to their hurt.

1774

At a Yearly meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island the 6th month 1774

It is the sense and Judgment of this Meeting, that the Children of such Parents as are married among Friends shall be looked upon as members, And the Children of such Parents as have been members by Request and are born afterwards shall likewise be looked upon as members, As also their Children born before if the Parents apply on their behalf, And the monthly meeting think they are suitable, And that when but one of the Parents is a member either father or mother become so by application or otherwise their Children shall not be looked upon as members unless their father or mother professing with us make application to the monthly meeting on behalf of their Children and then the monthly Judge whether such Children be suitable to be admitted members or not and it is advised that when it so happens that but one of the Parents are members of our Society that they Endeavour to bring up their Children agreeable to Truth as far as in their power and not neglect to ask the care of Friends in Behalf of their Children

The following Explanation of the minutes 1774 is inserted in 1777

It is the sense and judgment of this meeting that all Children that are born of parents while they

Children

they are both members, shall be looked upon as members and no other unless parents who had children before they were members apply on their behalf and the monthly meeting think they are suitable, also where but one parent is a member either father or mother such parent professing with us, may make application to the monthly meeting on behalf of their children and then the monthly meeting judge whether such children are suitable to be admitted as members or not

And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of the parents are members of our Society that they Endeavour to Educate their children agreeable to truth as far as in their power, and not neglect to ask the care of friends in behalf of them

Conversation

N^o 6 Concerning Conversation.

1675

to keep to
the Testimo-
ny of Truth

1675
It is much upon us to put Friends in remembrance to keep to the Ancient Testimony Truth beget in our hearts in the beginning, against the Spirit of this World, for which many have suffered cruel Mockings, beatings, Stonings, &c particularly as to the Corrupt Fashions, Dealings, & Language of the World, their Over-reachings, and vain jestings that the Cross of Christ in all things may be kept to, which preserves Friends blameless, and honours the Lords Name & Truth in the Earth.

1676

1676

See Coelestius ep. page 85.

1688

1688

1688
Advised, That Friends every where be put in mind to keep under the Leadings & Guidance of the Spirit of Truth, in their Outward Habits & Fashions thereof, not suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them, in a Lust to be like unto them in things useles & superfluous lest it ~~prevail~~ prevail upon them from the Simplicity and plainness that becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain Liberty to another till they come to loose the blessed Liberty that is in Christ, into which they were in Measure Redeemed, and fall back into the Bondage of the Worlds Spirit and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh with the Lust & Covetousness thereof and so loose both their name and place in the Truth, as too many have Done.

1695

1695

to watch
against
the Spirit
of the World

1695
Advised in Gods holy Fear to watch against, and keep out the Spirit & Corrupt Friendship of the World, and that no Fellowship may be had or had with the Unfruitful Works of Darkness nor there-
in with the Workers thereof.

and

1691 And to avoid unnecessary frequenting Taverns, Alehouses, all Looseness, Excess, and unprofitable and Idle Discourses, mispending their precious Time & Substance to the Dishonor of Truth, and Scandal of Our holy Profession.

And see plainness, page 223

1712

1712 See plainness, page 225

1725

Let us watch Diligently over our own Spirits to see that we are conformable to the Spirit of Truth, whereby our behaviour & Conversation may be such as becomes Godliness, and may adorn the Doctrine of Christ Jesus our Lord who mercifully hath called us to be a People Faithfull in bearing the Cross and Despising the Shame, and cheerfully bearing our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian Religion, which he hath Revealed, and against every appearance of Antichrist & Wickedness.

1731

Caution to be careful of their Conversation at Inns &c

It is the Care and Concern of this meeting to Recommend unto all Friends resorting to any of our Annual Assemblies, either in this City or Elsewhere to be very Careful at their Inns, or other place where they may Lodge or converse, to be prudent in all manner of behaviour both in publick and private, — Avoiding, all Intemperance in Eating & Drinking and likewise any foolish jesting or Undue Liberty, whatsoever; That our Conversations Seasoned with the Fear of God, may appear Correspondent to our Profession And Answer the Witness of God in Others:

and

1731

be careful that no stumbling block be laid in the way of Inquirers &c

And we advise that the Quarterly Meetings in those Counties, where such Meetings are held take special Care in this Respect with regard to that Openness and good Disposition which appears in the minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, & some Con- vincement in divers places, We earnestly advise Friends, That they be Careful of their Conduct at all times & on all Occasions, That no stumbling block be laid in the way of honest Enquirers nor offence given to tender young Convinced Friends, Let your Light so shine before men they may see your good Works, & glorify your Father which is in Heaven. Let us walk wisely towards those that are without, as well as those within, Let our Moderation & Prudence, as well as Truth & Justice, appear to all men, and in all things, in trading & Commerce in speech & Communication, in Eating & Drinking, in Habit, and Furniture & through all in a meek lowly Quiet Spirit, That as we profess to be a Spiritual minded People We may appear to be such, as being bounded by the Cross of Christ, shew forth the Power of that Divine Principle we make Profession of, by a Conversation every way agreeable thereunto.

1734

1734

to avoid light & vain Company

And seeing it is very Evident, that evil Communica- tions Corrupt Good manners, We think proper to Recommend with much affection to our young Friends that they be very Careful to avoid all such Company, as that they be every by a light & vain Conversation would tend to alienate their minds from the Love of Virtue & Sobriety, for the Discourse of Fools is unwholesome, and their Sport is in the Wantonness of Sin, Ecclesias 27:13. If therefore thou be among the Undersert, observe the time, tarry not there, but be continually among men of Understanding. ver. 12. —

And see Scriptures, page 319

1736

1736

Declension
Observed

and from
whence
it ariseth

by what
the holy
obtained
a good
Report
in all ages

1736

The accounts we have received from some Places in this & other Countries of the Prosperity of Youth, and of the coming forth of some among us in a publick Testimony thereunto, have been very acceptable untill; yet it is very much Grief and Concern that we observe in some a Declension from the way of Righteousness & Truth, as well as from the plainness of Habit, & simplicity of speech & Behaviour, which were so conspicuous in our Early Friends, & many of their Offspring: — This Declension we apprehend arises from a Disregard to the Divine Sight & Truth they have often been Recommended to, as the Regulator of their Words & Actions. — By a Careful Conscientious regard to this the Holy Men in all ages Obtained a good report, & our Ancients & many of their Immediate Offspring were Comely in the Eyes of the Nation for their dole Department, & Religious regard to their words & Actions, a Godly Fear rested upon their minds, That the Precious Truth & Principle which they Professed, & felt the Blessed Effects of, might not suffer Reproach from their Misconduct: the like holy Concern now would tend to Regulate our youth and render them more Comely in the Eyes of beholders, than any External Ornaments or Deckings of the Body whatsoever: this would Instruct them to avoid all Pride & Affectation, & endue them with Humility Modesty & virtue which recommend to the favour of God, & a good Esteem among men. A Religious regard to the Principle of Light & Truth, Gods Witness in the mind & Heart of Man, ever produces the most Beneficial Effects, as well to Society in General as to every one in Particular. This would Introduce Universal Love Peace & Concord among mankind

This

1736

This would sweeten the Bitter Spirit, Mollifie & Asuage the fierce & violent Dispositions of men, mutually endear Relations & Friends, and bring all into the Unity & Fellowship of the holy Spirit. The Fruits whereof the Apostle Declareth are, Joy, Peace, Long suffering, Brotherly kindness & Charity: We do therefore most Earnestly Recommend a strict Attention to this holy & Divine Principle to Friends every where, and in a particular manner to the Youth of the Present Generation.

And Dear Friends in order that as we have received Christ, so we may walk in him, in all holiness and Godliness of Conversation we Earnestly Exhort that ye hold fast the Profession of the Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, without wavering, both in respect to his outward coming in the Flesh, His sufferings, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Mediation and Intercession at the Right hand of the Father, And to the inward Manifestation of his Grace & holy Spirit in our hearts, Powerfully working the Soul of man, to the subduing every evil Affection & Lust, and to the purifying of our Consciences from dead works to serve the Living God; and that through the Virtue & Efficacy of this most holy Faith, ye may become Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His Might, which will Enable you to worship God in Spirit, with Acceptance, and preserve you in a lively frame of mind, from a drowsy and Lukewarm Spirit, which in all our Religious Assemblies ought to be guarded against with the Utmost Care and Circumspection: — In this lively Faith & pure Life of Christ, you will have Victory over the World, over your Desires, after the Grandeur & Perishing things thereof, and over the Corrupt Customs & Fashions, which are Contrary to the purity of the Gospel, & our Ancient Christian Testimony.

1787

1737

the like
in 1733
page 63

1737

For the sake of tender & young convinced Friends, An Earnest Concern is on the minds of many that no Occasion of stumbling or offence be laid in the way, but that all such as have made longer Profession of the way of Truth, may be careful to walk before them in all holiness & Uprightness of Conversation & in an humble waiting upon the Lord, that their Example may tend to the Encouragement & Strengthening of those who have ^{been} more lately Visited, to a Steady & Constant perseverance in the path which the Lord hath Directed their feet into.

See
page 39, 61,
62 and
under plain-
ness page 223
to p. 229
Under
Trading
page 391 to
p. 397

And Dear Friends, 'tis with much sorrow & Grief of heart, We have still Occasion to Remind you of the advice so lately Delivered in our yearly Epistle, namely to keep out of Extravagant Fashions & Customs of the World, and not to Launch further into Trade & Business than you are Capable of managing & Carrying on with Reputation & Credit among men, & without prejudice to yourself or Detriment to any. We are fully Persuaded that if Friends every where had a Due Respect and Regard to this one precept of Christ, viz. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God & his Righteousness, which is the Indispensible Duty of all his Followers to observe, we should have little or no Occasion for the Repetition of such Advices: Let therefore We earnestly beseech you that precept of our Blessed Lord & Master, and Holy head, be duly Considered, & put in Practice, that by ordering our Conversations agreeable to our Profession, We may shew forth the Praise of Him that hath called us, so shall we witness the Promise to be fulfilled, Them that honour me, saith the Lord I will honour.

1738

1738

against
vain fashions,
sports
Plays
&c
be
temperate
&c

1738

And forasmuch as we are called with an high & holy Calling, to all Holiness & purity of Conversation; Let your Behaviour among men be unblameable & Such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ; Let not the vain and Foolish fashions of the World prevail over you; — avoid Sports, Plays, & all such Diversions, as tending to Alienate the mind from God; and to Deprive the Soul of His comfortable Presence & Power; Be Temperate and Sober; Shun all Excess in Eating & Drinking, Let such of you as Deal in Spirituous Liquors, be careful to Limit your Trade within the Bounds Prescribed by the Law of the Land; Beware lest any of you suffer as an evil Doer. — 1. Pet. 4. 15.

1739

1739

The advice in 1738 renewed, and earnestly beseech our Friends and the Youth especially, to avoid all such Conversations as tends to Draw out their minds into the foolish & Wicked Pastimes with which this age abounds Particularly Balls, Gaming places, Horse Races, & Play houses those Nurseries of Debauchery and Wickedness. — the Burthen and Grief of the sober part of other Societies, as well as of our own; — Practices wholly Unbecoming a People under the Christian Profession, &c see the Printed Epistle.

1743

1743

See plainness page 230

Correspondents

N^o 7th Concerning Correspondents

1682

1682
see 1743
1725
1747
Agreed, that the Persons to be Corresponded with here, be from time to time, agreed and Directed by the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1693

1693
Friends to write to Correspondents
Agreed that each Quarterly Meeting take care to Advise the Correspondents for the Counties, and any others concerned, to write, only to the Correspondents in London, about their Sufferings and not to other Persons, lest their Suffering Case be Delayed.

1701

1701
This Meeting Desires the City Correspondents, to write to the several places beyond Sea, at Least once a Year.

1702

1702
who are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings
Agreed after a Serious Consideration, that none are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings, but Publick Friends, and such as are appointed or approved by the several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties, and other Counties that Correspond with this Meeting in all Places, and are Entered as such in the Correspond Book.

1703

1703
see 1725
After a Consideration about the Correspondents in London, it was agreed by this Meeting, That it was of Right for the Deputies of the Counties to diminish or Add to their Correspondents, as they see meet.

1709

1709
for foreign parts
see 1730
p. 77.
It is agreed, that in the Epistles to Foreign Parts, Friends be acquainted of such Friends as are named here for them to Correspond with upon the Affairs of Truth; and inform them how they may Direct to them, if the Friends there approve of them, otherwise that they advise this Meeting,

who

1709 Who they would have for their Correspondents here, and that they let Friends here know to whom & where they shall Direct to them there.

1713

Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to Enquire, whether the Epistles be Duly sent by the Correspondents to the Foreign Plantations.

1717

Agreed, That the London Correspondents be no more than four for any one County or Place for the future, & that where the number at Present Exceeds four, as soon as any of them Decline or Dye, & they are reduced to four, the number in those places also shall be kept to a Number not Exceeding Four.

no place to have more than four

1720

The Meeting for Sufferings is Desired to Call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of their Attendance on all necessary Occasions the said Meeting is Desired to acquaint those with the County for whom such Friends neglecting to serve, are Appointed, that they may name or appoint some other Friends who can or will attend the Service on all necessary Occasions.

To give attendance

1725

Agreed, that the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be Directed Expressly to give Instructions, to their Deputies, who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall Nominate in the City, in the room of any Friend Deceased or Removed; or else expressly leave them to their Liberty of Choice, &c

Quarterly Meetings to appoint Correspondents

And

1725

Meeting for Sufferings to give notice of the Death of any member

And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some Seasonable time after the Death of any of their Members Do give notice to the County or Counties for whom the said Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such Directions, the next yearly Meeting.

1730

1730 Persons not to be correspondents

This meeting having had under their Consideration a Proposition, made Relating to persons Employed as Correspondents, Some of whom have failed in the payment of their Just Debts, 'Tis Deemed that no Person under such Circumstance is fit to be Employed in that Station, till he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to, satisfaction; And therefore hereby recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings, That for the future they take special Care, where any such failure has or may happen, that they duly apprise the Counties thereof for Which they stand Correspondents, in order that a new Choice may be made to Supply his Place. — A Copy of this Minute to be read Sent down to the Several Counties for Friends there also to act agreeable hereto with Respect to Correspondents in the Country Likewise.

writing to foreign parts

1709 & 1713 in p. 76

This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings, to take Due Care to see that the Correspondents for Foreign Countries, Answer the Several Epistles Received from thence; and also Write to the several Distant places in the World, where any Friends are, notwithstanding at any time this meeting may not have any account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise: and that all such Answers allowed be Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings in behalf of this yearly Meeting.

1734

Correspondents

1734
 attendance Required
 See 1720
 1736
 1737

1734
 It being taken notice of in this Meeting, that some Friends of the City whose names stand in the Correspondent Book, do very seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings. This meeting are of Opinion that such who do not attend the said Meeting, at least once in a Quarter of a year should be Discharged by this Meeting, unless some sufficient Reason should be rendered.

1735
 A minute of the Sike Purport

1736
 attendance &c
 See 1737

1736
 The Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings having laid before this Meeting, a minute respecting some Difficulties in putting in Practice the Advices of this Meeting in the year 1734 & 1735 Relating to the attendance of the Members of that Meeting in the Service thereof; And this Meeting taking the same into their Consideration Approves what the said Meeting have done; And now agrees, that instead of being Obliged to attend once a Quarter, all such Members to attend at least six times a year.

1737
 not attending six times a year to be struck out

1737
 On perusing the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings respecting the Attendance of its Members, We find that a considerable Deficiency appears in attending the same altho for several years past they have been Earnestly Requested to do it:— This Meetings being Desirous they may come up in their Service, Request their Care & Diligence for the future, & do agree, that such that dont attend at least six times in the year, pursuant to the Direction of a Minute of the last yearly Meeting, shall be struck out of the Correspond Book unless they give sufficient Reasons to the Contrary.

1740

Correspondents

1743
 See Representatives, page, 303

1747
 Qualifications to be Considered
 See 1730
 p. 77

1747
 This Meeting having Considered the nature and Importance of the Affairs Transacted by the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Continued Necessity there is that they should be Managed by grave & weighty Friends, such as are themselves men of Clean hands, and adorning the Doctrine they Profess in their Lives and Conversations: it is become the Earned Desire of this Meeting that for the future, Friends every where will be Particularly Careful in the Choice of such who are to Act as Correspondents either in the City or the Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be, of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services; And that such only may be Nominated, who are Faithful in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Tithes, bearing Arms & Swearing; And who are also Exemplary in their Conduct and Conversation amongst men; and coming up in that plainness of speech, Behaviour and apparel which highly becomes those in an Especial manner who are concerned in managing the Affairs of the Church.

Covertuousness

N^o 8th Concerning Covertuousness

1676

And none strive for Covet to be rich in this World in these Changable things that will pass away, but your Faith so stand, in the Lord God, Who Changes not, that Created all and gives the Increase of all.

not Covet to be rich

1697

We do in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Warn and Charge all that Profess the Truth among us, to take heed and Beware of Covertuousness, Over-reaching, Oppressing & Defrauding of any; from whence Strife, Contention, and Law-suits do often arise, & if any Difference about these things do happen among you, to stop & suppress it.

beware of Covertuousness &c

1689

Let all Friends be Exhorted to abide under the Daily Cross, whereby the Earthly mind may be Crucified, which hath its Delight & Ease in vanity, Pride & Covertuousness; &c; That Friends being preserved out of those things wherein the Enemy hath had & has his Kingdom, and too plainly lays shares to hinder their holy Progress, may every where be more & more a Retired Serious Plain and Self-denying People, growing in the Grace & Knowledge of God, and our Lord Jesus Christ and exalting his Spiritual Kingdom in their souls.

abide under the Daily Cross &c

1720

As our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Exhorted and warned to beware & take heed of Covertuousness, which is Idolatry, We are concerned that all professing Christianity among us, may take heed of Pride, Covertuousness, & hastening to be Rich in the World which are pernicious & growing Evils, Let them be watched against, Resisted and Suppressed

Beware of Covertuousness & hastening to be rich

in

Covetousness

1720 in the Fear and Dread of Almighty God & have
no place or Countenance in His Camp.

O ye Grave Elders both men and Women: Pray
be Careful & Watchful Against these Evils,
and over the Youth in these Cases.

1721

1721 The last years Caution repeated.

1725

1725 See Children. page, 46.

Days

N^o 9 " Concerning Days

1690

1690

See Children, page, 40.

1691

1691

Advised that Friends keep to their wonted
Example and Testimony against the Super-
stitious Observation of Days.

1697

1697

That all Friends keep to the Simplicity
of Truth, in calling the Months and Days
by Scripture Names, & not by Heathen.

1715

1715

See Plainness, page, 226.

Defamation

N^o 30th Concerning Defamation

1718

1718

It is the Advice of this Meeting, that any Person Charged with Defamation or Scandal, ought to be Proceeded against in the Manner, and by the several Steps following.

First, The Person Defamed or Supposed to be Defamed, in his own Person, or any other to whom the Knowledge of the Case shall come, to go to the Accused and tell him his fault or supposed Fault, between them alone, and by the best method he is capable of, to Labour to Convince him of it in order to his Acknowledgment of the Truth, & Repentance if he appears to be guilty. — But if the Accused shall appear, either thro Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro Willfulness not to yield to it, Or being Convinced, shall refuse to make such Satisfaction as the nature of the Case Requires, (that being the Consequence of true Repentance) In such Case, the accuser to take with him one or two more of the Monthly Meeting the accused belongs to, if it may conveniently be done; & if the accused thinks fit, he may bring with him one or two ~~more~~ friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting if it may, conveniently done, & they together in the Wisdom of God, to Endeavour the true Knowledge of the Case, by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion. And if they all shall Judge him Guilty, & he doth not make Satisfaction, or if they do not all agree that he is Innocent, in either of these Cases, happening, The Person Charging hath Liberty to bring the Matter before the Church, who are the only Judges nor depending, both of the Nature of the fact, and the Validity of the Proof of it, And they in the Wisdom of God, which we hope will not be wanting to his Church, as they Humbly Wait on him for it,

the Defamed to deal privately with the

afterward to take one or two more of the accused may bring or two also

may bring the Case before the Church

Defamation

1728

*if a case
be committed
regard into
be had to
the objects
of it*

to Deal with him for the good ends before mentioned and as they see Cause, upon a mature & Deliberate Consideration, to Justify or Condemn him; And if the Church shall see meet to Commit the Consideration of a Case of this Nature for better Dispatch, to Certain Persons of their own body, We Recommend it as our tender advice, That in case the accused shall object against one or more of the Friends so Chosen, that the Church have a due regard to such Objection, and lay aside the Person or Persons so objected against, And substitute another or others in his or their Room, Provided such objections doth not extend to the Major part of the Friends so Chosen: And in General, We Desire all tenderness and regard may be had to a Person under such Circumstances, and that Friends in a Spirit of Love & Condescension, should be ready to make him as easy as they can, Provided they keep up the Authority of their Meetings

Nameless Books and Pamphlets reflecting Darkly on Friends, are detestable against and its Desired, that no such Books be written, Printed, Published, or privately handed about, by any under our Profession for the time to Come.

See Tale bearing & backbiting, page, 357
to page, 359.

1698

Friends to be appointed to oversee & admonish &c

1698

Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is concerned, Faithful friends of the Respective monthly Meetings be Appointed to see how well those Things be Observed and tenderly to Admonish such in Brotherly Love that shall Decline the Same.

1701

1701

If any weakness, Shortness, failure or Unfaithfulness appear in any professing the same Truth with us, We hope Faithful Friends & Brethren will continue their ^{care} Care for their help, Instruction & Admonition, in the Love & Power of the Lord, as in His Wisdom they shall see Cause, Still aiming at their good, their inward peace of Conscience, & Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703

1703

to watch over the Flock

the faulty to be admonished

Recommended unto Faithful Friends and Elders Especially to watch over the flock of Christ in their respective places, that they Faithfully & Diligently walk up to the Testimony of the blessed Truth to which the Lord hath gathered us in this latter Age of the World, that so where any are found short, weak or faulty, they may be admonished & sought in the Spirit of Love, which is that of the Gospel, That Divine Charity that Draws as with the Cords of a Man, wherein Mercy is not only mixt with Judgment, but may appear over all our works, that so it may be seen to all, that Church Love abounds before Church Censure comes, & that a Gospel Spirit is the Spring & Motive to all our Performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

1708

1708

Forasmuch as some Persons, who by their ill Conduct have Justly Deserved, & Come under the Censure of the Meetings to which they Belong

have

1708

Such who have come under the given paper of Condemnation are not to be too early received

have thought to get from under the weight of that Judgment by signing a paper of Condemnation, and thereby suppose themselves Discharged. It is therefore Recommended to Friends Consideration, That they be careful not to admit such Persons too early into Fellowship, or give them cause to think they they are accepted before the Meeting or Meetings are Satisfied in their Repentance & Amendment. Notwithstanding such paper be given.

1718

1718

See Defamation, page, 93, 94,

1734

1734

watch over one another for good

We Earnestly Exhort all Friends and Brethren, that under a Living Concern of Spirit for the Honour of God, and Welfare of his People, they Diligently watch over one another for good, and where any weakness or unfaithfulness touching any Branch of our Christian Testimony appears in any making Profession with us, Let such be timely & tenderly advised, & in the Wisdom of Truth Stirred up to their Duty.

1735

1735

keeping up the Discipline a means of preservation

And, We do further Recommend, as ^{our} means very conducive to the Preservation of Friends a People of one heart & one Way, for the good of themselves & their Children after them, That the Discipline of the Church, in the several Meetings Instituted for that purpose, be kept up & managed in a spirit of Love & Wisdom: Let all things in those Meetings be done with Charity, Let the Love of God in an especial Manner Rule in your hearts, and therein, tho' sometimes different Sentiments may arise yet will every Member have the same thing in view vizt. the Glory of God & the good of his Church & People, & in this Singleness of heart they will best promote the great End & Services of those Meetings: We advise therefore upon this Occasion that nothing be done thro' Strife and Contention,

nor

1698 Friends to be appointed to oversee & admonish &c

1698

Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is concerned, Faithful friends of the Respective monthly Meetings be Appointed to see how well those Things be Observed and tenderly to Admonish such in Brotherly Love that shall Decline the Same.

1701

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to watch over the Flock

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1708

Forasmuch as some Persons, who by their ill Conduct have Justly Deserved, & Come under the Censure of the Meetings to which they belong

have

1708

Such who have come under the Given a paper of Condemnation that not to be too early received

have thought to get from under the weight of that Judgment by signing a paper of Condemnation, and thereby suppose themselves Discharged. It is therefore Recommended to Friends Consideration, That they be careful not to admit such Persons too early into Fellowship, or give them cause to think they they are accepted before the Meeting or Meetings are satisfied in their Repentance & Amendment. Notwithstanding such paper be given.

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nor

1735 not from any private View, or the Influence of Numbers; but in lowliness of mind let each Esteem another better than himself. & where any Debates arise, Endeavour in a Spirit of Meekness to convince One another, and as you so stand mutually Engaged in Love, your Hearts will be Enlarged, & all undue warmth and Discord will be gradually Removed, and you will be Enabled thro' Meekness, Humility, Long suffering & forbearance One of Another, to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace, always bearing in mind that Excellent Citation of the Apostle, Gal. 5. 26
 "Let us not be Desirous of vain Glory provoking one another envying one another knowing this that the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, against such there is no Law, and they that are Christs have Crucified the Flesh with the Affections & Lusts, if we Live in the Spirit
 "Let us also walk in the Spirit, ver, 22, 23, 24, 25.

- See Appeals page, 1 to 4
- Arbitrations p. 9 to 16
- Families - p. 117 to 139
- Fighting - p. 123 to 125
- Marriage - p. 145 to 152

1741

1741
 See Marriage, page, 152.

1743

1743
 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 176.

1744

- 1744
 See Law page, - 138.
- Marriage, p. - 153.
- Tale bearing, p. - 359.
- Fighting - p. 124.

1745

1745
 See Appeals, page, 4.

1747

1747
 Agreed, That where a Person commits an Offence within a Monthly Meeting wherein he resides, but is not Properly a Member by the Rules of Settlement, shall by such Monthly Meeting where the offence is committed be Dealt with And if it be of such a Nature as Merits a Denial, the said Meeting shall Disown him; and on his Repentance Receive him again into Unity, which shall not Intitle him to Memberskip in the Monthly Meeting so having Dealt with him, but to the Meeting of which he was a Member before such Dealing. And the Monthly Meeting who hath Disowned or Accepted such Friend shall immediately give notice of such Denial or acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to which he belongs.

Offenders may be dealt with by the Monthly Meeting where they reside.

See Marriage, page, 154.

1748

1748
 See Marriage, page, 155

1749

1749
 Advised, That Friends would be very careful to avoid & beware of that Spirit which leadeth into heats & strife, & which can Never work the Righteousness of God, but treat such with tenderness & affection in whom there may be a Difference of Opinion Endeavouring in the Love & Meekness of Truth to convince their Judgments, and Patiently to wait for the healing Influences of the Love of God, which will produce that Brotherly Regard and Condescension, as may Unite their Spirits to him and one unto another.

Keep out of heats by Strife

1750

1750
 The want of Due Concern to Deal with such as Walk Inconsistently with our holy Profession, and are Unfaithful in Respect to our Christian

Testimony

1760
early & Diligent Care over the In faithful Recommen-
=ed

Testimony being but too obvious, An early and Diligent care, over such is Earnestly Recommended; And We desire, that all who have at heart the Honour of God & the Prosperity of Truth, would be stirred to Discharge this Necessary part of Christian Duty in their respective Stations, timely Caution may often prevent unhappy Effects, and a brotherly care over such as are in Danger of Receiving hurt, may be Rewarded with the Secret Satisfaction of being made Instrumental in their Preservation.

Greatly would the Christian Discipline Established amongst us, if thus exerted in Divine Wisdom & Zeal, Contribute to prevent the growing Evils & hurtful Liberties of various kinds which appear in too many places, to the Dishonour of God the Grief of good Men & the Reproach of our Holy Profession.

But if Individuals Neglect their Duty Grow Cool in their Love to God, & Loose that hunger after Divine Virtue & inward Support, to Live to his praise & their own Comfort, which is the certain Effect of his Visitation, wherever it is Embraced, how can a proper Concern for the good of others, & for Prosperity of Truth have Due place in their Minds? Or be properly Exerted by those who are not enough Engaged to feel after the Increase of its Blessed effects for themselves.

As this neglect of steadily applying & waiting for Heavenly Virtue & ability to Discharge the duties & equipp'd of us is the source of Loss & Decay to particulars with respect to a growth in Religion, so the same unhappy Effects are Communicated to the Body, and when this is the case, & evidently Discover themselves in a Disregard to Discipline, & the want of a proper Concern for the good Order of the Church.

Let

1750

Let all therefore be Excited to Labour, in a spirit of Love & fervent Charity, with such as may be in danger of falling into things Injurious to their Peace, and tending to the Dishonour of our Christian Profession, so that in thus Exercising a tender Care & Watchfulness over one another for mutual Edification, We may approve ourselves Faithful Just & True in the Sight of God & Examples of Temperance, Patience Purity & Holiness before Men to the Praise of the Most high, the Comfort of his People, and our own Eternal Happiness.

1755
answers to the Queries plain & Explicit

The Answers to Our Queries brought in being plain & Explicit, have in that respect given this Meeting good Satisfaction, — Thereby affording an opportunity to this Meeting to impart the necessary Advices, which Care we Recommend to the Practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

Elders

And we Intreat the Elders amongst you, Rule with Diligence, abide in that Power that gives Dominion over all Corrupt spirits, & in Meekness & Condescension, seek to Recover that which is strayed; that, that when the great Shepherd shall appear, you may Receive Your Reward.

1760

Method for admitting Convinc'd persons into Memberships

Agreed & Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, that for initiating Convinc'd Persons into Membership, who have not had their Birth & Education amongst Friends.

That they first apply to a preparative meeting in Person Request to Come under the Care of Friends if the Preparative Meeting approve the same, that they Acquaint the Monthly Meeting thereof, & the Person so Requesting to attend at that time & signify his or her Desire to be taken under their care,

whereupon

Discipline

1760

Whereupon the Monthly ^{meeting} shall Appoint some Suitable Friends to Enquire into the Persons Life & Conversation & also to take a solid opportunity of conference with the Petitioner in Order the better to Understand whether their Motive for such Request be Sincere and from the Bottom of true Conviction & make report accordingly to the Monthly Meeting, which if Satisfactory to the Meeting, that a Minute be then made thereon Signifying their Accepting such a Person into Membership with us.

But in all such Cases Friends are Desired Carefully to Attend to the Advice of the Apostle viz^t

Lay hands suddenly on no man

See Removals, &c. Page, 237.

1772

1772

The following matter were concluded upon at a yearly meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhod Island in the 6mo 1772

It is the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting that it is not Consistant with our Religious profession for the members of our Society to join themselves with those called free Masons, And advise that Quarterly and Monthly meetings disavow their members therefrom, and if any continue therein or others join therewith Contrary to the advice herein contained that they be Dealt with as such who refuse the advice of Friends.

1772

See page 156

The matter of friend undertaking to join people in mourning after the manner of the world - See Marriages page 156

Discipline

1772

It is agreed upon at a yearly ^{meeting} of friends held at Newport on Rhod Island of 6mo 1772

That Subscriptions Collections and Donations for Publick Uses they be Received from the members of our Society only -

1770

Friends to be Labourd with ^{love} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~advice~~ ^{advice} for non attendance of meetings - See page 198 under Meeting for Worship

What Children are intitled to memberships - See page 50

Disputes

N^o 12th concerning Disputes.

1876

Shun vain
Disputes

1676
Advised, That Friends be tender to the tender Principle of God in all, & shun the occasion of vain Disputes & Janglings, both among themselves and Others, for that many times is like a blustering wind that hurts and bruises the tender Buds and Plants.

1699

an humble
Condescend-
ing spirit
Recommend
-20

to prevent
all occasions
of strife

and crush
all
Differences

1699
Because our comfort as a People Depends upon our care to Maintain Peace & Fellowship among brethren in all; that with Godly Fear Wisdom, & Meekness We may be so Ordered in all our respective Services that every high & rough thing may be laid low, & all occasions of Striving be prevented, the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved & Augmented among Us; And to that Purpose it is tenderly advised, that we Diligently & Carefully Observe the Comely & Blessed Gospel Order so long known, & in practice among Us, in the Spirit of Meekness & of a Sound Mind which is the way to crush all Differences in their Infancy, & suppress the Rise as well as stop the Progress of every thing that is Unseemly & Inconsistent with the Testimony of the Precious Truth.

1736

Seek Peace
& not be
apt to
take Offense

1736
And it is the Earnest Desire of this Meeting that a spirit of Love & Humility may more & more Diffuse it self among Us, & Influence the hearts of all, that so every one may come to seek Peace & pursue it, & that none be apt to take offence, But each in his own Particular be more careful to rectify his own failings & Imperfections, than Curious in Observing Censurings & Aggravating those of Others;

This

1736

This will Lead to the Exercise of mutual For-
bearance and Forgiveness one of another by
which the Occasion of Contention will be
avoided and the Churches preserved in
a State of Peace & Tranquillity.

Epistles

N^o 13th concerning Epistles.

1696
to be perused before read in the yearly meeting
1696
Ordered, That all Epistles Directed to the Yearly Meeting, not already read by the Second Days Morning Meeting, be perused & Considered by Persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting, before they are Publickly Read in the said Meeting.

1698
answers
Ordered, That the answers to the several foreign Epistles when ^{drawn} brought to the Second Days Morning Meeting before sent, and Copies left there.

1701
See Correspondents, page, 75, & 76.

1702
answers
Agreed, That when Answers are Drawn up to the several Epistles they be shewn unto the Second Days Morning Meeting, & sent as formerly, and the Epistles left there.

1709 & 1713
See Correspondents, page, 75, & 76.

1715
to be signed at the months meeting & meeting for sufferings
1715
This Meeting Desires the Correspondents to make speedy Answers to the Epistles Delivered them, and that the same, when prepared, be brought to the Morning Meeting, and the Meeting for sufferings in Order to be signed.

1719
Epistles from foreign parts
1719
Whereas it is Observed, that in some Epistles from foreign parts, mention is made that they are signed by Order & in behalf of the said Meetings, but no notice that they have been read & approved there, it is therefore Desired that Due Care be taken that

1719

That as often as may be, such Epistles may be Read and approved in those Meetings, and Expresses in the Epistles they have been so. The Correspondents for foreign parts to give them notice hereof.

1728

It is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to be sent to take care to send Epistles to all the ^{to all parts} American Islands & other Places abroad in ^{where from} the British or other Dominions where any are Friends are Resident.

1730

This Meeting Recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that ^{The Meeting for Sufferings to see that} the Correspondents for foreign ^{to answer} Countries, Answer the several Epistles received from thence, and also to write ^{to write} to the several Distant places in the World. ^{to all other places where from} Wherewithall, this Meeting hath heretofore ^{are} corresponded, where any Friends are, ^{altho no Epistles be received} Notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise; and that all such Answers allowed, be Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of this yearly Meeting.

Families

N^o 14th Concerning Visiting of Families

1708
 Forasmuch as a Godly Care is growing among
 Friends in many Places, that all things which are
 Unsavory and hurtful might be Remov'd, that so
 all that Profess the Precious Truth with us, may come
 up together in the good Order of the Gospel, for the
 furthering of which and Encouraging thereunto, It is
 Recommended, That Weighty & Sensible Friends of Unblam-
 able Conversations, be Chosen in the Wisdom of God,
 to Visit the Families of Friends in His Love; Who
 are Desired to advise or Admonish in the Peace-
 able Spirit of Truth, as Occasion may be seen.

advocate
 Visit Fam-
 lies
 See 1693
 p. 300

1710

We Esteem it very necessary & requisite, that
 young Convinced, & well inclined Persons & Friends,
 be early Visited in the Love of God, by Faithful
 Friends, for their Encouragement, help and Fur-
 therance in the Truth. And that the Christian Duty
 of Visiting the Sick, be timely Remember'd & Practis'd
 it having often left Comfort Ease and Sweetness
 upon the Spirits of many to their very End.

1710
 to visit
 young
 convinced
 Friends
 the sick

1729

And we would hope, if Friends in their
 Monthly Meetings, should pursuant to the Directions of
 this Meeting in the Epistle, 1708 appoint proper
 Sensible & Honest Friends to Visit their respective
 Members, it may in great Measure prevent the Ne-
 cessity of Repeating the Advices, which have
 been so frequently given.

1729

1731

See Children-page, 47.

1731

1783

Families

1733 We again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings, to take Especial Care to appoint proper Prudent & Judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former Advices, viz: in the Epistles 1708 & 1729 herewith sent; and that such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love & in the Meekness of Wisdom, to convince the Judgment of their Respective Members of the Necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Testimony, which Truth hath given our Ancients & us to bear, may be Maintained Unviolated. See Meetings for Discipline: p. 173.

1737

And Dear Friends, having Received very comfortable accounts from Divers Places, of the good Disposition raised in the Minds of young Persons to walk in that Plainness & Self-Denial which have been often Recommended by this Meeting; We earnestly Desire, that Parents & Guardians, & Friends every Where, would Watch over such, & Encourage & Cherish every thing that may contribute to their Growth & Progress in the Ways of Truth and Holiness: and for the Strength & Encouragement of every such Well-Disposed young Person, We earnestly Exhort Masters & Mistresses of Families to be Exemplary, & to enforce their Advice by an agreeable Conversation or Practice and in no wise to discourage, but Encourage both their Children & Servants in that plainness of Speech & Behaviour, which the Truth Leads to.

Families

N^o. 13th Concerning Fighting.

1693

1693

against
Carrying
Guns in
Ships

A Complaint being made about some Ship-Masters, Who Profess the Truth, and are Esteemed Quakers, their Carrying Guns in their Ships, — Supposing thereby to Defend & Secure themselves and their Ships, Contrary to their former Practice & Principle & to the Endangering their own & others Lives thereby; also giving occasion of more severe hardships and sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are pressed into Ships of War, Who for conscience sake cannot fight nor destroy mens Lives: 'Tis therefore Recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, whereto such Ship-masters Belong, to Deal with them in Gods Wisdom & tender Love, to stir them up & awaken their Consciences that they may seriously Consider how they injure their own Souls in so doing, and that Occasion they give to make the Truth and Friends to suffer by their Deceit and acting Contrary thereunto, thro' Disobedience and Unbelief, placing their security in that which is altogether insecure & Dangerous: which we are really sorry for, and sincerely Desire their Recovery, and safety from Destruction, that their Faith and Confidence may be in the arm & Power of God. — See more in the same Printed Epistle

1709

1709

The foregoing advice still Recommended

1730

1730

against
bearing Arms
or
fighting

It hath been a Weighty Concern on this Meeting that our Ancient & Honourable Testimony, Against Friends being Concerned in bearing Arms, or fighting may be maintained it being a Doctrine and Testimony, agreeable to the Nature & Design of the Christian Religion;

and

Fighting

1730 And to the Universal Love and Grace of God, this Testimony we Desire may be Strictly and Carefully Maintained, by a Godly care and concern in all to Stand Single and Clear therein; so shall we Strengthen and Comfort one Another.

1742

See Questions, page, 272.

1744

It having been in preping, terms Represented and Complained of to this Meeting, that notwithstanding we have, as a People Looked upon Ourselves as well as the Primitive Christians, to be Included in that Noble Prophecy, Isaiah 2: they shall beat their swords into Plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, and Learn War no more: Agreeable to the Doctrine of our Blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to which our Ancient Friends abundantly bore Testimony, both in Doctrine and Practice & Suffered Deeply for, and Confirmed & Satisfied by several of our yearly Meetings, particularly, in the year 1693, 1709 & 1733, by their Express Declarations & Testimonies against carrying Guns for Defending our Ships Persons & Goods: and being under many strong Engagements to Observe the same, from the particular Care of Providence over such as have been Faithful to this our Testimony, particularly, Those of Our Friends In Pennsylvania.

privatizing &c

Nevertheless some Professing to be of our Society, have of late slighted and neglected this our Ancient and Christian Testimony to that Degree, as to be Concerned in Privatizing, Or as Owners in Ships going with letters of Marque, which is a flagrant and lamentable Departure from our Peaceable Principle which hath always been to Confide in the Protection and Providence of Almighty God & not in weapons of war,

which

Fighting

1744

Which Practice of theirs may be attended with Injustice, Barbarity and Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this sorrowful and afflicting case, and breach of our Ancient Testimony, into our serious Consideration, have thought it our Incumbent Duty, to bear our Testimony against such Practices: And tis the Unanimous Sense of this Meeting, That all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings ought speedily to deal with every Person found in the Practice of such things, in the spirit of Truth and Love, in order to bring them to a sense of their Error and to reclaim them from it; which if they cannot do, then to Testify against them, and Let them know We have no Unity or Fellowship with them.

and See Questions, page, 273.

N^o 16th Concerning Kings & Governours

1689

1689
to give no
offence to
those in
Government

Advised to walk wisely & circumspectly towards all men in the Peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no offence nor occasions to those in Outward Government, nor way to any Controversies heats or Distractions of this World about the Kingdoms of it but Pray for the Good of all, and submit all to that Divine Power & Wisdom which Rules over the Kingdoms of Men.

1690

1690

It is Advised That Friends be Circumspect and not make it their Business to Discourse of the Outward Powers but to Discourage all such Things.

And Dear Friends, Altho' we gave plain & Christian Advice & Admonition last year for friends to beware of all airy Discourses, Disputes & Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World, that all might walk wisely & Circumspectly, in subjection to the Divine & over ruling Power and Wisdom of God: yet Contrariwise, to our Grief, We have heard too much Complaint & Reflections Occasioned by some who have not observed a true Bridle to their Tongues, but have been too busy loose and airy in Discourses of that Nature. and therefore we do Exhort and Admonish all such, in the fear of God, and as they have Respect unto his holy Truth, and Innocent People, and their own Safety, to be watchful, careful and Circumspect for the time to come, that none may suffer as busy bodies, nor bring Suffering or Reproach, or Cause jealousies to be raised upon or against others that are Innocent, & singly Desire the Preservation Safety & Peace of all Friends in Truth & Innocency towards all Men.

1692

1692 ¹⁶⁹² This Meeting was well satisfied and very Glad in the sense they had of the Innocency and peaceableness of the Body of our Friends in General towards the Civil Government under which we live & Enjoy our ~~Present~~ Liberty in the Peaceable Exercise of tender Consciences toward Almighty God to whom we are humbly thankful for the time being Oblidged to Demean our selves not only as a grateful People, but a Christian Society to Live peaceably & Inoffensively under the Present Government, as we have always Done under the various Revolutions of Government, ever since we were a People, According to our ancient Christian Principles and Practise in which we hope we shall ever persevere to the End of our Days, according as we are Enjoined by our Peaceable Saviour Christ Jesus, and the Christian Advice of his Faithful Servants & Ministers among us; We being a People Clear in the Sight of God from all evil Designs Plots & Conspiracies whatsoever, & hope in God that we shall Continue a People always Quiet in the Land having nothing but Love & Good Will to all Men, for which End we Earnestly Desire and hope that a Christian care may not be wanting among you for the Preservation of our Whole Society in that Innocent Life & Peaceable Conversation, which is agreeable to our Christian Principle & Profession wherein we have from the beginning found our safety, and peace with God, & Him to be our Defence, being fully persuaded, this our Ancient Christian Testimony Publickly Owned among us, None can gainsay, Nor any Faithful Friends to God & Christ can ever Decline it: being assured our God will in his own Due time remove all Offences & Causeless Jealousies and Reproaches tending to Cloud our Innocency, & will Set his own Power and Peaceable Kingdom of his Dear Son over all.

thankful Acknowledgment of the favour of the Government

to live Peaceably under it

1695

See Parliament, page, 215

1698

This Meeting Understanding that some in the Government have reported, that some Persons who are Called Quakers have used secret and indirect ways to take up their up their Goods without paying the Customs and Duties which the Law hath laid upon them, whereby the King is Defrauded of his Right.

This Meeting thereupon Declares it to be the Judgment of Truth and Friends, that all such practises are evil; and if any Person who Professeth Truth should be Guilty thereof, such Persons would thereby go out of Truth, and Act Contrary thereunto.

1703

Advised to avoid all indirect and unwarantable Methods both in trade & Merchandize, by which the Government may be Defrauded of its Due, that so no Reproach may be brought upon our holy Profession by such Things.

1705

Since the Lords Good Providence has so far Blessed Friends as to Give them Favour with the Government, It is Desired that Friends would Continue with all Humility to Walk worthy of that Mercy; and Improve the same by a Gentle and peaceable Conversation towards all men, in their respective places of a bode.

1709

Advised, not to put any abuse on the Government by Endeavouring to Diminish any of the Customs, Excise, or any other Publick Civil Dues. Yet if any going under our Profession should happen to be so far Tempted thro Covetousness

and

1695

1698

Testimony against the Government

1703

not to defraud the Government

1705

to walk worthy of the favour of the Government

1709

not to Diminish Customs &c

1709 And the Love of Unrighteous gain, as to be drawn into any such Evil. We Desire you will Deal with such Persons to make them sensible of such corrupt and pernicious Practices, that our holy Profession may not be Blemished thereby: Nor any offence given nor Injury done by being concerned in prohibited goods, or Wrecks Unrighteously taken away from the Just Owners.

1715 As the Blessed Truth we Profess teacheth Us to do justly unto all men in all things, even so more Especially in a Faithful Subjection to the Government in all Godliness & Honesty, continuing to render to the King what is his Due in Taxes & Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719 As our Testimony hath been, & still is against the Defrauding the King of any of his Customs, Duties, or Excise Buying Goods Reasonably Suspected, ^{to be} Exporting Wool, or any other Goods prohibited by Law, or doing any other thing whatsoever to the Injury of the Kings Revenues, or of the Common Good, or to the hurt of the fair Trader, so if any Person or Persons under our name & Profession, shall be known to be guilty of these or any such Crimes and offences: We do Earnestly Advise the Respective Monthly Meetings to which such offenders belong that they severally reprehend & Testify against such Offenders & their unwarrantable & Unlawful Actions, & Admonish them to make Restitution for the wrong done to the Government And the Holy Truth Professed by us.

1721 The Advice of 1719 repeated

to Deal with the guilty

against being concerned in prohibited goods and wrecks

against Defrauding the King & Exporting Wool or other goods prohibited by Law

offenders to be testified against

1723

1723 See Questions, page, 275.

1730 Advised, That Friends behave with all Dutifulness & Gratitude, and Especially to Discourage every the least appearance of indecent freedom or mark of Dissatisfaction in word or Writing, Relating to the Government.

1732

1732 It is very acceptable to us to find by the accounts from the several parts of the Kingdom, that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting, Friends continue Generally careful not to Defraud the King of his Customs Duties or Excise; And so far to Discourage such Practices, as to avoid Dealing in goods Reasonably suspected to be Kun, this is a Care highly Commendable & no doubt Incumbent on every honest Subject, But as the Government hath Signally favoured us, in our Religious Liberties, We are under the greater Obligations of Gratitude as well as Duty, to Manifest that we are as truly Conscientious to render to Cesar the things that are Cesars as to support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 The last Years advice again recommended.

1734

1734 We are glad to hear by the accounts received that Friends are Generally found in the Practice of their Christian Duty of rendering to Cesar the things that are cesars. & do Earnestly recommend a strict care for the continuance of the same in every ~~or~~ Branch of the Kings Revenue.

1735

1735 The Advices we have Received of the General care of Friends to keep clear from Defrauding the King any Branch of his revenue, are very acceptable to us, who hold it our Indispensible Duty

with

1723

Kings & Governours

1735

with regard to Kings, & all that are in Authority to lead a peaceable & quiet Life in all Godliness and honesty.

1736

By accounts from the several Counties, We do not understand but that Friends are clear from the Practice of Tuning of Goods, or Defrauding the King of his Customs or Revenues. We earnestly recommend the Continuance of that necessary Duty & Desire that Friends Every where may be Careful to Discourage such Practices, which are not only unjust but also inconsistent with that gratitude which we as a People ought to Express towards a Government to whose Serenity & Goodness we are Obligated for the Priviledges we Enjoy.

1737

1737

Finally Brethren, We Recommend you to the Direction & guidance of the Unerring Spirit of Truth within, & the excellent precepts and Instructions of the holy Scriptures without which if you shall Diligently take heed unto, you will not fail of being perfectly Instructed in the great Duties of worship towards God the Father and author of all our Mercies of Fidelity & Gratitude to the Government, which his Merciful Providence has set over Us, of Love & Peace among your selves & of Justice ~~& Moderation~~ & benevolence towards all men.

1735

signing
Commissions
for Militia
ary affairs

Agreed and Concluded at the yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island that whereas there is a Matter referred to this Meeting relating to friends signing Commissions to Support the Military affairs, it is the Judgment & Conclusion of this Meeting that it is Contrary to our Principles & whosoever has or shall presume to sign such Commissions acts Contrary to our Principles, & the Ancient Testimony of Friends.

Kings & Governours 333

N^o 57^o Concerning Law.

1675

As the Meeting doth not Enjoin, Impose upon, or Advise any Friends in Sufferings to take Course at Law for a Remedy, so neither can we Impose upon them not to use the Law in any Case; but a Freedom is left to the Sufferers to use such means as consists with the Unity of Friends, & their own peace and Satisfaction in the Truth & in the bearing a Faithful Testimony in Righteousness.

That Friends do not Judge nor reflect upon one Another in those Cases, a Freedom being left upon Urgent Occasions, to take such Course for Relief & Ease to the Oppressed, as may not be Prejudicial to Truths Testimony.

That if any Friend or Friends apprehends a Necessity to Endeavour for Relief by the Law of the Land to stop the Destroyers &c They first advise about their Case with their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, or at least with some of the Principal Friends relating thereto.

That Friends who suffer be advised not to let out their Minds into too much Expectation of outward Relief by Friends here; but that they patiently & Principally Depend upon the Lord. And his Power to plead their Cause.

1676

That Friends be careful of Entangling themselves in the Law, because of small Irregularities in Proceeding, but if the Law be materially Transgressed, and the Severity of it Exceeded by our Persecutors, That Friends in Gods Wisdom use their Liberty, upon serious & good advise among themselves, so as the Truth & its Testimony may be kept clear Over all.

1693

Lan

1693

1693, 1696, 1697.

1696

See Arbitrations, page, 9, 10 & 11, 12

1697

1698

1698

See Kings & Governours, page, 129

1720

1720, 1725, 1737.

1725

See Arbitrations, page, 13 & 16

1737

1744

1744

^a See Arbitration, page, 14

^b refers to a minute in 1697 See Arbitrations, p. 12 & 14

A minute of this Meeting in 1720^a advised that Persons Professing with us have proved so base & unworthy as ~~when~~ they have run themselves into Debt, to remove themselves or their Effects to prevent Justice. Whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been Deprived of an opportunity of the Common Method of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid. ^b It is hereby Declared that the last paragraph of the said Minute, which prohibits Friends to sue or arrest One another is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those Practices from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the Nature of the Case may require, of which Circumstance the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges. So it is not Doubted, but they will do Justice to the parties concerned therein.

This Meeting Doth request every Monthly Meeting to appoint and Depute proper Persons out of their several Meetings, for such ^{Friends} as may have Occasion, to advise with in the Intervals of Monthly Meetings and if they see cause, to give Liberty to Recover as above.

Lan

Love

N^o 18th Concerning Love.

1703

See Discipline, page, 100.

1718.

See Yearly Meeting, page, 436

1730

Among all the Gospel precepts, We find, not any thing more strongly & frequently recommended by our Lord Jesus Christ, & his Apostles, to the Primitive Believers, than that they should Love one another. And as We are sensible, that nothing, will more contribute to the Peace & Prosperity of the Church than a due regard to this Advice, so We earnestly Desire, that it may be the Care & Concern of all Friends, Every where to dwell therein, and in the Unity of the Holy spirit to maintain Love Concord & Peace in & among, all the Churches of Christ.

1734. See Scriptures page, 339

1735. See Discipline, page, 101, 102

1736. See Disputes, page, 109

N^o 19th Concerning Marriage.

1675

1675

against
Marriage
with near
Kinsred

particularly
for Cousins

It is our Living Sense & Judgment in the Truth of God, that not only those Marriages of near Kinsred, Expressly forbidden under the Law, ought not to be Practised under the Gospel, but that in as much as any Marriage of near Kinsred in the times of the Law was in Condescension and upon such extraordinary Occasions as upholding their Tribes, & that the nearer their Marriages were the More unholy they were accounted. We in our Day ought not to approach our near Kinsred in any such respect particularly First Cousins; being Redeemed out of those Kinsreds Tribes and Earthly Lots (for the Upholding of which Marriages within the Kinsred were once Dispensed with) And brought to that Spiritual Dispensation which gives Dominion over the Affections, & Leads to those Marriages which are more natural & are of better report, And the some through weakness have been Drawn into such Marriages (which being done must not be broken) yet Let not their Practice be any precedent or Example, to any Others amongst us for the time to come.

to break or
violate any
Engagement
not to be
allowed

That such Friends as have with serious advice Due Deliberation, free & mutual consent, as in the Sight of God & Unity of his Blessed Truth, absolutely agreed, Espoused or Contracted upon the account of Marriage, shall not be allowed or Owned among us in any Unfaithfulness or Injustice One to another, to break or Violate any such Contract or Engagement, which is to the Reproach of Truth, or Injury one of another. And where any such Injury breach or Violation of such Solemn Contract is known, or Complained of, or Enmity & Strife Occasioned thereby

We

1675 We advise & Counsel, that a few Faithful Friends, Both men & Women in their respective Meetings to which the parties belong, be appointed to Enquire into the Cause thereof, & in their Wisdom & Council of Gods to put a stop and speedy End thereto & bring Gods power & the Judgment thereof over them that have offended in this case, until they come to Unfeigned Repentance.

And further we advise & Exhort that no Engagements made, without honest Endeavours to obtain or sue regard first had to the Counsel & Consent of Parents or Relations & Friends be Countenanced: that so all foolish & Unbridled Affections, & all Ensnaring & selfish Ends be not so much as found among you on any hand.

It is our Judgment, that for better Satisfaction to all Parties, & that there may be Due time for Enquiring of Cleanness of the Persons Concerned, It is Convenient that Marriages be at least twice propounded to the Meetings that are to take care therein, both to the Mens & Womens Meetings, where both are Established before they are Accomplished, & when things are Cleared, that the Marriage be Accomplished in a grave & Publick Assembly of Friends & Relations.

Consent of Parents to be first had
to be twice proposed at least to the Meetings
See page 148
And Accomplished Publickly

1690

1690 Advised that Parents & Guardians of Children in the Fear of God take special Care to prevent those under their Charge from being Engaged or Entangled with any upon the account of Marriage, before all things relating to their outward Estates be firmly agreed on both parts that so no Breach may be made upon the account of Outward things, to the hurt or prejudice of young People.

outward Estates to be settled before Engage

And We do also in the Name of the Lord Advise & Exhort all young & Unmarried

People

1690 People among Friends, that they do not make any Motion of Procedure one with another upon the Account of Marriage without first acquainting their Parents or Guardians therewith, & duly waiting upon them for their Consent & agreement therein, & We do also advise; That in the first place all young Persons Concerned, seriously wait upon the Lord for Counsel & Cleanness in this Weighty Concern, before they make any Motion or Procedure with any in Order to Marriage, that the Lord may be in their Eye, so as they may not be led by any forward, Brittle or Uncertain Affections in this great Concern to their own hurt, Grief of their Friends and Dishonour of the Truth.

young people to consult all their parents & wait their Consent in the first place to wait upon the Lord

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to be Careful therein

1691 Concerning orderly Proceedings

See (675) p. 145) near him by Priests must marry early at time

And Let it be the Godly Concern of both Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to be Careful & Mindful of the Preservation & good of Children in this matter, as here proposed & signified, & not omit giving due & faithful Warnings & Admonitions in this great & Weighty Concern.

1691 Advised that great Care be taken about Marriages for the Consent of Parents, Due & Orderly Publication thereof & Solemnizing them in a Meeting appointed for that End & purpose, or on week day Meetings which Method is Convenient & Commendable, as it has been lately made appear in the ^{of the Government} And well Resented.

And that Friends be reminded of this Meetings former Advice, against Marriage with near kindred & against Marrying by Priests, & with Persons of the World Unequally yoking with Unbelievers; — And against too early & Unsavory Proceedings in Second Marriages, after the Death of Husband or Wife, Contrary to the due Method or Practice of faithful Friends, tending to the Dishonour & Reproach thereof

1692

1692
to be proper
to two Mon.
thly Meetings
or to two
two weeks
meetings

See 1691
page 147
&
1675, p. 146

1692
Advised That all as Profess the Truth among
Friends, Do publish their Intentions of Marriage
at two Sundry two Weeks Meetings, in such places
where they are settled, before they solemnize the
same, that convenient time may be allowed
friends Concerned for Enquiry & Satisfaction Concern-
ing the Consent of Parents & Guardians, & their Clear-
ness from all Scandal and Precontracts, That friends
may own & Stand by their Proceedings before the Gover-
nment & all in Authority, which otherwise they can-
not, if they Proceed not in the due & Orderly Pub-
lication & Method of Truth, settled among friends,
being a Matter greatly Enquired into truly Warrant-
able, and to be stood by.

1695
against
marrying
with those
not of our
Profession
nor
without Con-
sent of Parents
nor with
near kin

1695
And that all Diligent care & Caution be
had that no Friends or friends Children, be betrayed
in Affection or otherwise Nor Join in Marriage with
those, who are not of our Christian Profession and
Society nor without the privacy & Consent of Pa-
rents, Guardians, or Lawful Factors Intrusted with
them, nor with any near kindred contrary to the
Law of God, & wholesome advice already given them,
particularly by a yearly Meeting Epistle 1675,
and otherwise by the Faithful servants of Christ.

1707

1707
We being sensible of the hurt that may hap-
pen by Persons Under the Profession of Truth, in
drawing out the Affections of one another, without
the knowledge & Consent of Parents or Guardians,
Do for Preventing such mischief, Deliver it as
our sense & Judgment that in case any Person
reputed a Quaker shall Endeavour to entangle the
Affections of any Young Woman, Professing Truth

or

1707
if any
Endeavour
to entangle
the Affections
of a young
Woman
without Con-
sent of Parents
nor to be called

Parents not
to break off
or worldly
accounts

or Shall make suit unto Her in Order to Marriage,
without the privacy & Consent of her Parents or Guardi-
ans first had & obtained whether such Parents or Guar-
dians be friends or not, that such Persons ought not to be
allowed or permitted to proceed in any Meeting of Friends
in order to the accomplishing such intended Marriage,
Until they shall have removed the Offence, & given
Satisfaction both to such Parents or Guardians, & to the
Meeting of Friends to which they do belong, by an
Open & Due Acknowledgment of the Offence, & Condem-
nation of themselves therefor, & shall have obtained
the Consent of such Parents or Guardians.

And it is further Advised, that after Parents &
Guardians have suffered their Children to Engage One
Another in Affections, they do not break off upon any
worldly Account, but will wait upon & seek the Lord
for their Children, in proposals of marriage, before they
give any Encouragement thereunto.

1708
Advised to be carefully and Zealously Concerned for
our Ancient Christian Testimony against Mixt Marri-
ages that none of your Children may be corrupted &
Alienated from the Truth thereby.

1709
Second
Cousins

1709
With respect to a Proposal of Marriage between
Second Cousins. This Meeting Declares, it is not safe
for Friends to Encourage any such Marriages, in any
of our Meetings.

1710

1710
We Advise, that adue care be upon all Parents &
Guardians, of Children and Youth to watch over them
and Tenderly to Exhort them to seek the Lord in that
weighty affair of marriage & to wait upon him in the
Light, for Counsel and Direction of his holy spirit in
that Great Concern, that his Blessing may be upon them;

fn

1710 In order to which Let None make the Earth and not to make the World the ground of their Choice, For that will not procure the Blessing, but the contrary; & will Grieve the Lord, may spoil Families, & bring an Exercise on the Church of Christ.

1715

See plainness, page, 226

1718

A Testimony against running into Excessive sumptuous & costly Entertainments at Marriages Dinners, a great Part of which would be better Employed in relieving the Necessities of the Poor.

1719

In order to put a Stop to an Undue Liberty in Contracting Marriages with such as are not of Our Society; It is Advised that all Parents & Guardians of Children, do take special Care as much as in them lieth to prevent their Children from running into such Marriages; And that friends of Each Particular Meeting as also of the Monthly Meeting to which such persons belong, do in the Wisdom & Power of Truth, Use their Endeavours to put a Stop to the said Evil, by admonishing such as may attempt to marry as aforesaid, to Desist before they accomplish the same: But if they Refuse to take Counsel or privately go on to Marry as aforesaid, that then such Persons be Dealt with, according to the good Order of Truth & Judgment fixed upon all such as take such an Undue Liberty.

If any do so marry they are to be Dealt with

1722

Parents who have Children to Dispose of in Marriage, are tenderly Advised, not to make it their first or Chief Care to obtain for them Large Portions or Settlements of Marriage, but rather be Careful that their Children be joined in Marriage with Persons of Religious Inclinations,

suitable

1722 Suitable Dispositions Temper Sobriety of Manners and Diligence in Business; which are things essentially Necessary to a comfortable Life in a Married State and Carefully to guard against all Mist Marriages & Unequal Yoking of their Children therein.

against Mist Marriages

1723

As Parents have a Natural Right to approve of and Consent to the Marriage of their Children so this Meeting doth Earnestly Desire, That Friends Children would Consult & advise with their Parents and Guardians in that Great and Weighty Point, so essential to their happiness and Comfort, before they Set out their Minds or do Entangle their Affections: The too frequent Examples that have happened to the contrary hereof have Caused Lamentation in honest Parents, & great Affliction to themselves.

Children to advise with parents or Guardians

1724

Advised that care and Enquiry be Seasonably made to Prevent all designing Persons in their Endeavours to Entangle the Affections of our Youth in Relation to marriage; the unbecom- ing Disobedience of some therein having frequently brought Deep Affliction on their tender Parents, and Misery on themselves: And on this Occasion, We tenderly Desire, that Parents, or Guardians do not make Earthly Riches a Chief View or Cause of Consent in Marriage.

to prevent designing person from entangling the affections of youth

1727

The Advice in the year 1698, repeated

1730

We also Recommend the good Order of Friends relating to Marriage, that it be carefully preserved and duly Maintained, in the first and Earliest proceedings leading thereunto, as well as the Orderly solemnization thereof and if any Persons, contrary to the repeated advice & established Order of Friends should under any pretence whatsoever presume to take one another in any Meeting for Worship, without the Consent of the

monthly

Marriage

1730 Monthly Meeting to which they belong, such the good Order of Friends relating to Marriage to be maintained preceding being of a clandestine nature tending to make void the just care of Friends in that case, which is of good Esteem among the People, We advise that the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to Testify against the Practice, as well as against the Persons Concerned therein.

1734

1734 And We do Exhort Friends Every where, that in the great Concern of Marriage, whereon much of the Comfort & Happiness of Life Depends, they be mindful to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to him for Counsel & Instruction in their Choice;— The Neglect of which has been the ruin of Many Families, and tended much to the reproach & Dishonour of Our holy Profession.

1738

1738 See the printed Epistle of 1738

1741 This Meeting having Deliberately considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in Profession with us who contrary to our Principles and that wholesome Discipline established amongst Friends, Do Marry by the Priests with those not in Communion with us, and some who profess with us, Join in Marriage in the same manner; It's therefore Earnestly requested of all friends that they Use their Utmost Endeavours to prevent all such Marriages whensoever the Party's Intentions may come to their knowledge; And that all monthly Meetings where such Marriages may happen, Immediately

those who marry by the Priests to be dealt with

Deal

Marriage

1741 Deal with the Offenders for their Outgoings, and Endeavour in the Wisdom of Truth to bring them to a true Sense of their Disorderly Practice, and if the Labour of Friends should have so good an Effect, that they in Sincerity give a Testimony under their hands, Condemning their said Practice, to the Satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting, In such Case Friends are Desired to Use tenderness towards them; But if the Christian Care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true Sense of their Error, then the Monthly Meeting is hereby Directed to give forth a Testimony against such, for the Clearing of Truth & Friends.

And it is the sense of this Meeting, that where any Marry contrary to the Rules of our Society as aforesaid, their Collection shall not be Received by any Meeting; Nor they be Relieved in the Manner of Poor Friends, Nor be Admitted to sit in Meetings of Discipline, Until they are Restored into Unity with the Monthly Meetings to which they formerly belonged. Yet it is not hereby Intended to hinder the Charity of Friends in their private Capacities, to extend it when & to whom they shall see meet.

1744

1744 This Meeting having Deliberately considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in Profession with us, who contrary to our known Principles, & the wholesome Discipline established among us, are joined in Marriage by the Priest, with Persons either of our Own, or of other Perswasions, Do Earnestly advise, that all Friends Use their utmost Endeavours to prevent such Marriages whensoever the Party's Intentions may come to their knowledge.

And it is the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting, That where any do Marry by the Priest or in any other Manner contrary to the Established Rules of the Society, they shall be dealt with in a Spirit of Christian Love & tenderness, agreeable to

to

Marriage

1744
Those who
Do Marry
in any
manner
Contrary
to our Rules
to be dealt
with

To our known Discipline: And that after the Commission of such Offence, & during such dealing, their Collection shall not be received Nor shall they be relieved in the manner of Poor Friends, Nor be admitted to sit in Meetings for Discipline until they are restored into Unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

To deal in due time with such & all other Disorderly Walkers

And we Earnestly Advise all Friends that you watch Diligently over One Another for good, & that you deal in due time with such Offenders & all others that walk Disorderly Endeavouring to reclaim & Restore them by Brotherly Reprimand & Counsel, but where after Patient waiting, you find that your continued Labour of Love hath not its desired Effect. That you neglect not to testify against and Disown such persons, thereby preventing the Reproach & Dishonour, which might be brought upon our holy Profession, through their Misconduct, & that the End & Design of Friends in settling a wholesome Discipline among us may be Answered. — Which is substituted in lieu of the Minute made in 1741, respecting Marriages by Priests.

1745

1745
See Meetings for Discipline, p. 178

1747
against marriage with first or second Cousins

1747
This Meeting on receiving a minute relating to Marriage of Persons near of kin, having taken into Consideration the yearly Meeting Minute of 1675, made against such Marriages, & particularly of First Cousins,

Do

Marriage

1747
1745, 147
See 1709 in p. 149

Do Declare it to be our Sense and Judgment, That notwithstanding ^{or other Meeting} whatsoever should pass, First Cousins in Order for Marriage, And this Meeting earnestly desires all Friends whenever they know or hear of any first Cousins Designing or Intending to Marry, that they Immediately advise them against it.

1748

1748

This Meeting in Consideration of the Expediency of having all our Marriage Certificates Stamped with one five Shilling or Crown Stamp, as Marriage Certificates are Required by Law to be Desires that all Monthly Meetings be very Careful to see the same be done, and also orders that a Copy of this Minute be sent to the Several Counties that it may be duly Observed.

1749

1749
near of kin
1745, 147
148, 149

Upon a Proposition received relating to the Marriage of Persons near of kin, This Meeting appointed a Committee to Consider the same, who brought in the following Report to which after being twice read, the Meeting agreed, vizt

We your Committee appointed to Consider the paper relating to marriage, met Accordingly & having Considered the same and Examined the Scriptures referred to, are Unanimously of Opinion, that the Yearly Meeting Minutes 1675, and 1747 are to be strictly Adhered to.

N.B. Signed the 19th 3rd mo: 1749 by 48 Friends

Marriage

1770

1770

At our yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island
The Quarterly Meeting of Rhode Island Desired the advice
and Judgment of the yearly Meeting, Whether it be not
an inconsistency in friends Conduct in allowing their
members to undertake to Soyn people in marriage after
the manner of the world

The above Reference being referred to a Committee, they
made Return, Which after being Read & duly Considered
was approved by the said yearly Meeting and is as followeth
(viz) We the Committee of the yearly Meeting being
appointed to consider the Reference from the Quarterly
Meeting whether it be not an Inconsistency in friends
Conduct in allowing their Members to Soyn people
in marriage after the manner of the world

It is our Judgment, that it is an Inconsistency,
And it is the mind of this Meeting that if any member
be found in the Practice thereof for the future,
he be Dealt with as a Transgressor

1772

1772

The following matter were concluded upon
at a yearly Meeting of friends held at
Newport on Rhode Island in the 6^{mo} 1772

It is our sense and Judgment that our Discipline
forbids the Marriage of Brothers Children, Sisters
Half Brothers Children half Sisters Children, and a
first Cousins Child and all persons whomsoever
nearer than a second Cousin, — And that they are
advised to Desist therefrom, & if any notwithstanding
should proceed in Marriage together, nearer than
second Cousins being previously cautioned and advised
against it, the monthly meeting where such may belong
give forth a publick testimony against them,
and not to receive such into their Society until such
meetings be well assured that they have found a place
of sincere repentance & are received in the truth

Marriage

1773

It is our present sense and Judgment upon the Query
brought from Rhode Island Quarterly, Whether it be not
inconsistent with Truth for any friends to marry with a
Deceased Wives Suler or a Deceased Huslands Brother,
That friends be careful to give timely advice and Re-
monition against such a Proceedure, and if any should
be Reluctant thereto & proceed in marriage, that such be
without Delay denied Membership, and Testified against
as having Committed an heinous Transgression, and that
such be not admitted to membership again in the Society
until friends shall be well assured that they are Received
in the truth

Meeting Houses

N^o 20th Concerning Meeting Houses

1691

1691
All Meeting
Houses to
be Inspected
According to
Law

Advised, That all and every your Meeting
Houses and Mansion houses where Meetings are
or may be; Entered upon Record as the Law Directs,
each particularly, We having seen both the Service
and Safety thereof, and the hurt and Dangers that
may come by the Omission.

1703

1703
Titles to be
made
inspected
& secured

Advised, that Friends in the Several Quar-
terly & Monthly Meetings take special Care that
the Titles of Friends Meeting houses & Burial grounds
be made secure according to Law: This Meeting
Understanding there is a Deficiency in this respect
in some places.

1737

1737
Titles to be
inspected &
secured

It having been Represented to us that indi-
vers parts of the Nation, Sopes have been sustained
to our Society, by not timely Looking into and se-
curing the Titles of Meeting houses, Burial grounds,
and Charitable Bequeasts, We have thought fit to re-
commend it to the Care of Quarterly & Monthly Meetings
to make timely Inspection in what hands and trusts
the same are secured, & if they find Occasion by
the Death of any friend or Friends to add some others
to the trusts, so that Friends may not be Deprived
of the Benefit of such Meeting houses & Burial Grounds
And that each Quarterly Meeting keep exact Records
of all such Trusts & Conveyances.

And to keep
Records
thereof

N^o 2^d Concerning Meetings for Discipline.
1675

1675 It is our Judgment and Testimony in the Word of
Gods Wisdom, that the Rise and Practice, setting up
and Establishment of Mens & Womens Meetings in
the Church of Christ in this our Generation, is accor-
ding to the Mind & Counsel of God & done in the
Ordering & Leading of His Eternal Spirit: And
that is the duty of all Friends & Brethren in the
Power of God, in all parts to be Diligent therein,
and to Encourage and further each other in that
Blessed Work, & particularly that Friends & Brethren
in their Respective Counties Encourage their Faith-
ful & grave Women in the Settlement of the said
Meetings.

of the Estab-
lishment
of Mens &
Womens
Meetings

1676 The Power of God is the Authority of the mens &
Womens Meetings, & of all the other Meetings.

the Autho-
rity, & who
have right
thereunto

All the faithful Men & Women, in every Country
City & Nation, whose Faith stands in the Power
of God the Gospel of Christ & have Received this
Gospel, dare in the Possession of this Gospel, the Pow-
er of God, they have all right to the Power of the
Meeting, for they be Heirs of the Power & the Autho-
rity of the Mens & Womens Meetings.

1691
Womens Meet-
ings to be Encour-
ed & settled

1691 Advised To Encourage the faithful Womens Meet-
ings & the settling them where they are wanting,
& may with Conveniency be settled, knowing their Service
& what need there is also of their Godly Care in the Church
of Christ in divers weighty respects proper to them.

1693

1693 To avoid Contention & strife in all Meetings it
is the advice & sense of this Meeting,

That

1693¹ That all Friends have a Care of Gods Glory & be tender thereof as hath been often Advised.

2 To keep the Authority of your Meetings in the Power of God, & Unity of his blessed Spirit, whereby they were Erected & Settled, & Continue your Godly Care & Services therein, for those good Ends for which they were first Instituted.

3 To keep out all Contention Personal Reflections & Smittings out of your Meetings, & keep down & out of all heats & Passions, & Doubtful Disputati-

ons
4 Suffer no turbulent Contentious quarrelsome Spirit or Person to be Concerned among you in Ordering your Affairs, that they may be all Managed in the peaceable tender spirit and Wisdom of Christ Jesus.

5 Suffer no Divisions or Schisms or making Parties among yourselves, One against another, for that will greatly tend to weaken your Meetings and Loose their Power, and to Cause them and you to be Slighted.

6 Both our Mens & Womens Meetings and our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, & Yearly Meetings, & Meetings for sufferings, were set up in the wisdom, Counsel & tender Love of God, & in the same peaceable Wisdom to be kept, and Encouraged for all those good Ends for which they were Intended and Appointed.

See Records, page, 279.

1696

1696 Let all your affairs be managed in your meetings in the peaceable Wisdom & Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ not striving, but bearing one with & for another that the Power of Christ may rest upon you & Rule in all your Assemblies.

1697

1697 Advised, That monthly and Quarterly Meetings keep up our Christian Order, and Religious Discipline in the Church, That all Disorder & Looseness may be prevented

1700
1700 Keep all your Meetings, as well those for good Order, Clarity and Christian Discipline, as those set a part entirely for the Worship of God, in His Love, & in the Name, Power & peaceable Spirit of his Dear-son Jesus Christ; which is the alone true Authority of all Our Meetings, For without Him We can do nothing: And in His blessed Power stand fast in righteous judgment, over all unruly & Disorderly Spirits, that would break in upon the good order and Discipline settled among us, as well as over all those that seek to Lay waste the Testimony of Truth and Cause the Offence of the Cross to Cease.

1703

1703 Our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings being set up and Established by the Power and in the Wisdom of God, which is the Authority of those Meetings, all Friends are tenderly Desired & Advised, Carefully to keep to & in that Authority; and therein manage all the Business and affairs of the said Meetings, in Discharge of their Duty to God & His Church, and not expect or depend upon this Meeting for particular Direction from time to time how they shall proceed in the Management of the Concerns of those Meetings relating to Truths Testimony and Service. But wait for & depend upon the Power & Wisdom of God, for Counsel & Direction in such matters and Cases as may come before them, which will be to the great Ease of this Meeting, & Dispatch of the proper Concerns thereof. — And let the Mans part & Natural Wisdom & Attainments be subject to the Power and Spirit of God, which will truly Edify the Body in Love & Righteousness and Peace.

And

Meetings for Discipline

1703 And if any Decline or Let fall any Branch of their Testimony that such may be in the Wisdom and Authority of Truth Dealt with & therein Mercy & Judgment Exercised in their proper Places.

1704

We tenderly Recommend and Desire that those Friends that are Concerned in the Management of the Affairs of the Church in the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, be careful to act in the Wisdom of God, that they may be Exemplary therein to those that are young; & that they will encourage such young Men & Women as they are sensible are Qualified, and made Capable thro' waiting upon God, to serve Truth in your Respective Meetings, that they may come up and stand in the Life of Righteousness to be serviceable in the Church, helpful to Ancient Friends and fitted to supply their places as such shall be removed.

1705

It is Advised and Desired, that in all monthly & Quarterly Meetings, Friends take great care to manage the Affairs of Truth in a calm meek & gentle Spirit without heats Discord & Contention. For if any seem to be Contentious we have no such Custom on the Churches of God 1 Cor. 11. 16 "And the Apostles advice also was: That nothing should be done though Strife or vain Glory. But in Lowliness of Mind Let each esteem other better than themselves, and do all things without murmuring & Disputings, Philip 2. 3 & 14 which Apostolick Counsel & good Order we desire may be kept to and Carefully Observed.

1706

Advised, to keep all Meetings, both those for Divine Worship, & those for good Order & Discipline in the Church;

in

Meetings for Discipline 367

1706

in the Name and Power of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Divine Power we all ought to wait to feel to prepare and Sanctify our Minds & Spirits that we may be Duly Qualified for our share & part of our Service therein, and in the same Heavenly Power & Dominion Labour to keep out Strife & Contention, and stand over all forward & contentious Spirits, not in your own, but in the Meek spirit of the Lamb of God.

See Questions, page, 270

1707

1707

Womens Meetings to be Encouraged

Our Womens Meetings being set up and approved in the Love of God, and by His Wisdom & Power, and of manifest Service & helpful in the Church, It is the earnest desire & advice of this Meeting, they may be upheld and Encouraged where they are settled, by Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, & that in such Counties and Places where they are not, it be the care of the Quarterly Meetings to Endeavour they may be set up & Encouraged in proper & Convenient places where they may be most serviceable and helpful.

1709

This Meeting Desires that the Accounts of the Prosperity of Truth &c that are brought in writing from the Several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting, be signed at or by Order of the Quarterly Meetings.

See Teachers, page, 252.

1715

Monthly Meetings to divide itself

Agreed, That no Monthly Meeting shall be allowed to divide itself into two separate Monthly Meetings, either by reason of the decrease of Love, or any other difference among them in that Meeting, without the consent or concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting.

Elders & Overseers

And Let none Exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers but such who are Unblamable in Conversation & Examples free from

any fault

1715 *Elders & Overseers* Covetousness, overreaching Oppression & Exaltation, &c. Persons of good report, even among those that are without, following those things so earnestly Recommended by the holy Apostle, Paul & Peter, *Phillip. 2, 3.* Let nothing be done through strife & vain Glory, but in Lowliness of Mind Let each esteem other better than themselves, *1. Pet. 5. 2, 3.* Feed the flock of God which is among you taking the Oversight thereof not by Constraint but willingly, not for filthy Lucre but of a ready mind, neither as being Lords over Gods Heritage, but being Examples to the Flock.

See Meetings for Worship, page, 136

1717 ¹⁷¹⁷ Recommended, That Friends, but more especially such as are concerned in Meetings of Business do Labour to know their own spirits Subjected by the Spirit of Truth, that thereby being Baptized into one Body they may be truly one in the Foundation of their Love & Unity, & that therein they may all Labour to find a nearness to each other in Spirit, this being the true way to a thorough Reconciliation, wherever there is or may have been any Difference of Apprehension, thereby Friends will be preserved in that Sweetness of Spirit, that is & will be the Bond of true Peace throughout all the Churches of Christ. 1718

1718 Advised, that nothing be done through Strife & Contention or vain glory, murmuring or Disputing, but in the Spirit of meekness Love and humility carry yourselves toward one another. And the younger Brethren Endeavour to know their places, as Living Members of one Body, and preserve a Due regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719 ¹⁷¹⁹ Advised, in a particular manner when assembled for the Affairs of the Church, that the Wrath of man which worketh not the Righteousness of God, may be kept down together with Exaltedness of mind; and that on the contrary, the meekness & Wisdom of the Lord may Govern all Friends, & they in that carry on and perform the Affairs of the Church, where-by the many & great evils which attend Wrath and Exaltedness will be suppressed & prevented.

Epistles & Accounts to be read & approved before signed And it is Desired that the Epistles & Accounts of the Affairs of Truth sent to this Meeting from yearly Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, may if possible be read and approved in the respective Meetings, from whence they are sent before they be signed on behalf of the Meetings.

And see Yearly Meeting, page, 455

1722 ¹⁷²² Advised, To a Cementing in a very close & brotherly Fellowship one with another in the Divine Spirit, & therein watch against all Occasion of Discord or Breach of Unity, in any Quarterly, Monthly or Particular Meeting, to the End, that they may continue a quiet Habitation the Glory & Presence of God rest & remain on them, & the Spirit & Doctrine of the Gospel may be lived in and Maintained.

And we also Recommend that such Friends as are concerned in the Affairs of the Church, in the Quarterly, Monthly, or particular Meetings, be careful to act therein in the Wisdom of God, whereby they will be Exemplary to the Young, who may be esteemed Members thereof & attend the same, & as such young Persons are found to be Qualified with a real sense of Truth upon their Spirits, & Subjection thereunto, & thereby made Capable to come up to a Service in their respective Meetings;

170 Meetings for Discipline

1722 Friends are Desired to Encourage and bring them forward therein, whereby they may be helpful to the Ancients, & brought up in a Life of high leanness to walk and act to the Praise of Gods holy Name & standing in their Lot will supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings, through the same spirit, when they are Gone. 1724

1724 Advised that Friends in Meetings of business watch over their own spirits, that no indecent warmth get in, whereby the Understanding may be hurried & hindered from a regular Judgment on the Affairs before the Meeting.

1726 The former Advice in 1722, to avoid all Occasions of Discord, repeated.

We earnestly recommend to you whatever your places & Stations in the Church may be, that in the most weighty & serious manner, you often call to remembrance, in all humility of mind, what it was that brought us to be a People, & what is and will be that which will preserve us, such, that the foundation on which a true Christian is built is the spirit of Christ. Let this therefore direct you in all things, both respecting your private conversation & whatever you do for God in his Church. This is the only true means to preserve you holy and blameless in the one, as well as serviceable & useful in the other, in this every one will have a single regard to the service that comes before him in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of Persons:— Hear the Causes between your Brethren, & Judge Righteously between every man & his Brother, & the Stranger that is with him. Ye shall not respect Persons in Judgment, but you shall hear the small as well as the great, you shall not be afraid of the face of man for the Judgment is Gods, Deut. 1. 16. 17— And in the Management of such Affairs they will find their own spirits rightly

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1726 Seasoned and prepared for every work & service to which they may be called, and all disorderly proceedings arising from the heat of our own spirits will thereby be shut out, & thus the Church will be preserved on her Ancient solid & permanent Foundation, to the Glory of God, & her own Quiet and Comfort.

1727 Ordered to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings, that tis the Mind of this Meeting, that all Minutes and Epistles from this Meeting be Entered & kept by them in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties or Meetings may have recourse to them as Occasion shall Require.

This Meeting Understanding it to have been the Ancient & Constant sense of Friends in the Exercise of the Discipline that is Established amongst us, That any Person Denied by a Monthly Meeting is adjudged as Disowned by Friends, & to stand and remain in that State till by his Repentance, or the Reversal of such Censure by a Superior Meeting he is Reconciled to Friends, or reinstated in Membership among them: with which this Meeting hath Unity, And therefore ratifies and Confirms the same.

See Morning Meeting of Ministers, p. 195

1730 And forasmuch as Divers failures in respect to Insolency have happened by Persons of other Stations in the Church, This Meeting declares it as their Judgment, that no such Persons shall appear in Publick as Ministers, or sit or act in any affair of our two weeks Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, till they have given such Meetings they belong to satisfaction:— And that Friends in their respective Meetings take Due care to Deal with all such Persons in a regular way agreeable to the Discipline of the Church,

already

1730 already established among Friends, by publickly Manifesting their Disunity with such Person or Persons agreeable to the nature & Circumstance of the Case. It is recommended to all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to watch carefully over their Members, that so where any Root of Bitterness shall appear, that would bring forth Envy, Strife Emulation & hatred, and thereby our Unity in the Spirit be broken, they do use timely & earnest Endeavours to prevent & remove the same, whereby we may be preserved a People to the Glory of God, & in that perfect Love & Unity which will Demonstrate us to be the Disciples of Christ.

1731 Advised, that Friends every where in an Especial manner, take care to keep up the good Order & Discipline of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in that Spirit of Love & Divine Wisdom in which they were at first Constituted, that therein every thing may be Managed to the Praise of God, & the preservation of his Church & People within the Bounds & Limits of his blessed Truth. This we are sensible has been a means under Divine Direction, to keep many hurtful things out of the Church, & therefore we are sincerely concerned that nothing may weaken the hands of Friends in this good Work, but that it may be carried on for the Support of our Christian Testimony in all its Branches.

1732 Advised that young Friends who are sober and well inclined, be Encouraged to attend the service of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, & that all Friends in such Meetings wait to feel the Power of Truth, that their Minds being seasoned with the Virtue thereof, the wholesome Discipline of the Church may be maintained & continued from one Generation to another, for the help of such as are weak.

and

1732. And for the Dealing with all Persons offending, we Recommend, That Friends in their said Meetings be Careful to Labour in the Spirit of Love & Meekness, Regularly & Impartially for the help & reclaiming of all such; & if after such Labour of Love there appears no ground to hope for Repentance, & the Case be of a scandalous Reproachful Nature, that they proceed to Testify against such Practises, and those who are concerned therein.

That no Monthly Meeting disown or Testify against any of their Members, without first Dealing with such offenders, where such Offenders can be conveniently met with or spoke to.

Papers to the Yearly Meeting, to be signed. See Yearly Meeting, page, 416.

1733 This Meeting being under a weighty Concern & Exercise to observe that the many Wholesom Advices recommended from year to year, are in too many Places either neglected or not enough Practised particularly those against Tythes, Church Rates so-called, & Friends Maintenance; also keeping up to Justice in Dealing, Plainness of Habit & Speech and several other branches of our Christian Testimony. We therefore again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special care to appoint proper Prudent & Judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former advice viz in the Epistles 1708 & 1729th herewith sent you. And that such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love, & in the Meekness of Wisdom, to convince the Judgments of their respective Members, of the necessity of coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Principle that so the several

Dealing with Offenders

none to be disowned without Dealing

Tythes &c Justice Plainness Monthly Meeting to appoint Friends to visit Families

branches

+ See the Paragraph 1708. under the head Families, p, 117 # See 1729 under the head Families, p, 117, & Fading p.

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1733

Branches of the Testimony of which Truth hath given Our Ancients & Us to bear may be maintained unviolated. And We do herewith also send the Minute of this Meeting of 1675, 1703 & 1706, so far as they are relative thereto, & Desire you may record them in your Quarterly & Monthly Meeting Books, that you may have recourse thereto on all Occasions: And We also advise that the same be read frequently in our Meetings of Business that Friends may be fully informed of them.

Diligently to attend Meetings for Discipline

And Dear Friends, as the Promotion of Piety & Charity is the End and Intent of our Meetings for the Discipline of the Church, a weighty Concern Remains upon us, that Friends be Careful Diligently to attend those Meetings, & when there is act in the Wisdom given them of God, with a real & living Sense of Truth upon their Spirits, that so the Affairs of the Church may be carried on in Brotherly Love, and in that sweet calm & Christian Disposition of mind which tends to the mutual Comfort & Edification One of another, & of the Church in General.

1734

younger Friends to be Encouraged

Whereas the Number of Friends attending the Service of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings for the Discipline of the Church is but small in some Places, We Desire that Elders would give all due Encouragement to such younger Friends as they Observe to be Religious & Sober in their Conversations to attend the Service of those Meetings, that so being inured to the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Company of their Elders, they may be the better Qualified to succeed them therein, & to supply their places & Service when Removed.

+ See 1675 under the head Fifties, p. 365
1703 under the same — p. 369
1706 under the same — p. 370

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1735

Propositions to the Yearly Meeting to be signed, See Yearly Meeting, page, 418 See also Discipline, page, 101 & 102

1736

younger Friends to be Encouraged

And Dearly Beloved Friends & Brethren, We Desire you to Encourage such youth as are Regular and Sober in their Conversation, to frequent our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings that they may see the care which is taken for the Maintenance of our Poor, & the Preservation of our Christian Discipline, and thereby become more Useful in their respective Meetings, & to the Church in General: And We tenderly intreat that you would both by word & Example excite them to a Diligent attendance of our Meetings for worship, not only on the first Days, but also on the Other Days of the Week.

to attend Meetings for worship

See appeals, page, 3

1737

And Dear Friends, that the Affairs of our Society may continue to be managed in the most & peaceable Wisdom of Truth, Let the Elders of each Monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the younger, & Consider their Conversations Qualifications & Growth in the Truth, and invite such as are Sober & hopeful to the Meetings for Business & the Affairs of the Church, that they may Learn & Improve in the knowledge of the Discipline of the Church, and become Instrumental to the Service of God, His Truth & People.

1738

And as much as in you lies, take care that the Business of your Monthly Meetings be managed by Persons who are well Grounded in the Principles of Truth; and beware of committing the Management thereof to such as know not their own Spirits Seasoned by the Work of Truth in themselves;

But

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1738 But where you Observe any young Persons of a Grave & solid Deportment, & Inclination to be helpful in the Church, Discourage them not, but Endeavour to bring them forward in the Service of Truth, according to their respective Abilities for so weighty a work.

1740 See Records, page, 283

1741 See Doer, page, 245

1743 Agreed, That when a Quarterly Meeting have come to a Judgment respecting any Difference relative to any Monthly Meeting belonging to them, and notified the same in writing to such Monthly Meeting, the said Monthly Meeting ought to submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting, And if such Monthly Meeting ^{moving} Appeal shall not be satisfied therewith, then the Monthly Meeting may appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment & Determination of their Quarterly Meetings

And if a Monthly Meeting shall refuse to take the Advice & submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting, notwithstanding will not Appeal against the Determination of the said Meeting to the Yearly Meeting, in such case it is our Opinion the Quarterly Meeting shall be at Liberty, either to Dissolve such Monthly Meeting or bring the affair before the next or succeeding Yearly Meeting.

And in case a Quarterly Meeting shall Dissolve a Monthly Meeting, The Dissolved Monthly Meeting or any part thereof in the name

In case they do not &c

of

Meetings for Discipline 177

1743 of the said Meeting, shall be at Liberty to appeal to the next or succeeding Yearly Meeting against such Dissolution: But if the Dissolved Monthly Meeting or a part thereof in its behalf shall not appeal to the yearly Meeting, it is then our Opinion, that the Quarterly Meeting shall join the members of the said late Monthly Meeting to such other Monthly Meetings as they may think most convenient, & until such time, shall take care that no Inconveniency doth thereby ensue to the members of such Dissolved Meetings respecting any branch of our Discipline.

And if any of the Monthly Meetings to which the Quarterly Meeting shall join the whole or part of the late Monthly Meeting, do think themselves aggrieved, they shall be at Liberty to Appeal against the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; And until such Appeal is heard and Determined, the Friends added by the Quarterly Meeting to them shall be Deemed their Members.

And Dear Friends in the Love of Christ, We Earnestly Beseech & Exhort you to watch Diligently over the Flock of God, & to Deal in due time, and in a Spirit of Christian Love and Tenderness, with all such as walk Disorderly among you, in order to reclaim and Restore them by Brotherly Reprimand & Counsel; And where after Patient waiting you find that your Christian Labour of Love hath not its Desired Effect, you neglect not to Testify against & Disown such persons, & thereby prevent the Reproach & Dishonour which may be brought upon our holy Profession, & that the End and Design of Friends in settling Wholesome Discipline among us, may be Answered: the want of this has, as we apprehend brought great Difficulties on some Meetings; For we think it both unseasonable and dishonourable,

to deal in due time with Disorderly Walkers

When

178 Meetings for Discipline

1743 When Persons Apply to Monthly Meetings on account of Marriage, or for relief in case of necessity to be subject to them when such Offenses, as the Meeting through Neglect of their own Duty, did long before suffer to pass Unreproved. See Preachers, page, 258.

1744 On a Proposition for the Encouragement of Womens Meetings for Discipline, which this Meeting taking into Serious Consideration, think it our Duty to Recommend to the several Counties the following Minutes of former Yearly Meetings Relating thereto, Desiring Friends in Each Monthly Meeting Carefully to see the same put in Practice, Vizt 1675, 1695 & 1707. — (which see at Length in Pages, 163, & 167.)

See Law, page, 138
See Marriage, p^s 153, 154
See Sale bearing, page

1745 And Dear Friends We find it our Concern to Repeat the Exhortation, We gave last year, That Friends in all places would Encourage the Service of the Meetings of Faithful Women, and that the Quarterly Meetings would help & Assist such Women Friends in setting up Monthly Meetings wherein they may wait for Divine Wisdom to give proper advice to those of their own Sex.

And that Proceedings in Relation to marriage be laid before such Meetings of Women & the Clearness & Conversation of the Persons concerned Enquired into by them: which Method, We Apprehend, will render Our grave and Solid Women Helpmeats to the Brotherhood in the Discipline of the Church, & Conduce to the Edification of the Body.

And

Meetings for Discipline 179

School
Masters or
Mistresses

And Dear Friends, We Desire that your several Monthly Meetings where any School Masters or Mistresses of our Profession may reside, would not be wanting to Admonish them, as much as in them lies, to bring up the Children of Friends Committed to their care, in plainness of speech, behaviour and Apparel, agreeable to our Profession; And that such of them as have boarders in their Families, would frequently call them together, and accustom them to a Solemn Reading, of the holy Scriptures, & to prep and excite them to the Observation of the Christian precepts therein contained; and that they themselves Walk before their Schollars as Examples of that Plainness and Simplicity which they Recommend.

See Appeals, page, 4.

1747 See Discipline, page, 103.

See Marriage, page, 154.

1748 See the same, page, 155.

1751 See Discipline, page, 105.

At our yearly Meeting held at Smithfield for New England 6th 1778

Dear friends it is the Advice and Judgment of this meeting that in Cases of friend Laying their Intentions of marriage & Receiving Wives, The monthly Meeting be selected unless particular circumstances should attend that may make it appear necessary to admit Orderly persons to be present during the transactions of that business

And in Cases of second Marriages it is our Judgment that it is advisable for friends not to make or admit proposals of marriage in less than twelve months after the Decas of former Husband or wife

Meetings for Worship

N^o 22ⁿ Concerning Meetings for Worship.

1673

1675
Publick Meetings for Worship to be kept up as an open Testimony for the Lord

That as it hath been our care and Practice from the Beginning, that an open Testimony for the Lord should be born, & a publick Standard for Truth & Righteousness upheld in the Power and Spirit of God, by our open & known Meetings, against the Spirit of Persecution that in all Ages hath sought to lay wast Gods Heritage, & that only thro Faithfulness Constancy & Patience Victory hath been & is Obtained, so it is Our advice & Judgment, That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus keep up these Publick Testimonies in their respective places, and not decline forsake or Remove their Publick Assemblies because of times of Sufferings, as worldly fearful and Politick Professors have done, because of Informers & the like Persecutors, for such Practices are not consistent with the Nobility of Truth, & therefore not to be Owned in the Church of Christ. 1678

1678

to be Zealous of Diligent in assembling together in times of Joyal

And by how much the more it is a day of Joyal & an hour of Temptation, Forsake ye not the assembling of yourselves together, but by so much the more be Zealous & Diligent in keeping all your Meetings, both Publick meetings, and your Mens & Womens Meeting in the Lords Everlasting Power by which they were set up; & as you are found Diligent and Steadfast in the Work of the Lord, the God of Peace will suddenly tread down Satan under your feet, and plentifully reward into all your bosoms, your Patience and perseverance with the durable Blessings, Peace & Joy of that Kingdom, which was before the World began, and never shall have End.

1689

1689

Let every one be watchful against an earthly Spirit getting up in any, for that Will choke the good seed, & bring forth a slighting or neglecting your Testimony,

in

Meetings for Worship

1689 in your First Days and Week Days Meetings, and bring a Decay of your Strength and Zeal for God & his truth, and bring a Weakness upon you by Reason whereof such will not be able to stand in an hour of Temptation. 1695

1691 *Keep up week-day meetings* 'Tis tenderly Advised for the Lords sake, & his Blessed Name and Truths sake, That Friends be Diligent in keeping their Week-day Meetings as duly as on first Days, in his Worship & Service.

1696

Agreed, that Friends be Reminded that Live Distant from Meetings, to keep Meetings in their Families to wait upon God, that their Children & families may come to be seasoned in their spirits by the Truth and the Lords Power, and that they may have his Blessing upon their Families.

1697

Advised, duly to keep up week-day meetings.

1706

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 166.

1715

Advised that all Friends be careful to attend Meetings for Worship and business, at the times & hours appointed as near as they possibly may, and not to Detain Meetings out of season.

1716

not to oppose one another Advised, to have a Godly care of Judging or Contradicting One another in Publick Meetings or shewing any marks of ^{signs} Division therein, among Ministers or Others: That being of a very Pernicious consequence, to bring blame or Contempt upon the Ministry; a great hurt to ~~be~~ to Our youth and Others.

Meetings for Worship

1718

Advised, That all Friends be Exemplary in reasonable & Constant keeping to Week-day Meetings, as well as First Days, and such as have Children & Families in bringing them as much as may be with them, that they may be good Examples to the Flock therein, and not by their Indifferency & Neglegence be a Stumbling block in the way of Others.

1723

Advised That Friends keep their Children to a Constant Seasonable & Orderly frequenting as well of Week-days, as of First Day Meetings, Instructing them to have their minds stayed in the Divine Gift to wait upon the Lord therein, to receive a Portion with them of his Spiritual Favours, that they from the tendering virtue of the holy Spirit may be engaged in heart and mind to walk Worthy of so great Grace, & in an holy Zeal to Honour God, Submit to bear the Cross, Endure the shame and become Publick Witnesses for him amongst the sons of men.

See Preachers, page, 253, 254.

1724

Advised, That Friends, tho Meetings are sometimes held in Silence, would not neglect their Attendance, at those Meetings; For the hungry soul will Labour for bread & the thirsty for the Water of Life, and the Diligent hand will make Rich in that Treasure that is of an Enduring Substance.

1725

In your Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, both on the First & Other Days of the Week be Diligent in Waiting on Him in his Spirit, whereby you may Renew your Strength, and Witness him your Sufficient help,

For

188 Meetings for Worship

1725 for sure many of us have Cause thankfully to remember his early Visitations in the Assemblies of his People, where he broke in upon our hearts with his Power & Love, and did in the needful time Administer help Comfort & Counsel, whereby we have in the Renewings thereof been upheld in a Faithful Testimony, and in the Discharge of our Duty to him.

1729 We again Recommend the advice in the Year 1723.

1732 Advised that all Friends who are Masters and Heads of Families, be very Careful in attending & bringing their Children and servants to meetings, both on First Days & other days of the Week.

1733 And as the First Day of the week is set apart for the Publick Worship of Almighty God, 'Tis our Earnest Advice that Friends Exhort and Encourage their Children & Families to be Diligent in the attending for worship, and to behave themselves there with Seriousness and Gravity, as becomes the Professors of Christianity, & to be regardful of the good Counsel and Admonitions of those whose Mouths the Lord may be pleased to open in the Work of the Ministry. And that Parents would be Exemplary to their Children in Closely Attending Meetings, not only on the First Days but as much as in them lies on other Days of the Week also, in which respect We cannot but with Grief Observe, too many appear Remiss.

1734

Meetings for Worship 189

1734

And Dear Friends, We Desire that you would Excite & Stir up your Children to a Diligent attending the First Day & Week day Meetings, and be Exemplary your selves therein, not in a meer formal and customary Attendance but in a serious & Diligent waiting upon the Lord, for as formality in Worship Occasioned the Lord to Complain of his People in Days of Old, That they drew near to him with their Mouths & with their Lips did Honour him, but had removed their hearts far from him Isa: 29. 13. so we have Reason to fear that the same formality has been One Cause of that great Declension from the Purity & Spirituality of Gospel Worship which is too Apparent among many of the Professors of Christianity.

Caution against formality

And inasmuch as it hath Pleas'd the Lord to concern some amongst us, as Instruments in his hand, to travel to & fro for the Preaching and Spreading of the Gospel, We advise that where Meetings for Worship are Settled, when any such are concerned to visit you, you would give notice thereof to your sober & well Inclined Neighbours, that they may have an opportunity to hear the Testimony of Truth Declared: A means which the Lord hath been often Pleas'd to make Use of, for the gathering many out of the World unto himself, through the Power of the Words of Life Faithfully Preached. 1735

1735

As it hath Pleas'd the Lord in his great Mercy, & Goodness to favour the Faithful among his People, not only such Publick Assemblies as these, but also in their small retired Meeting in the Country every where, with the lifting up of the Sight of his Countenance upon them, by which they are greatly Encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name,

and

190 Meetings for Worship

1735 and as he shall move any thereunto speak one unto another to their mutual Edification and Comfort. We take this Opportunity to renew our former Advices, that Friends in their several Counties and Places, be Diligent in attending Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, not only on First Days but on other days of the Week, and as near as may be at the time appointed, there being by accounts brought into this Meeting from some Places, a great neglect in this Respect, which we have Reason to believe is Owing to a being overcharged with the Cares of this Life, the Deceitfulness of Riches, & the Love of other things which choaks the good Seed, so that Love to Religion and the Worship of God Decays and grows Cold.

1736

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 175

1738

See Preachers, page, 257.

1739

The Advice in 1738. again recommended, See the Printed Epistle.

Meetings for Worship

191

1770

At a yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island Received the following Proposal from the Morning Meeting of Ministers and Elders, (viz) The following Proposal for the Stirring up the Neglect & Maintaining a good order and decency in our Society, being Considered in our Morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders, and apprehend there may be Service in putting it in Practice, do Refer it to your Consideration and Approbation if you think fit, Which Proposal is as followeth (viz) That when it shall Appear upon due Inspection made that any Member shall or do Neglect or omit the due attendance of their Meetings thro' Sloth, Indolence, Love of the world or Luke warmness in Religion, that each Monthly Meeting take Care that all such be timely Reproved in Love, & acquainted with the mind and desire of friends in that case, & admonished to faithfulnes therein, And if notwithstanding the due Christian Labour and Ammonition, he, she, or they shall Continue in the Neglect or omission, if a Minister his or her publick Testimony be denied, And if an Elder he or she be Dismissed from that Station. The above Proposal being Referred to a Committee they made Return which after being Read and duly Considered was Approved by said Meeting and is as followeth (viz) We being Appointed by the yearly Meeting now sitting to Consider of the proposal brought from the Morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders, having weightily Considered said Matter & it is our Judgment that the same be Established as a Rule in our Society.

N^o 23rd Concerning the Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1675

See Sufferings, page, 347

1697

See Yearly Meeting, page, 453.

1706

See Books - page, 28.

1707

See Yearly Meeting, page, 454.

1723

It is the Unanimous Agreement of this Meeting, That it does not belong to the Morning Meeting, or any other Meeting of Ministers, to Disown any Minister or other Person, but that the Sole Right of so doing belongs to Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly, or yearly Meetings. See further, page, 597.

1727

A Proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire, relating to the Extending a Care in Friends to young Ministers, &c being read, this Meeting Desires all Monthly Meetings to appoint Serious Discreet & Judicious Friends, who are not Ministers, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise others, as they in the Wisdom of God see Occasion. And where there are Meetings of Ministering Friends, such Friends so Chosen be admitted as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and act therein for the good Purposes aforesaid.

1732

See Books, pages, 29.

196 Morning Meeting of Ministers

1735 It is Our Unanimous Sense and Opinion, That the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministers, have a Right as they see meet, in the Wisdom of Truth, to Advise Exhort & Rebuke any of their Members, or any Ministers who may travel in the Work of the Ministry, as Occasion may require without being accountable for the same to any Monthly Meeting. — But if any member of the said Meetings or any other Ministers, should at any time be overtaken with a fault, & the same be under the Cognizance of the Morning, or other Meeting of Ministers, & the Monthly Meeting to which such Person belongs, shall also Deal with him or her for the same, that then on Notice from such Monthly Meeting that they have taken the Case under their Care & Serious Consideration, all Proceedings of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers against such Minister or Elder shall be finally stop't.

And We are of Opinion, that the Morning Meeting, or other Meeting of Ministers, have no Power to disown any Minister or Other Person in any Capacity whatsoever, the Sole Right of so doing belonging to Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And it is our Sense & Opinion that such Discreet and Judicious Friends who are Deputes & Elders by the respective Monthly Meetings of London, are to be allowed Members of the Morning Meeting tenderly to encourage and help Young Ministers, & advise Others as they shall see meet, in the Wisdom of God, for the good purposes specified in the Minute of the Yearly Meeting. 1727.

Second Days Morning Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting. See Yearly Meeting, page 418.

Meetings of Ministers may advise Rebuke &c

no Power to disown any

Part

Morning Meeting of Ministers 197

1723 Part of the Minute in 1723. Omitted viz: — And that no Persons name from and after the Eighth Day of the Seventh Month next be entered in the Morning Meeting Book of ministering Friends, as a Minister till he or she produces a Certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong.

1770 1770 At our yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island This Meeting Received the following Request from the Morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders (viz) — We Desire that you would take into Consideration, whether it might not prove Advantageous to our Society to have at each General meeting a Select meeting both at the beginning and End of every such meeting, and a Committee appointed to have the oversight of such meetings and make Report to the Select meeting then in being, And also to the yearly meeting of ministers & Elders Annually at Newport.

The above Request being referred to a Committee they made Return, which after being read and duly considered was approved by said meeting, and is as followeth (viz) We being appointed by the yearly meeting now sitting to consider of the Request brought from the Morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders, having weigh'dly considered the Request, and it is our judgment that the Establishing such Select meetings under such Regulations as is proposed in said Request may be of Service in our Society.

1781 The Select Yearly meeting proposing to this meeting that the said Select meeting may begin for the future on fourth day at the fourth hour, in the week the yearly meeting is to be held. According it is approved of and directed to be had at that time.

Mourning

No 241 Concerning Mourning.

1757 ¹⁷⁵⁷ According to the Primitive Innocency and Simplicity of Friends, It is the Advice of this Meeting, That No Friends Imitate the World in any Distinction of Habit or Otherwise, as marks or Tokens of mourning for the Dead.

1713 ¹⁷⁵⁸ Advice against men and women imitating the World in making a shew of mourning for the Dead in their Apparel.

1724 ¹⁷²⁴ A Caution against imitating the vain Custom of wearing or giving Mourning; and all Extravagant Expences about the Interment of the Dead.

1745 ¹⁷⁴⁶ And Whereas a Custom hath of late prevailed with some among us, of wearing Mourning at the Funerals of their Relations, contrary to the Ancient Practice and Repeated Advice of Friends; It is Desired that friends every where would Discourage such a Custom. And such Publick Friends whose Company may be Desired at Funerals, are Requested to signify to the Persons Concerned the Uneasiness & Difficulty they are put under by reason of such appearances, which by their Presence they may be supposed to Countenance.

N^o 25th Concerning Importing Negroes.

1727 ¹⁷²⁷ It is the Sense of this Meeting, That the Importation of Negroes from their Native Country and Acquisitions, by Friends, is not a Commendable nor allowable Practice; and that Practice is Condemned by this Meeting.

1760 ¹⁷⁶⁰ At the yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was Agreed & Concluded that the following Paragraph from the yearly Meeting Epistle from London A.D. 1758 should be here Inserted.

We fervently warn all in Profession with us, that they be careful to avoid being any way Concerned, in reaping the Unrighteous profits arising from that Iniquitous Practice of Dealing in Negroes & other Slaves whereby in the Original Purchase one man selleth another as he doth the beast that Perishes, without any better pretention to a property in him than of Superior Force in Direct violation of the Gospel Rule, which teacheth every one to do as they would be done by, & to do good unto all, being the Reverse of that Cruel Disposition, which furnishes Encouragement to those poor Ignorant People to perpetuate their Savage Wars, in order to supply the Demands of this most Unnatural Traffick, whereby great Numbers of Mankind free by Nature, are subjected to inextricable Bondage, & which hath been Observed to fill their Possessors with Raughtiness & Tyranny, Luxury & Barbarity, Corrupting the Minds, & Debasing the Morals of their Children, to the unspeakable prejudice of Religion & Virtue & the Exclusion of that holy Spirit of Universal Love Meekness & Charity, which is the unchangable Nature & the glory of true Christianity. We therefore can do no less, than with the greatest Earnestness Impress it upon friends every where, that they Endeavour to keep their hands clear of this Unrighteous Gain of Oppression.

Negroes

In 1769 It is Recommended that friends who have
Slaves in Possession to treat them with tenderness,
impress Gods fear on their minds promote their
attending places of Religious Worship and give
those that are young at least so much learning
they may be capable of Reading

N^o 26th Concerning Oaths.

1693

Advised, That our Christian Testimony be
faithfully Maintained against the Burthen and
Imposition of Oaths.

Orphans

N^o 27th Concerning Orphans

1706

1706

Recommended, That Friends who leave Children, especially those who have Estates for them, do in their Wills appoint Faithful Friends to be Guardians to them till they come to the age of Twenty one years; And that Monthly Meetings take Care such Guardians do Discharge their trust with Justice & Uprightness, as they will answer it at the great Day, & that Orphans be Admonished to be Subject to the Wills of their Deceased Parents, as the said Meetings shall see Cause.

N^o 28. Concerning Applying to Parliament

1695
 Recommended to the Several Quarterly Meet-
 ings to take care that timely Application be made
 in their respective Counties, by sober Discreet Friends
 to Members of Parliament before their coming up to
 Sit, giving them right Information, and intreating
 them, that in their places, they would be pleased to
 Use their Endeavors and Interest for the Ease of our
 Suffering Friends when presented to them in Parliament
 This Method having been found of Service in some
 places, 'tis desired it may be Observed.

N^o 29th Concerning Persecution.

1675

It is our advise and Judgment, That all Friends Gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up those Publick Testimonies of Meeting together in their Respective places, & not Decline forsake or Remove their Publick Assemblies because of sufferings as Worldly fearful and Politick Professors have done because of Informers, and the like Persecutors. For such like Practises are not Consistent with the nobility of The Truth, and therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ. See Meetings for Worship, page, 185

1678

See Meetings for Worship, page 185

1703

See Sufferings, page, 351

1707

Advised, that all walk with much Circumspection fear & Humility before the Lord, under the sense of our present Outward Liberty, and the Temporal mercys that have for some years attended the Same; that our Love & Service for the Lord, & his holy Truth and Church may have the preference of our Worldly Business in our thoughts, lest we should incur the Lords Displeasure, For an Ungrateful Neglect of our Duty and thankfulness to Him: For it has been sometimes the Lords Method to deprive his people of the favours they abuse, though he is a God slow to anger, and of Long suffering towards his Children.

to live in
a grateful
sense of the
present
Liberty

Plainness

N^o 30th Concerning Plainness in
Habit & Speech &c.
1675

1675 See Conversation, page, 59.

1688 See Conversation, page, 59
1691

1691 *In Language, Habit and Behaviour* Advised that Friends take care to keep to Truth and plainness in Language, Habit & Deportment & Behaviour, that the simplicity of Truth in these things may not wear out nor be lost in our Days nor in our Posterity's. To avoid Pride & Modesty in Apparel, & Extravagant Wiggs, & all other vain and Superfluous Fashions of the World.

1697

1697 *Dealing* It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends every where keep to plainness both in speech Habit & Dealing, & not to Saunch too far into the things of this World, by overcharging themselves with Trading & Debts beyond their Abilities to discharge, but keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things, that none may be Ensnared & defiled thereby.

1700 & 1701

1700 & 1701 *Education of Children* Advised that a Godly care be taken for the due Education of Friends Children in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, & in plain & Modest Apparel, & in Truth's Language. And that all Parents be good Examples to them accordingly.

1703

1703 *Apparel Furniture* This meeting being Under a deep sense that Pride, the vain Customs & Fashions of the World prevail over some of our Profession particularly in Excess of Apparel, & Furniture,

Doth

Plainness

1703 Doth Earnestly Recommend, that all who make Profession of the Truth, take care to be Exemplary in what they wear & what they Use, so as to avoid the vain customs of the World, & all Extravagancy in Colour & Fashion & keep themselves in respect thereof spotless and Blameless adorning their Profession in all Modesty & Sobriety. 1708

1708 Parents to be Exemplary Children, in keeping out of the vain Fashions Customs, & Pride of the World, by adorning themselves Modestly & in plainness according to the Simplicity of Truth received by us in the beginning.

1709 Let all be Examples to their Children in Wisdom Moderation plainness in Language and habit, & not Examples only but also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their hurt either inwardly or outwardly; neither providing for them Costly and Gaudy Attire unbecoming Godliness, nor letting them have money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the aged Remember & the youth know that when apparent signs of the Plague of Leprosie appeared on the walls in the Houses of Israel, twas the care of the Priests Under the Law to have the Houses Cleaned & the Lepers also: and surely Christ's Priesthood should not fall short of their care to Endeavour to stop & Remove the Manifest Tokens of the Leprosie of the great Sin of Pride, & all Superfluity of Naughtiness, & therefore let all Concerned be Earnestly stirred up to sincere Obedience to the Light of Christ Our great high Priest, that he may Cleanse the hearts & Houses of that growing plague which tends to the Ruin of Families & Posterities.

to restrain Children

Plainness

1712 Advised that none despise the day of small things nor turn aside from the plainness, Simplicity & Life of the Truth into the Worlds, Ways, Customs and Fashions of the World, which are vain, and will perish with the Using; God having Redeemed his People out of the same through his Righteous Judgments in their inward parts, knowing that whatsoever hath been Condemned & overturned thereby, is never to be Built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715 Advised, that all Friends both male & Female, be careful that their adorning be that of a meek & quiet Spirit which in the sight of God is of great price; even as the holy Men & Women of Old Professing Godliness with goods Works were adorned. Oh that our young men & Women would follow their Examples! — But to our great grief we find too many of our young men instead of observing that Gospel Exhortation, to be sober Minded, have given way to lightness & Vanity, & the pernicious effects thereof have led them into Pride, so that some have cut off good heads of hair, & put on long Extravagant & gay Wigs, which they that are not of profession with us, see as a Mark of Declension from our Primitive Plainness.

to follow the Examples of holy Ancients

to Extravagant Wigs

Danger of flying the Cross

And Likewise that our young Women would Cease from that Unseemly & immodest appearance of their high heads, & wearing their Gowns set up like the Proud Fashion-mongers of the World.

Certainly both males & Females who take such undue Measures, Flee the Cross of Christ, & if they do not repent & return, they will thereby suffer great Loss: But in the bowels of Christian Compassion we warn & exhort all such to come into that subjection that the yoke of Christ may be their Delight, & their Souls may reap the comfortable fruits of bearing the same.

and

1715
Caution
against
False
Liberty

And Caution given against false Liberty and
Sinful Ease in the Flesh which is too apt to grow
among some Professing the same Truth with us, in
this our Day, for want of due watchfulness, and
Obedience to the Light of Christ, & keeping low &
Humble before the Lord, by Reason whereof many
Evils get in amongst Us; Viz: Pride of Apparel
making of mixt Marriages with Persons of contrary
Judgment; bowing & giving Flattering Titles to
Men, the saying ye or you to a single Person, and
calling the Days of the week & the Months by heathen
Names, to the Declining of Truth's Testimony, & giving
Occasion of stumbling to such as are seeking af-
ter the knowledge of the same as it is in Jesus.

Pride most
Marriages
bowing
Flattering
Titles
&c.

1718

1718
Testimony
against
undue
Liberty

A Testimony against an Undue Liberty which
too many under the Profession of Truth run into to
the great Grief of Faithful Friends, by Reason where-
of the way of Truth is evil spoken of, & our holy Pro-
fession greatly Reproached, by many men among Us
putting on Extravagant Wigs & wearing their hats and
Clothes after the vain fashions, unbecoming the gravi-
ty of Religious People, & too many Women Decking them-
selves with gaudy & costly Apparel Gold Chains, Sockets,
Necklaces, & gold watches Exposed to open view, which
shews more of Pride & Ostentation than for Use & Service,
besides their vain Imitation of that Immodest Fashion
of going with naked Necks & Breasts, & wearing hooped
Petticoats, Inconsistent with that Modesty which should
adorn their Sex, & did adorn the holy Women of old.

vain
Fashions

gold Chains
necklaces
gold watches
naked necks
& breasts hooped
petticoats

Furniture

Speech

And in like vanity of Mind Divers amongst Us
run into great Extravagancies in the Furniture of
their Houses, together with a great Declension in
some of both sexes from that Plainness & Simplicity
of Speech so constantly used in holy Scripture

and

1718

and Recommended & practised by our Ancient Friends
as well as by the Faithful in this Day.

Now this Meeting having been Under a Deep sense
of the Love of Christ, Doth earnestly Recommend the lay-
ing aside of those things before mentioned, & whatse-
ever else is a hurt to themselves, & brings a Reproach
Upon Us, For certainly it does not become the gravity
of our Profession, or any under it to run into every
new vain & fantastick Mode or Fashion, but to keep to
that which is Modest, decent plain & Useful, and
therefore Friends Every where are Desired to stand
witnesses against these & all Other things that tend
to lay waste our Ancient Testimony.

And that Parents in the tender years of their
Children would not adorn them with gaudy appa-
rel which Practice cannot come from the Spirit that
leads out of the vain customs of the World, but must
proceed from Pride in the Parents: & Children being led
into such Vanities & Fineries come Gradually to be involv-
ed with them, which is apt to Encrease with their years to
that Degree, until it may be found very Difficult to
Reclaim them. 1732

not to adorn
children
with gaudy
apparel

1732

keep under
the power
of the Cross

And it is evident that the simplicity & Distin-
guishing Plainness of our holy Profession is too much
lost amongst Us, respecting Language, Apparel & be-
haviour. We therefore earnestly Exhort all to keep un-
der the Power of the Cross of Christ, which will Crucify
to the World & the Vanities of it, & bring up in a true
Life of self Denial agreeable to the Gospel & Example
of our Elders. 1735

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And Forasmuch as a true Christian Practice &
every Branch of it, is the Fruit & Effect of the in-
ward Sanctification of the heart, by the Spirit of
Christ, for which we are frequently to wait,

on

Plainness

1735 on him in all humility & lowliness of mind; We tenderly advise that every thing tending to obstruct or divert the minds either of Children or those of more advanced years from this good Exercise, may be carefully avoided & taken out of the Way, & it being evident that the Glory & Vanity of the World, & the Pleasures & Diversions of it, are of this nature & tendency, We therefore advise, that all Parents & Masters in the first place be good Examples to their Children & Families, in an humble & Circumspect Walking, & with all plainness of habit & speech, which is agreeable to the Cross of Christ the Examples of our Ancients Friends, & the frequent Advices of this Meeting; & also that they be very careful not to Indulge their Children in the Use & Practise of things Contrary therunto; For we are sensible that by such habits, of how little Moment soever some may think them the tender minds of Children while very young, get up & Drawn aside from the Simplicity of Truth & Foundation is early laid for those Undesired Liberties so Justly Complained of; For a Love & Delight in those things imprudently Indulged at first, grows up with them & becomes strengthened more & more into Confirmed habits, & thus some have become Enemies to the Cross of Christ & forsaken & opposed the way of Truth, which possibly might have been prevented by Parents doing their Duty in being good Examples, & not Cherishing Seeds of Vanity & folly in their Children; but on the contrary Prudently Discouraging every Appearance of evil in them; which Necessary Duty, We Earnestly Recommend to their serious Consideration & Practise. 1736

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See Conversation, page, 62

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See Families, page, 158

1739

Plainness

1739 It is also ^{our} Concern to Exhort all Friends, both men and women, to watch against the growing Sin of Pride, and to beware of adorning themselves in a manner disagreeable to the Plainness & Simplicity of the Truth we make Profession of, Oh! that they would duly Consider that severe Reproof which the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the haughty Daughters of Zion Isa: 3 when He Describes even the particularities of their Dressings & Ornaments so Displeasing to the Lord, & drawing down his Judgments upon them, if those things in that time were so offensive in the Eyes of the Lord, how much more are they so now in a People Professing the Plainness & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ recommends!— I Will saith the Apostle Paul that Women Adorn themselves in modest apparel with Shamefacedness & Sobriety, not with brodered hair or Pearls or Gold or costly array, but which becometh Women Professing Godliness with good Works, 1 Tim: 2, 9, 10.— Where he plainly sheweth that such Adornings are Contrary to the Profession of Godliness.— The Apostle Peter also is very ^{full} in his Exhortations on this subject, Whose Adorning saith he, Let it not be that outward Adorning of plaiting the hair & of wearing of Gold, & of putting on of Apparel, but Let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not Corruptible, even the Ornament of a meek & Quiet Spirit which is in the Sight of God of great price; for after this manner in the Old time the holy Women also who Trusted in God Adorned themselves, 1 Pet: 3, 4, 5. plainly intimating that those who of Old were holy & Trusted in God, placed not their Delight in such Ornaments.— Oh! that ye would weigh and Consider these things; Let your Moderation be known unto all men, and grieve not the holy Spirit of God but be ye followers of him as Dear Children, walking Circumspectly not as fools, but as wise redeeming the time because the days are evil.

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And Whereas we have with Deep Concern Observed by Accounts from Divers places, that there is a great Declension from that Simplicity, in speech Behaviour & Apparel which our worthy Ancestors were led into, and as we find by Experience, that the same spirit of Truth which led our Ancients to lay aside every thing unbecoming, the followers of Christ will still lead in the same Path all who submit to its Guidance, We earnestly Entreat Friends every where to watch over themselves in these respects & that Parents & Masters of Families would Labour to convince those under their Care, how inconsistent the gratifying a vain & worldly spirit is with a Christian Life, & the plainness & purity of the Gospel: the Examples of our Blessed Saviour & his followers, & of virtuous and holy Men in all Ages, Ought to make a due Impression on every Considerate Mind, & Especially on such as have had the Advantage of an Education in Plainness agreeable to such Example.

Let not any such as degenerate in these respects Excuse their own weakness under a pretence of the Misconduct of some who have appeared outwardly plain: an Objection of very little weight, for did they rightly Consider they would clearly see, that the very reason why Deceivers sometimes put on plain Apparel is, because true Men have been accustomed to wear it.

We also tenderly advise that Friends Especially those who should be Exemplary to others under their care, take heed that they Exercise plainness of speech without respect to persons in all their converse among Men; & not Calk their Testimony by a cowardly Compliance, varying their Language according to their Company: A Practice of very ill Example to our Observing Youth;

and

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And Rendering those who Use it contemptible & Looked upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with whom they so Comply, such a mean spirited Practice seems to be Cautioned against by the Apostle where he advises, 1 Tim: 3, 8. — That the Deacons be grave, not Double Tongued; — A Caution Plainly Importing that Double Tonguedness is Inconsistent with the Gravity of the Gospel.