

N<sup>o</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>  
Concerning the Poor  
1693

1693 Advised, that if any Poor Friends for the future should Incline to Remove themselves & Families to this City, that before they unsettle themselves, they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong, for advice & Counsel, & that such Meetings do rather Advise them to be Contented in their Places & Stations where Provisions & accommodations may be much easier and Cheaper Obtained than at London; Or if permitted by Certificate to Remove, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they come, do take Care to Supply their Necessities, that the Friends of London may not be overcharged for the future.

1694 Advised that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely Partake of Education in order to Apprentiship. 1696

1696 Advised that such among Friends as are Endued with Plenty of outward Substance be timely & tenderly Advised to do good therewith in their day and Generation, — Especially with regard to the Poor; that the Tokens of their Charity may Recommend their memorial, & be good Precedents to Generations to come. — That the Rich Remember the Poor, & do good in their Life time. & if they make any Settlement for the Use of the Poor, to take Advice & Counsel that it may be done so that Friends may not be Deprived of their Charity, & may be firm and according to Law. 1698

1698 As to the Endeavoring to procure an Act or Acts for Employing & Relief of the Poor amongst us, and building a Work house or Work houses; It's Referred to

to

1698 to the Meeting for Sufferings, to Proceed as the Respective Counties, shall give Directions to them and shall send up Friends to assist in Soliciting for the said Act or acts from each County if they see Meet.

1705

1701 'Tis Desired that no Poor Friends Children may want any Necessary Learning.

1709

1719 Advised & Desired that where Friends want Ability in the World, their Monthly & Quarterly Meetings assist them, that the Children of the Poor may have due help of Education, Instruction & Necessary Learning, & that Children both of the Rich & Poor may be equally provided with Industrious Employments, that they may not grow up in Idleness, Sloth & vice, but that being thus Seasoned with the Truth, Sanctified of God, taught Our holy Self-denying Way, They may appear a Reputation to our holy Profession, the Comfort of their Parents, Instrumental to the Glory of God, and the good of the Generation coming on.

1710

1710 Agreed, That if any Poor Friends or Friends, for the time to come, should Incline to remove themselves & Families from the Limits & Compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another, that before they settle themselves They apply themselves to such Meetings to which they belong for advice & Counsel therein, of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do approve, that they then give a Certificate signifying such Meetings Consent to their removal, & When any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as above, shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be Directed, & the Meeting accept and receive their Collection for the Poor, or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into,

to have Certificate

2 What is to be deemed a Settlement

such

1710

Such receiving their Collection or Employment may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting; And altho such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting, yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or themselves according to Truth, & not any ways Chargable to the said Meeting, for the space of three years after the Delivery of his or their Certificate, they may also then be well Deem'd to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three years Inhabit. 3<sup>d</sup> Servant Men & Maids bringing a Certificate as aforesaid being hired for one year, and serving the same faithfully & honestly, that then after such years Service, They also may be well Deem'd to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof they served, if they delivered in to the Meeting within that time, the Certificate they had. 4<sup>th</sup> If any Proselyting Truth, contrary to former Advice remove without a Certificate, & fall into want, and apply to any Friends for Assistance, that then the friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Neccessitous Person, & know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of Friends; and if such Neccessitous Person, have not been Denied before they became thus Chargable, that then the Meeting from whence they came & to which they did belong, shall reimburse the Charges they have been at on their Account. This agreement to continue but four years, unless it be then Renewed. 1711.

3 Servants

4<sup>th</sup> Removing without a Certificate

An Explanation of the fourth Article in the Last years agreement Relating to the Settlement of the Poor, as follows. Viz:

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1715  
an  
Explanation  
to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Article  
in 1710

If any Poor Friend or Friends shall Unadvisedly Remove from their habitations without a Certificate, & fall into want, and apply to any Friend where they come for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they apply, may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Necepsitous Person, & know how such Person or Person did stand in the Unity of Friends when they removed, & if such Necepsitous Persons have not been Denied, or were Owned, before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they came, and to which they did belong, do reimburse half the Charges which have <sup>been</sup> expended upon the account of the Necepsitous, for any time not exceeding three Months. In which time the Meeting from whence they came, shall desire the Necepsitous Person to return, which they are desired to do with all reasonable Expedition, so soon as health & ability of body shall admit, & the Friends where they are, are Desired to advise, and assist them in such return; after which neither Meeting is obliged to continue their care and Charge in case they Refuse.

But if they be such as are not Friends, or are Disorderly Persons pretending to Profess Truth, then neither Friends from whence they came, nor Friends to whom they do come, are to be under any Obligation to maintain such Necepsitous Persons: yet not to restrain the Charity of any Particular Friend or Friends from affording Present Relief to any Necepsitous Person.

1714

The agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710 for the Settlement of the Poor, with the Amendment of the fourth Article the next year, is now agreed to be Continued.

1718  
The advise of 1709 repeated & with respect to the poor Among us, it ought to be Considered, That the Poor both Parents & Children, are of our Family, & ought ~~and ought~~ not to be turned off to any others to be either Supported or Educated; and altho some may think the Poor a Burthen, yet Remember, where our Poor are well Provided for, & Walk Orderly, they are an Ornament to our Society: And the Rich should Consider, It is more Blessed to give than to receive, & he who Gives to the Poor, Lends to the Lord, who will repay again.

1720

1720  
As Mercy Compassion & Charity are eminently required in this New Covenant Dispensation we are under, so care of the Poor & Indigent among us, to see there be no Beggar in our Israel, is the concurrent advise of this Meeting, That all Poor Friends among us may be taken due care of, & none of them sent to the Parish to be relieved; That nothing be wanting for their necessary Supply, which has been according to our Ancient Practice & Testimony, & it has long been of good Report, That we have not only maintained our own Poor, but also contributed our share to the Poor of the respective Parishes wherein we Dwell.

See Questions, page, 270.

1725

1725  
A Question being Proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710, <sup>that</sup> were not denied  
This Meeting concludes, that all <sup>that</sup> were not denied  
Are to be Esteemed Members of the several Monthly Meetings in whose Compass they then Resided; and it is the Sense of this Meeting, that it was not Intended by the Minute of 1710, to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1724

1724

An Explanation of the Settlement of the Door, Agreed to at the yearly Meeting in 1724, But not to break, or Interfere with any particular agreement of the Monthly Meetings of London among themselves, is as follows, viz<sup>t</sup> That if any Friend or Friends for the future should Incline to Remove him her or themselves & Families from the Limits & Compass of one Monthly or quarterly Meeting to another, that before they Remove, they Request a Certificate for such their Removal.

To have Certificate

what may be deemed a Settlement

When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, as above, shall bring such Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed, & the Meeting accept or Receive their Collection or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church, in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, such Receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting; And altho' such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to Contribute to the Collection for the Door, or the Services of the Monthly Meeting yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves according to Truth, & no way Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the space of three years, may then also be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three years Inhabit.

Servants

Servant Men & Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired one year, & serving the same Faithfully, after such years Service, shall & may be well deemed to belong to such Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof they so served.

Notwithstanding the several Minutes of Settlement in Relation to the Door, there hath risen some Disputes among Friends Concerning the same, We think it Necessary to Add, That if any Friend or Friends do for the future,

Remove

1724

Remove from one Monthly Meeting to another, to settle there, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such are Removed, shall as soon as possible Enquire of the Friend or Friends so Removed for a Certificate; & for want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where such friend or friends are so residing, shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, to Request a Certificate in behalf of such Friend or Friends; But if the Monthly Meeting where such are then residing do neglect to write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came for such a Certificate, for the space of three years after such Residence among them, that then it shall be deemed a Settlement to such Friend or Friends in such Monthly Meeting they have for three years so Resided, Unless such Person or Persons were Insolvent or Denied before their Removal.

We think the Minute in the Year 1711, may stand with the following alterations viz<sup>t</sup> that the word, Door, in the first line be left out; & that the whole instead of the half Charges be reimburs'd according to the Directions of the said minute.

1729

1729

Rules & Directions Relating to Removals and Settlements among Friends agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London, in the Third Month 1729.

To have Certificate

First, If any Friend or Friends for the time to come should incline to Remove him her or themselves and Families, from the Limits & Compass of One Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another, before they Unsettle themselves, they apply to such Meeting to which they belong for advice & Counsel therein; of which if the said Meeting to which they Apply Do approve, they give a Certificate, signifying such Meetings Consent to their Removal.

Secondly

1729 Secondly, When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, and shall bring such Certificate to any Monthly Meeting to which it may be Directed, & the Meeting accept & receive their Collection, or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, such receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may be Deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: & altho such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Service of the Monthly Meeting, yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves Orderly in Conversation, & no ways Chargable to the said Meeting for the Space of three Years after the Delivery of their Certificate or advice thereof from the Meeting from whence he she or they Came, may then also be Deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years Inhabit.

what may be Deemed a Settlement

3 Servants

Thirdly, Servant Men & Women bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired one Year & honestly serving the same in One Family, after such years Service shall & may be Deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass where of their Master or Mistress shall be proper Members.

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Fourthly, That the two Weeks Monthly or Quarterly Meeting giving a Certificate to any Person or Persons, shall speedily write to the Meeting, to which the said Certificate is Directed, giving notice thereof, & if they omit writing, & the Person do not Deliver his or her Certificate then the Person removing shall still belong to the Meeting from whence he or she came, but if either the Meeting give Notice, or the Person Deliver his or her Certificate, then the Person Inhabiting three years as before, shall be Deemed a Member of the Meeting into which he or she is come.

5<sup>th</sup>ly

1729 Fifthly, If any Professing Truth shall contrary to former advice, Remove without a Certificate, & fall into Want, & apply to any Friend for Assistance, then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he she or they did belong & acquaint that Meeting of such a Necessitous Person or Persons, to know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of friends, & if such necessitous Person or Persons have not been Denied, but owned before they became thus Chargable, that then the Meeting from whence they came, & to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Accounts, & if the Meeting from whence such Necessitous Person or Persons did come shall Desire them to return, which they are then Desired to do with all Expedition, as soon as health & ability of Body will admit, & the Friends where they are, are Desired to advise & assist them in such Return; But if such Person shall refuse to return according to such advise, after the space of three Months, neither Meeting is Obliged to continue their Care and Charge: yet this is not Intended to restrain the Charity of any Particular Friend or Friends from affording Present Relief to any Necessitous Person.

6<sup>th</sup> Sixthly, But if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate tis Desired, that the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, should make Enquiry, & get Information where to they are Removed, & write to such Quarterly, Monthly, or two Weeks Meeting, giving account of their Behaviour & Circumstances, & if such Friend or Friends shall continue for the Space of three years after such account received, within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting where to he, she or they are Removed, behaving during that time Orderly, & no way Chargable, nor become Insolvent, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting

1729 Meeting within the compass of which they shall so three <sup>years</sup> inhabit, provided they were neither Dis-owned nor Insolvent before they removed.

7<sup>th</sup> severally. That nothing herein contained shall Interfere with any Particular agreement among the Monthly Meetings in London respecting their Poor.

8<sup>th</sup> Eighthly, that every Quarterly or Monthly Meeting Communicate this Agreement to the Particular Meetings, in Order to its being Publickly Read at the Close of Meetings for Worship, within three Months, or as often as they may see a service in it, that none may Plead Ignorance.

to be  
Liberal to  
the poor in  
times of  
scarcity  
Sickness

We find Ourselves at this time Engaged to Request, That Friends in any part of this Kingdom, or other Places, where Provisions & the Necessaries of Life are dear and scarce, Or sickness doth remarkably Afflict, would in proportion to such scarcity or affliction exert their Charitable Assistance to the Poor, which is our Christian Duty, as Stewards of the many Mercies wherewith the Lord has entrusted Us.

1733

1733 Whereas Different Sentiments have been in the Minds of Divers Friends with respect to the Minute of 1725, Relating to Settlements, A Question was put, What is meant by the word Residence? It was thereupon Resolved in this Meeting, That the same shall be taken in the most Extensive sense of the Word, as with <sup>respect</sup> to all Cases or Persons Habiting in any Place before the Year 1730, not being then Disowned by Friends.

1735

See Questions, page, 272

1737

See Removals & Settlements, pa; 287 to 29

1741 It is the Sense of this Meeting, That all monthly Meetings Ought to take care of, and sufficiently Support all Poor Friends within the Limits of each Monthly Meeting, according to Our Present Rule! and if such Monthly <sup>meeting</sup> by so doing is Overcharged, that then the Quarterly Meeting shall, on application made, give them such Relief as may be necessary.

1741  
all Monthly Meetings to support their own Poor  
See Removals & Settlements

N<sup>o</sup> 32. Concerning Preachers.

1689

*Caution against such as go up & down preaching who are out of Unity*

A Concern coming upon Friends of this Meeting Concerning Several Persons both Men & Women who go gambling Idly up and down the Country in derpudence of Preaching Truth, who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country, whose Conversations and Examples are not Savory as becomes the Truth: Friends in the several Counties should beware of such, and give no Encouragment nor Countenance to them, but warn them to return & settle in their Places and honest Employments, & seek Unity with their Own Meetings.

1695

This Meeting Desires and hopes, that you whom the Lord hath Gifted with a Publick Testimony for His Name and Truth will in this Day of Liberty & Liberty be diligent to Visit the Heritage of God in their Meetings, and most Especially those least frequented.

1698

*Preachers who are without some thing & persisting therein to be satisfied against*

Where Friends in any County are really dissatisfied or burthened with any that take upon them to Preach among them, let them first be duly admonished in their own County, with the Assistance of the Faithful approved Ministers & Elders of the same Meeting & County, or adjacent County or Counties if need be; And if afterwards they will persist to impose upon & burthen Friends, then to be Publickly Testified against where they so impose.

1698

If any such after due Admonition will travel a-broad to minister out of Unity with Friends of their Own County, the Friends of those other Counties where they travel should have due notice, of them from Friends who have had them under Admonition

1699

1699

This Meeting recommends to the several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the several Counties that they take care to advise, that those Friends that go forth with a Publick Testimony may be such that are well approved at home by their own respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, & are sound in Doctrine, and of Good Conversation, and in Unity with their own Meetings.

And if any Faithful Friends, or Meetings, be burthened with the contrary, let them tenderly clear their Consciences privately to the Parties concerned, giving them Gospel Order; and if they dont answer it, nor receive due Admonition, that the Meeting to which they belong may be acquainted therewith: And the second days Morning Meeting is desired to send on this Meetings behalf, to the several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, with the Copy of the Minute made relating to this Matter last year.

1702

Agreed, that Friends in the several Counties should be cautioned not to receive any as Preachers among them, that are Denied by Friends or Testified against by the Monthly Meeting to which they did belong.

1713

There being several Omisions concerning Publick Friends Deceased, in the Accounts brought up, It is desired, that care be taken to send up to this Meeting, the time of their Decease, & of their Conversations, Labours & Services in the Work of Truth.

1716

See Meetings for Worship page, 286

1720

1720

Friends, in the Respective Counties & Meetings are Earnestly Desired & advised, That they Use prudence and Caution, so as not to be Imposed upon by Imposters or Cheats, pretending to the Ministry or otherwise; & where there is Doubt or Question of the Ministry of any Persons in that Case, that such be called upon to shew what Certificate they have: And in General it is tenderly recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, to see that Friends who Travel as in the Work of the Ministry do go in the Unity of the Meetings to which they belong, & with Certificates thereof.

And farther, that it may become the tender Care of the said several Meetings to watch over such as may be young in the Ministry, to see that they walk humbly and Wisely, that as on the One hand nothing truly tending to the Glory of God, and the Edification of his Church and People may be Discouraged, so on the Other hand, where any thing appears which may make advice necessary, that the Elders of the Church both Ministers & others, do in the Wisdom of God give their Advice thereupon, with due regard to the State of weakness & Childhood that such may be Under.

1723

This Meeting taking under their serious consideration the beauty & Credit of keeping Decency & good Order in our Meetings for Worship, Advise Friends every where to avoid Publick Opposition to a Minister not Disowned by the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong; by keeping on hats or Making any other appearances of distinction or Disunion: But, if any Person pretending to be a Minister shall give Cause,

1716 page 286

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1723 of Uneasiness or Dissatisfaction to Friends in giving Doctrine Behaviour or Conversation, the Person Cause of Dissatisfaction to be dealt with so Offending to be dealt with privately in a Gospel Spirit & Way, and if that shall not take Effect then that Complaint be made of such Person to the Monthly Meeting to which he or she shall belong, and that proceedings thereupon be accordingly had, and the affair settled with all possible Speed & Expedition.

See 1698  
p. 253

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 195

1728

Cautions  
against  
indecent  
Postures  
& Tones  
&c  
to be fully  
satisfied  
before they  
Grant  
Certificates

We earnestly Desire, that a tender & prudent Care be on all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, pursuant to the advice of Last Meeting, to advise & Caution as they see meet, and particularly against all indecent postures & Gestures, unintelligible tones and sounds, Misquotations & Misapplications of Scripture, Which renders such a Ministry Contemptible. And that they do not Grant Certificates to Ministers to Travel abroad to visit the Churches, until they have full Satisfaction of their Qualifications for so great a Work, & are of Orderly Conversations, being well approved at home.

See Scriptures, page, 316

1730

Friends are Desired to call on Strangers who Travel in the Ministry for Certificates, thereby in all Places to prevent being Imposed upon, as far as may be.

See Meetings for Discipline, p. 171

1731

1731

An Epistle of Advice to ministring Friends that Travel &c

Dear and well Beloved Friends, The spirit of God being, The Foundation of all true Knowledge and Experience both in Ministers and hearers, We earnestly Exhort, That all would Diligently wait upon and mind it, Ministers in their Publick Services Especially ought always to attend closely to their several and peculiar Gifts, & Minister the Word Faithfully as its Manifested & Revealed to them, observing a Decent & modest Behaviour in the Exercise of their Ministry, & avoid Entangling themselves with the Affairs of this Life, that they may the better answer the holy warfare in which they are Engaged. And let the hearers be watchful over their own Spirits, & not forwardly Judge or Censure the Testimonies which may be delivered amongst them, for if they be not very careful & Diligent in attending upon the Lord in meetings they are liable to mistake in the Judgment they may pass on the Ministry. Now this being as we apprehend a matter of great Moment for the Preservation of love and Concord in the Churches, and knowing the Danger & ill Consequences which attend an hasty & censorious Judging of the Ministry, We thought it very necessary to Caution the members of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, not to let their own Spirits sway them; But Let the Spirit of God Rule & Reign in the hearts of Friends, for that will preserve all in sweetness & tenderness One towards Another; the due Observation of this, We Judge will be a great help to Ministers in the Discharge of their Duty and Service to which they are Called.

And

Preachers

1734

And We earnestly Request, That the Elders in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings Would be ready to Inform the weak, when suitable Opportunities present, that both Ministers & hearers pursuing one & the same End, namely the Glory of God, & the good & welfare one of another, the Church may be Edified Increase & Flourish to the consolation of the Faithful. On the other hand We advise, that Ministers have it very much at heart to maintain a perfect Harmony & good Understanding with the Monthly Meetings to which they belong; & that as the said Meetings may sometimes find themselves concerned to advise them respecting their conduct in Meetings or otherwise that they shew themselves ready to hear & receive advise, as well as teach & instruct.

ministers  
to keep  
good harmony  
with the  
Monthly Meetings

I ready  
to receive  
advise

Monthly  
Meetings to  
be careful  
in giving  
Certificates

And Dear Friends We further tenderly Advise all Monthly Meetings to take great care to whom they give Certificates when they Travel, to prevent the uneasiness which sometimes falls on the Churches from a weak and unskilful Ministry; And Let the Elders where they see Occasion advise ministers to be very prudent in their conduct, not as busy body's nor meddling with Family or Personal Affairs in which they are not concerned or required to be assisting; and that they be very tender of one another's reputation & that of Friends among whom they Travel, neither giving Ear to, nor Spreading reports apt to raise in the minds of others a Sponging or Disesteem of any of the Brotherhood, And as soon as their service in the Ministry is over, That they return to their Habitations, and there take a reasonable and prudent care of their own Business, Household & Family.

Preachers

1736

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And as the Lord in mercy is breathing a fresh on several of Our youth of both sexes, and fitting them for His Service, We Recommend it to the Elders in every Meeting that they tenderly watch over all young Ministers, and advise & help them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may be Opened thereto. Now wishing that which is right, & comes forth in the favour of life, and Discouraging every thing that is Indecent or unbecoming the Ministry.

1737

1737

a publick  
friend  
censured  
or  
disowned  
readmitted  
&c

If any Friend who has been a Publick Minister among you, shall be guilty of such Practises as may justly Deserve your Publick Censure, & shall be Publickly censured or Disowned by you, and afterwards upon tokens of Repentance may be again admitted into Membership; We do think meet to advise you, That such re-admission be not interpreted to give him or her the Liberty the Liberty of appearing as a Publick Minister, until the Monthly Meeting he or she belongs to shall Judge the Scandal given by such Person so far removed, as such Publick appearance may not Minister Occasion of Reproach either from Friends or others; & in case any shall shew themselves too forward in so appearing, the Meeting to which they belong are Desired to give them such advice as they shall see suitable to their Circumstances.

1738

1738

When We Consider that it was the Power of the Lord which first Gathered Us to be a People, & Enabled Our Ancestors to bear a Faithful Testimony to His Name, We cannot but Exhort you time after time to wait for a renewed enjoyment of the Power of Truth upon your Hearts, that thereby you may be Encouraged to come up in your respective Services, & in a Conscientious

Suffering

1738 Suffering for the Christian Testimony you are concerned to bear: Our blessed Lord Just before his Ascension Comanded his Disciples & Followers to wait at Jerusalem till they were Endued with Power from on high knowing their inability without the sensible feeling of that Power to speak in his name for the Conversion of the Nations: 'Twas this Power that Enabled them to speak boldly in the name of Jesus; This alone made them able Ministers of Christ, whose Preaching was not with enticing words of Mans Wisdom, but in the Demonstrations of the Spirit & Power. And seeing many of us have Experienced much Spiritual Consolation by waiting in Silence, & humbly depending upon the Lord alone, we Exhort Friends to be very careful to Observe the hours appointed for religious Worship and that when together, They Labour to feel their minds abstracted from visible Objects into a true Stillness and Nothingness of self, wherein the true Teachings of the holy Spirit are Witnessed by humble & Contrite Souls: in such a waiting State you will have a true relish & savour of the Ministry of those who are highly concerned by the same Spirit to labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740

Testimony Concerning Publick Friends deceased to be recorded, — see Records, page, 281.

1743

\* See 1727, p. 254  
1736, p. 255  
1736, p. 256

1743 And Dear Friends We farther Desire and tenderly Advise, as heretofore, \* That the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings would appoint some Elder Friends sound in the Faith and of good Discerning, to be advising and assisting to those who may be concerned to minister among us, and in love to caution them respecting such Mistakes, either in Judgment or Expression as through human frailty even good men may sometimes be incident to.

and

1743  
Accounts of Publick Friends Deceased.

And that in sending up to this Meeting the account of Publick Friends Deceased, care be taken where no particular Testimony concerning them is given, that nevertheless the Age, place of abode Time of death, & place of Burial, as also how long they had been Ministers, be Expressly mentioned. 1745

1745  
Disorderly persons who travel up & down preaching without certificates to be stopped

Whereas it appears unto this Meeting that some Persons who are not in Unity with their Monthly Meetings where they dwell, do travel up & down without Certificate or Recommendation, Imposing themselves as Preachers among Friends, to the Exercise & Trouble of the Churches where they come; We do Desire, that all such Friends as Travel in the Work of the Ministry with the Unity & Approbation of their respective Meetings, would be Strictly careful not to Countenance or Joyn with any such Imposers; but rather to advise against such their Disorderly practise, and Endeavour to Persuade them to return to their callings & Habitations: and Friends of the several Monthly or other Meetings, where such Disorderly Persons may come are Desired to Enquire of them for their Certificates; by the want of which they may be able to Discover, that their Traveling abroad is not with the Approbation of Friends where they dwell, & who consequently are the proper Judges of their call to, & Qualifications for the Work of the Ministry to which they pretend.

And We do in much Love caution those Friends who are rightly concerned in the work of the Ministry, to watch over their own Spirits, and not to be overly rash or censorious in passing Judgment respecting the State of those who hear them; but to manifest that in the Exercise of their Ministry, they are led by the Love of God,

and

1745 And that their principal Aim is, that they may be Instrumental to administer Spiritual Consolation and Strength to the Churches where they come.

And farther We earnestly Exhort that none would offer to Impose themselves as preachers in any Meetings of Friends, who are not themselves found faithful Against the Payment of Tythes, And in Observing the Other Branches of Our Ancient Christian Testimony.

1772

1772

At a yearly Meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhode Island 6<sup>mo</sup> 1772.

The following is adopted as a rule of our Society, That when Publick Friends have it on their minds to travel out of the verge of the Quarterly Meeting they belong to, that they acquaint the Elders of their Respective meetings with their concern, for their advice before they move it to the preparative meeting in order for a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting and also when they have it on their minds to travel out of the verge of the yearly meeting that they proceed in like manner and take a Certificate from the Quarterly meeting they belong to concurring with the monthly meeting therein.

## Prisoners

N<sup>o</sup> 33<sup>n</sup> Concerning Prisoners.

1676

1676

See Records, page, — 277.

1681

Advised that an Account be yearly sent up of all such Friends as are in Prison or Prisoners, that We may know who are Detained Prisoners, and who are Discharged; also to signify the time of their Commitment, by whom prosecuted, & for what Cause. And that Distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have Died in Prison or Prisoners for their Testimony to the Truth, since the foregoing yearly Meeting, with their Names, Ages, Dwelling places, Education, Callings, Time of Convincement, and the places of their Travel and Service, and time of Sufferings and Death.

1682

1682

See Questions, page, 269  
and Records, page, — 278

1696

1696

See Questions, pages, — 279

1700

1700

See Records, page, — 289

Questions

1742

1742

Queries altered

New Queries

altered see p. 273

The Committee appointed to consider the Queries instead of the former Queries have Drawn up the following; which were here several times read duly Considered, & agreed to. And tis agreed by this Meeting, that the several Counties send up their Answers to the said Queries to this Meeting separate from their Accounts of Sufferings which for the future are agreed to be taken in immediate by the accounts of Sufferings are Entered.

1. What Present Prisoners?
2. How many Discharged since last year, when & how?
3. How many Died Prisoners?
4. How many Meeting houses built? and what Meetings new Settled?
5. How many publick Friends Died & when?
6. What is the state of your meeting? Is there any Growth in the Truth? & doth any Convincement appear since last year? & is Love and Unity preserved amongst you?
7. Is it your care by Example & precept to train up your Children in all Godly Conversation, & in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures as also in plainness of speech, behaviour & Apparel?
8. Do you bear a faithful & Christian Testimony against the Receiving or paying Tithes? and against bearing of Arms? And do you admonish such as are unfaithful therein?
9. Do you stand Clear in our Testimony against Defrauding the King of his Customs Duties or Excise; or in Dealing in Goods suspected to be hurt?
10. How are the Poor among you provided for? and what care is taken for the Education of their Off Spring?

Questions

1742

11. Do you keep a Record in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, of the Prosecutions and Sufferings of your respective Members? and have you a Record of your Meeting houses & Burial Grounds?

1744

the 5th Query altered

It is Agreed by this Meeting, that the Eighth Query be altered and amended as followeth viz:  
Do you bear a faithful & Christian Testimony against the Receiving or paying Tithes, Priests Demands, and those called Church Rates? bearing Arms, and paying Trophy Money? And do you admonish such as are unfaithful therein?

1760

At the yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was agreed and concluded that the following Queries should be here Added.

1. Are all Meetings for Religious Worship and Discipline duly attended, the hour Observed, and are Friends preserved from sleeping or any other Indecent Behaviour therein particularly Chewing Tobacco or taking Snuff?
2. Is Love & Unity maintained among you as becoms Brethren, are Tale bearing, backbiting, & evil reports Discouraged & when Differences arise, are Endeavors Speedily Used to End them?
3. Are Parents of Children Careful to bring them up in plainness of speech, behaviour, & Apparel and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures to Refrain them from Reading pernicious Books & the Corrupt Conversation of the World?

- 1760
4. Are Friends careful to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous Liquors the Unnecessary Frequenting of Taverns & places of Publick resort, & in all their Conversation walk as becomes the Professors of the Blessed Truth, in true Moderation & Temperance on the Account of Births, Marriages, & Burials and all other Occasions?
  5. Are Poor Friends Necessities duly Inspected they Relieved, or assisted in such Business, as they are Capable of, Do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business, & are they and other Friends Children placed among Friends?
  6. Do no young or unmarried persons, make proposals of marriage with each other, without consent of Parents & Relations Concerned, nor keep company with those of other Societies on that account?
  7. Do ~~not~~ Widowers or Widows make or Admit of proposals of Marriage too early after the Decease of former Husband or Wife, & are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages Neglected?
  8. Do you maintain a Faithful Testimony against the Payment of Priests Wages, bearing of Arms, Training or military Service, & against Depriving the King of his Duties, or buying or vending of Goods suspected to be Run?
  9. Are Friends careful to make their Wills & settle their outward Estates whilst in Health, and take Friends Advice therein when necessary, and are Publick Gifts or Legacies applied to the Uses Intended by the Donors?
  10. Are Friends Clear of Importing Negroes or buying them when Imported & Use those well, where they are Possessed By Inheritance or Otherwise Endeavouring to train them up in the Principles of Religion?
  11. Are Friends careful to Live within in the bounds of their Circumstances, & to avoid Launching into Trade & Business beyond their ability to manage & thereby break their Promises, & neglect the Payment of their Just Debts, & are such as give reasonable grounds of Fear on those Accounts timely Labour'd with for their Recovery?
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>

- 1760
12. Are there any belonging to this Meeting removed without a Certificate Or are there any come from other places Appearing as Friends who have not Produced Certificates?
  13. Are you Concerned Regularly to Deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekness & Wisdom without Partiality Or unnecessary Delay and where any Continue Obstinate to place Judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth?
- And it is further Recommended, that all Contention and Personal Reflection and Smiting be kept out of our Meetings, That all Friends be careful to keep out of heats and passions & Doubtful Disputations, and that we suffer no Turbulent Contentious persons amongst us, in Ordering Or Managing the Affairs of Truth, But that the same be Managed in the Peaceable Spirit and Wisdom of Jesus with Decency forbearance and love to each Other.

1770

1770

At the yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island This Meeting having been under a weighty Concern on Account of Inflowing our fellow Creatures, <sup>They</sup> ~~They~~ <sup>Have</sup> ~~Have~~ <sup>Conclude</sup> ~~Conclude~~ a Conclusion to make an alteration in our 5<sup>th</sup> Query and substitute what followeth in the Room thereof (viz) Are Friends Clear of Importing Buying or any way Disposing of Negroes as Slaves, And do they use those well that are under their Care not in Circumstances through non-age or Incapacity to be set at Liberty, and do they <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>use</sup> ~~use~~ those that are young such an Education as becomes <sup>Christians</sup> ~~Christians~~, and are the others Encouraged in a Religious and Virtuous Life, and are all set at Liberty that are of age, Capacity & Ability suitable for Freedom

## Records

N<sup>o</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Concerning Records.

1675

1675

See Discipline, page, 99.

1676

1676

what matters  
are to be  
Recorded

Agreed, that Friends of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an exact account among themselves —

- 1<sup>st</sup> Of those that first brought the message of God's doing among them.
- 2<sup>d</sup> Of the sufferings of those First Messengers, whether at Steeple houses Market places or otherwise.
- 3<sup>d</sup> What friends first Received them, & their message.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Of the Names, Travels, Faithfulness, & unblamable Conversations of all the Publick Labourers that are Deceased.
- 5<sup>th</sup> What Judgments fell upon Persecutors.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Where the hearts of any such Enemies have been turned to God, Let them and their Conversion be Recorded.
- 7<sup>th</sup> What Priests and others have written Books against Friends, and who have answered them.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Who have suffered Loss of Goods or sustained Imprisonment, with the cause, Time & Manner of such sufferings with the Names of their Persecutors.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Who have Died in Prison on Truths Account, and for what Branch of our Testimony. & that Testis taken away by force be Recorded as a Suffering for Truth.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Of signal Living Testimonies of Dying Friends.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Of the Names of Persecutors, & the Names of witnesses to the Facts, whether Friends or Neighbours.
- 12<sup>th</sup> If any have Apostatized that their sufferings whilst Owning the Truth be Notwithstanding Recorded, & their Apostacies signified.



1676<sup>th</sup> 13. Of the Return of any Backsliders or Apostates and the Judgments befallen any of them.

And that in sending the Accounts of these Matters, and of Sufferings, up to London, care be taken to begin where they left off last, & not to send the same twice over nor confusedly.

1678

1678 Each Mon: Meeting to keep a Book to Enter Sufferings in Each Monthly Meeting; and that by the Monthly Meetings an account of the Sufferings be sent to the Quarterly Meetings; And that the Quarterly Meetings transmit the accounts to the Clerk at London, that nothing be lost in their Cases of Sufferings for our Testimony. — See Fithes, page, 365.

1680

1680 yearly Meeting papers It is the Desire of this Meeting that every Quarterly Meeting enter such papers as they have had from this or such like Meetings in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books, the better to secure them from being lost.

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page, — 265

1682

1682 Epistles Agreed that Epistolatory Letters read in this Yearly Meeting be Entered in a Book, and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

Method for keeping the Records Draw up the Sufferings fair in a Book, and not too close; all Fithes by themselves, so for swearing, so for Conventicle Acts; so for Twenty Pounds a month, each by themselves; then take the Number of all that Remain in Prison, both Old and New & the Number of them that Died in Prison, & so keep a Number of them all along that are put into Prison, & that go out of Prison; & keep a Yearly Number who goes in, and who goes out; and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689

1689 The abstract of Friends Sufferings from several Counties being Considered, the Meeting thinks it most convenient to have the abstracts made from the Records out of those Sufferings that came up to the Yearly Meeting, and which are recorded here, so that the Meeting does not Encourage the making abstracts in the Counties lest they should Lessen Friends Sufferings. And when an History is taken & Published, it should be Impartially done, and Accounts of the Stops put to Persecutions, & of Return of Goods, and Discharge of Prisoners, that have been Procured by the Solicitations of Friends to the Powers, whose Hearts the Lord Inclined to favour them.

1691

1691 It is Desired, that Friends keep the yearly meeting papers together in a Book in Each Monthly and Quarterly Meeting.

1693

1693 It is Desired, That Friends at all their Monthly & Quarterly Meetings be reminded to call for the Records of the Sufferings of Friends, to see that they be duly gathered Entered & kept, & accordingly sent up, as hath been advised, both of what Fithes &c are pretended to be due, & for how long a time, & the time when taken and by & for whom, & what goods are taken, & the value thereof, as well of those not Exceeding as those Exceeding the Sums or Quantities Demanded, it being a Suffering in both for Truths sake, they being in those particulars found defective & Imperfect in divers Counties, which is an Obstruction to the General Record of Friends Sufferings, & therefore the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are desired to take more care for the future, That all Friends Sufferings for Truths sake may be brought as full & Compleat in all respects as possibly may be.

1694

1694

1694

Advised that when Friends send up their Yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Fines &c as near as can be, they give account therewith how much is taken in value, & how much it exceeds the pretended value, & by and for whom.

Advised to remember to keep a true Record of Manifest Judgments upon Persecutors, & send up an account thereof with the Sufferings yearly, that the just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the Innocent Sufferers, by signally punishing their Persecutors, may be taken notice of as a warning to Posterity, as the heavy Judgments, and fearful Ends of Wicked Persecutors are recorded in holy Scriptures and Books of Martyrs &c.

1695

1695

Advised to send up with the Sufferings true Copies of Warrants, Writs or processses of Commitment attested by the Jailors.

1698

1698

See Tythes, page — 368.

1700

1700

Advised that Friends keep exact & true accounts of all their Sufferings for conscience sake, both by distresses, Sequestrations & Imprisonments that we may be capable to give a true account thereof to the Government when necessity requires. — And to give speedy Accounts when Friends are Discharged, from Imprisonments, &c and by what means.

1705

1705

It is tenderly advised, that Friends be careful to stand faithful in their Ancient Testimony, and keep exact Accounts of their Sufferings; — and when any Sufferings require speedy care, for Redress, & are written of to London, 'tis desired

the

1705

the Case may be truly & fully stated, dated and Subscribed by the Sufferers, & as often as can be attested by some known Friends.

1737

1737

See Questions, page, 272.

1740

1740

This Meeting being informed, that there is a great Deficiency in entering into a proper Book, the Testimonies which are given forth by Monthly Meetings concerning Publick Friends Deceased, therefore Order a Book to be got for that purpose, and the Testimonies to be entered as they are brought up.

And that the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings from whence they come be particularly careful to enter the same in their Book of Records, before the said Testimonies are sent up.

1746

1746

See Sufferings, page, 351.

## Removals &amp; Settlements 287

N<sup>o</sup> 36<sup>th</sup> Rules for Removals & Settlements.

1737

1<sup>st</sup>

1737

1<sup>st</sup> That all Friends shall be Deemed Members of the Quarterly, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting, within the Compass of which They Inhabited or Dwelt the first Day of the fourth Month 1737; Except such who are Settled Pensioners to, or have within one Year last past been Relieved by, any Other such Meeting: in that Case he she or they shall be deemed a member of the Meeting to which they are Pensioners, or by whom they have been so

Relieved.

2<sup>nd</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> That if any Friend or Friends shall remove him her or themselves & Family from the Limits or Compass of one Quarterly, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting into Another, they shall apply to the Meeting to which they belong for a Certificate, or other Usual Recommendation, to the Meeting they are Removed, or purpose to Remove into which being obtained & Delivered to that Meeting such Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deemed a member or Members of the Meeting they so remove into, Provided they were not Insolvent, or had been Relieved by the Meeting Recommending, or some other Meeting on their behalf within the Term of three Years preceding the Delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who has Delivered a Certificate, or been otherwise Recommended, shall fall into Receptitious Circumstances, & shall ask & receive any Relief within the above Limited time of three Years not having Contributed to, or been Employed in any Service of the Church by the Meeting they were Recommended to; Such Friend or Friends shall then Continue to belong to the Meeting from whence they were Recommended,

Zot

1737 Yet the Meeting within the Compass of which he, she or they reside, shall assist & relieve him, her or them, and give notice thereof to the Meeting which Recommended him, her or them; & upon that Meetings Receiving such notice, They shall Immediately take the Necessary care of him, her or them; & repay the Charge the Meeting to which they were Recommended has been at on his or their Account.

3<sup>d</sup> That no Friend or Friends, Apprentices and other Servants excepted, shall gain a Settlement after the time above mentioned in any Meeting unless Recommended by Certificate or other Usual Recommendation, & the same duly Delivered to the Meeting they are Recommended to; except the Meeting within the Compass of which they reside shall receive their Collection, or Employ them in any Service of the Church, their so doing shall Intitle such Friend or Friends to Membership with them, agreeable to the Restriction & Tenor of the Second Paragraph.

4<sup>th</sup> If any Friend or Friends shall fall into Want, the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which they then reside, shall take the necessary Care to relieve them: And in Order to prevent any Inconveniences that may arise from want of knowing with certainty to what Meeting a Poor Friend or Friends properly belong, at the time they fall into want, whereby it may be rendered Difficult for the Monthly Meeting which shall Relieve such Necessitous Persons, to Obtain repayment of the Charge, They may be at on such Accounts, It is agreed, That where any Poor Friend or Friends shall become Chargable to any Meeting where He, she, or they may reside,

and

1737 and who at the same time are not proper Members thereof, That Meeting may apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members; and that Meeting upon notice to them given of such Necessitous Friend or Friends, shall take the needful Care of them, and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they reside hath been or shall be at: But if that Meeting shall apprehend such Necessitous Person or Persons do not belong to them, but have gained a Settlement elsewhere They may fix them on any other Meeting where they have gained a Settlement, & in that case such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5<sup>th</sup> Single Men & Women Servants being hired one year, & honestly serving the same in one Family, after such Years Service shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Mistress shall be Members; & if such Servants shall so Dwell with any who are not Friends, then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress shall Live.

6<sup>th</sup> Apprentices shall gain a Settlement in that Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress Dwell at the time of his or her being bound, and Living Forty Days with such Master or Mistress afterwards: And in case, an apprentice shall be turned over to another Master or Mistress, He or She shall in like manner gain a Settlement, after Living with them Forty Days, in the Meeting within the Compass of which the Master or Mistress Dwell, To whom He, she, is so turned over.

7<sup>th</sup> - Provided Always that nothing herein Contained shall be understood to hinder the Usual and necessary Care of Friends in their Inquiry after Conversation and Clearness respecting Marriage,

but

1737

but Certificates or other Recommendation in that Case shall continue to be required as heretofore, hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to. And Whereas Disputes may arise about Settlements where the Man brings a Certificate or Recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to another on account of Marriage, It is hereby Agreed, that such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be construed to make a Settlement unless his removal be expressed therein.

8<sup>th</sup> The Wife & Children to be Deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member, not only during his Life, but likewise after his Decease, until they shall gain another Settlement Elsewhere.

9<sup>th</sup> Provided always, & it is hereby Agreed, That what Charge any Meeting have or may be at, for the Relief of any Friend or Friends, who were before this Settlement members of other Monthly Meetings, shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did heretofore belong. And that if any Dispute should arise about the Settlement of such poor Friend or Friends now under Relief, such Settlement or Settlements shall be Determined according to the former \* Rules and Directions; which are not to be made use of in any other Cases.

\* See under the head Poor

Lastly which are under head Poor

Lastly. All Minutes, Orders & Directions heretofore made and Recommended by this Meeting Relating to Removals & Settlements of Friends, are hereby Declared Void and of no Force Except in the Cases Provided for in the Ninth Paragraph.

1740

1740

It is Agreed, that no Proposition for altering the Rules for Removals & Settlements of Friends made in 1737, shall be Received by this Meeting, Unless such Proposition shall be Signed in and by Order of a Quarterly Meeting, or some other Meeting which do Directly Correspond with this Meeting.

1747

See Discipline, page, 103

No 37<sup>th</sup> Concerning Representatives.

1672

1672 Advised, That One or Two of Each County that are concerned in the Publick Service of Truth in Each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a Year, to be Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meeting of each County & respectively for that purpose. See Yearly Meeting, page, 411.

1687

1687 Advised, That such Faithful Friends, One or Two of a County be Desired to attend the Yearly Meeting, as are most capable & fit for the Service thereof.

1688

1688 That Two faithful Friends in Every County may be Desired to come up, who may be Enabled to give a Certain account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties.

1690

1690 That Two Faithful Understanding Friends in Every County, be Desired to come up, who know the State of our Friends, in their respective Counties.

1691

1691 That Two faithful Understanding Friends in Every County, who are truly approved in Universal Love, Unity & Peace among Friends from whence they come, may be Desired to come up, who may be Enabled to give a Certain & Clear account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends, & of Truth's Prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700

1700 Agreed, that no County send up less than Two Friends, nor more than Four be Entered.

advised

Representatives

1700 Advised, that Friends bring brief & direct Answers to the Questions, drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings & brought in writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1706

See Questions, page, 272

1709

This Meeting understanding some Friends that are Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting is ended. It is now advised & agreed that for the future, no Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting ends, without first acquainting the Meeting thereof, that the Service of this Meeting may not be neglected.

not to go out of Town before the Meeting ends

1714

Recommended that Friends take care that those who are desired & appointed to come up to Yearly Meetings may be men fearing God, of good Conversations of weighty spirits, prudent & sincere, and well acquainted with the Affairs of Truth at home.

Qualifications

1728

Advised That the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties & Cities do appoint at least four friends in Order that in case a part should be disappointed by sickness or other Accident, there may be a sufficient Number to answer the Service.

Four to be appointed

1730

This Meeting gives Liberty, in regard of the Largeness of the County of York, that for the future they may be allowed to enter any Number as Representatives not Exceeding Eight

County of York may have Eight

1733

And Dear Friends our tender and thorough Advice to your several Quarterly Meetings, is that they would be careful,

annually

Representatives

1733

Qualifications

Annually to Depute such Friends to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting, as are well acquainted with the Affairs of the Church, & Diligent Attenders of the Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & places where they dwell, and whose practise & Conversation is answerable to the Testimony they profess to bear.

1743

1743

We advise, that the several Quarterly Meetings take care to appoint for their Representatives & Correspondents, Men known to be faithful & Conscientious in every Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1746

1746

Attendance required

This Meeting observing a Deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, recommends, to the several Quarterly Meetings, the following Minutes viz<sup>t</sup>

A Minute of this Meeting in 1728. (See page 302) & A Minute of this Meeting in 1733 (See pa. 302 & 303)

1750

1750

The advice of 1728, again earnestly recommended, — See Yearly Meeting, page, 419.

## Salutations

N<sup>o</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> Concerning Salutations.

1715

1715

See Plainness, page, 226.

1718

1718

Advice Given against a Dedention crept  
in among Us, by Unbecoming Gestures, in Cringing  
and Bowing the Body by way of Salutation,  
which Ought not to be taught or Countenanced.



## Schools

N<sup>o</sup> 39<sup>n</sup> Concerning Schools.

1690

1690 See Children, page, 40.

1695

1695 Advised, That Schools, and Schoolmasters who are Faithful Friends & well Qualified, be placed & Encouraged in all Counties, Cities Great Towns or Places, where there may be need; & that School Masters as much as may be, sometimes Correspond One with Another, for their help and Improvement in such good & Easie Methods as are most agreeable to the Truth, and the Childrens Advantage & Benefit; and that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely partake of such Education in Order to Apprentiship.

1696

1696 See Children, page, 41, & 42.

1697

1697 Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are Desired to take care, that in all Places where Schools are set up for the teaching of Friends Children, that the Masters be Diligent to Improve & forward their Scholars in Learning, and keep them out of every thing that would Corrupt good Manners.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 179.

1753

1753 As the want of Proper Persons amongst Friends Qualified for Schoolmasters hath been the Occasion of great Damage to the Society in many Places, as thereby well Disposed Friends are Deprived of Opportunities for the Education of their Children,

in

1755  
 in a Manner consistent with a religious Con-  
 cern for their welfare have been recipiated  
 to send them to those of other Perswasions where-  
 by the tender minds of such Children have been  
 in great Danger of being Seaverned into the  
 Language Customs and Habits of the World;  
 from whence it is Difficult afterwards to Re-  
 claim them. We Desire, Friends would attend  
 to this Important Point; And in their Month-  
 ly Meetings Assist young Men of Low Circumstan-  
 ces, whose Genius & Conduct may be suitable for  
 that Office, with the Means requisite to Obtain the  
 proper Qualifications, and when so Qualified, af-  
 ford them the Necessary Encouragement for their  
 Support.

No. 40<sup>n</sup> Concerning the Scriptures.

- 1706 <sup>1706</sup> Advised, that Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, & bring them up in the frequent reading of the Scriptures of Truth; and also to instruct them in the great Love of God through Jesus Christ, & the Work of Salvation by Him, and of Sanctification through his blessed Spirit.
- 1709 <sup>1709</sup> We Recommend it as an Incumbent Duty on Friends to Cause their Children to be frequent in reading the holy Scriptures, & in Observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early Learned the fear of God; and hearkened to his Counsel, Instructing them in the Fear & Dread of the Lord, planting Impressions upon their Spirits of reverence towards God, from whom they have their daily Supports, shewing them they Ought not to Offend Him, but Love, Serve and Honour Him in whose hand all Blessings are.
- 1712 <sup>1712</sup> We Exhort all Parents of Children to be very careful to Educate and train them up in the Fear of God, and Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures, & be good Examples to them in all things.
- 1720 <sup>1720</sup> Advised that no Friends suffer Romances, Play-books, or other vain & idle Pamphlets in their Houses, or Families, which tend to Corrupt the minds of youth; but instead thereof that they excite them to the reading of the holy Scriptures & religious Books.

Let

1720 Let the holy scriptures be early taught our youth & Diligently searched and fearously Read by Friends with due regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came, & by which they are truly Opened: for they contain excellent Doctrine, Rules & Precepts, Divine and Moral, In so much that there will be no need to Enumerate or often to repeat Laws & Precepts like the Jews under al-  
teral and lower Dispensation and Covenant than, we are called into, the true Practice of the pure Religion given us will Answer all.

1723

1723 See Children, page, — 45.

1728.

1728

Advised, That Ministers as well as Elders and all others, in their Preaching, Writing & Convers-  
ation about the things of God, Do keep to the form of sound Words, or Scripture terms, & that none pretend to be Wise about what is there Written, & in such pretended Wisdom go about to explain the things of God in the words that Mans Wisdom teaches, but on the contrary, that you would at proper times and seasons when you find your minds rightly disposed thereunto, give the youth to understand, that the same good Experience of the Work of Sancti-  
fication through the Operations of the Spirit of God, which the holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimo-  
ny to, is to be witnessed by believers in all Gene-  
rations as well as by those in the First Ages of Christianity; In which case some account of your own Experience will be helpful to them. And this we recommend as the most effectual means for begetting & Establishing in their Minds, a firm belief of the Christian Doctrine, in Gene-  
ral as well as the necessity of the Aid & help of the

operations

1728 Operations of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular, contained in that most excel-  
lent Book the Bible; & for the preserving them from be-  
ing Defiled with the many Pernicious notions & Princi-  
ples Contrary to such sound Doctrines, which are at  
this time Industriously dispersed in the Nation, to the  
Reproach of the Christian Religion in General.

1729

1729

It is earnestly recommended to all Friends, as much as  
in them lies, to prevent their Children & Servants from  
reading plays, Romances, & all such Books as have any  
tendency to lead their minds from God, & Draw their  
youthful affections to a Love of the World, & desire af-  
ter the Vanities & Evils that are therein. And also  
to be very careful to prevent their Children & Servants  
from reading vile and corrupt Books, some of which  
have been published of late, as manifestly tend to oppose  
& reject the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, &  
to introduce Deism, Atheism, & all manner of Infidelity  
and Corruption both in Principle & Practice.

1730

1730

We Did last Year, and do now again ear-  
nestly Recommend and beseech all Friends to ad-  
monish and exhort the youth under their care,  
not to read but refrain all such Books as tend  
to make void the Divine Authority of the holy  
Scriptures, and to promote profaneness and  
Infidelity in the Earth.

1731

1731

1731  
It is recommended to all heads of Families that they do frequently call their Children & Servants together, & in a solemn religious way cause them to read the holy Scriptures; & in so doing that they humbly wait upon God with their Families, for Instruction & Counsel to them Respecting Christian Faith & Practise.

See Children; page, 46. & 47

1732

1732  
We tenderly & Earnestly Advise & Exhort all Parents and Masters of Families, that they exert themselves in the Wisdom of God, & in the Strength of his Love to instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine & Precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the holy Scriptures; & that they excite them to a diligent Reading of those sacred Writings, which plainly set forth the miraculous Conception, Birth, Holy Life, Wonderful Works, Blessed Example, Meritorious Death, & Glorious Resurrection, Ascension & Mediation, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, And to Educate their Children in the Belief of those Important Truths, as well as in the Belief of the Inward Manifestation & Operation of the Spirit of God on their own minds, that they may reap the Benefit & Advantage thereof for their own Peace & Everlasting Happiness, which is infinitely preferable to all other Considerations. We therefore exhort in the most earnest manner that all be very careful in this respect, a neglect herein being in our Judgment, very blameworthy; & further where any Deficiency of this appears, We recommend to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings that they stir up those whom it may concern to their Duty therein.

1733

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1733  
And Dear Friends we must Remind you to take all convenient Opportunities to put your Children upon Reading & meditating in the holy Scriptures; which having proceeded from the Dictates of the holy Spirit do afford the most comfortable & salutary Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have heretofore often advised, & particularly in our Epistles of the two Last years, in which the advices on this head being large & Comprehensive We refer thereto.

1734

1734

1734  
As there hath been heretofore, so there yet remains upon this Meeting a peculiar regard to, & Weighty Concern for the Offspring of Friends, that the rising Generation might be trained up in the Principles & Practice of the Christian Religion, in order whereunto, as formerly so now again We recommend an humble waiting upon the Lord, for the Manifestation of his Power and Spirit, & a Diligent reading the holy Scriptures in your Families: And that Masters of Families, Parents & Guardians of Children, at proper & convenient seasons, would stir up those under their Care to Diligence herein, Showing them that those sacred Writings do contain the Doctrines & Principles of our Profession, & Explaining to them, as the Lord by his good Spirit shall Enable, the Grounds & Causes Inducing Friends to Distinguish themselves by not conforming to the vain Fashions and Corrupt Customs of the World. And that one great End of Christ's Coming was to form to himself a People, who by their Lives & Conversations should be patterns of that simplicity, Sobriety & Charity which our Great Lord himself in the most Perfect manner Exhibited, Leaving us an Example that we should follow his Steps.

By

1734 By Simplicity, We Understand an inward Sincerity & Lowly Disposition of mind, producing that plainness of speech Habit & Manners which Christ himself, & his holy Apostles, Recommended. — By Holyness, an Internal purity & Renovation of Soul, wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits whereof are, a Devout and Religious Behaviour, Justice, and Inoffensiveness in all our Dealings & Conversation. — By Charity, that Spirit of Love, Compassion and forbearance, wherein consists the Sum & Substance of Religion, the Introduction of that Universal Peace & Good-will upon Earth, which is the Great Design of Christianity, as well as the Badge and Characteristick of our holy Profession; By this saith our Blessed Lord, Shall all men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have Love One to another, John. 13. 35.

1735

1735 As it hath been frequently the care & concern of this Meeting, to advise Parents & all who have the Education of Children, to bring them up in the Nurture & admonition of the Lord, We are still sensible that there is Occasion to repeat, tender advice & Exhortation, that you would lay this Matter closely to heart, for tis certain that the preservation of your Offspring in the way of true Religion & Godliness is of much greater moment to their happiness both in this Life & in that which is to come, than any thing else you are capable of doing for them; and therefore, We renew our advise, that you be Diligently Exercised in such a Godly Care, waiting upon God for Wisdom from him first to walk wisely & Circumspectly before them yourselves, & then you may with more weight and Authority, in the Meekness of that Wisdom

Instruct

1735 Instruct, Advise, Exhort & Rebuke, as you shall see Occasion: And we think it will contribute very much to your Success in these Endeavours, if you put them frequently in a solemn manner upon Reading the holy Scriptures, especially such parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines & precepts of the Christian Religion, & then wait upon God with them, that you may become Instruments to open their Understandings, & the Sense of what they read of His Power and Wisdom, press them closely to the Practice of what they read: Such an Exercise as this begun Early, & frequently Repeated, We recommend as the Indispensible Duty of all concerned, & the most Likely means for the Preservation and Improvement of Children in the way of Truth; & thro' the Lords Blessing to secure them from being prevailed upon by the many false Deceitful Spirits that are gone forth into the World, tending to subvert the Christian Faith, & a Practice and Conversation agreeable thereto.

1736

1736 See Children, page, 48.

1737

1737 See Kings & Governours, p. 132.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 179.

N<sup>o</sup> 43, Concerning Servants.

1705

1703 Advised that Servants professing the Truth behave themselves in Due Subjection, Humility & plainness, as becomes their Profession and places, and Likewise that Masters and Mistresses behave themselves towards their Servants according to the Apostles Direction, Eph. 6. 5, 6. Colos. 4. 1. — 1 Tim. 6. 1, 2, Tit. 2, 9, 10. — 1 Pet. 2, 18, 19, 20.

1718

1718 A Religious Care is recommended toward Our Servants, that all Appearance of Pride, Idleness, and vain Conversation in them may be Discouraged, & that they may be Exhorted to attend first day and Week day Meetings and have a sense of Gods Love upon their Spirits, and therein partake with us of the Sweetness of Truth; and in the Discharge of their Duty to God, and to their Masters & Mistresses, know Peace in themselves.

1737

1737

See Removals & Settlements, page, 288, 289.

## Singing

N<sup>o</sup> 42<sup>n</sup> Concerning Singing

1675

1675 It hath been and is our Living sense & constant Testimony according to Our Experience of the divers Operations of the Spirit & Power of God in His Church, That there hath been and is serious sighing sensible Groanings, and reverent singing, breathing forth an heavenly sound of Joy with Grace, with the Spirit, & with Understanding, in blessed Unity with the Brethren, while they are in the Publick Labour and service of the Gospel, whether by Preaching, Praying or Praising God, in the same Power and Spirit, & all to Edification and Comfort in the Church of Christ, which therefore is not to be quenched or discouraged by any: But where<sup>as</sup> do or shall abuse the Power of God, or are Immoderate, or do either in Imitation, which rather burthens than Edifies, such ought to be privately Admonished, unless rebellious; for that Life Spirit, and Power is kisen in the Church, which doth Distinguish, & hath Power Accordingly to Judge.



## Steeple house rates

N<sup>o</sup> 43<sup>n</sup> Concerning Steeple house rates.

1688

1688 See Sufferings, page, - 350.

1693

1693 Advised, that Our Christian Testimony against Steeple house rates or Lays, be Faithfully maintained.

1703

1703 See Tithes, - page - 369.

1727

1727. See Tithes, page, - 372.

1732

1732. See Tithes, page, 372.

1733

1733. See Meetings for Discipline, pa, 173.  
and Tithes, page, pa, 373.

1744

1744. See Questions, page, . . . 273.

N<sup>o</sup> 44<sup>n</sup> Concerning the National Stock.

1672 & 1676.

1672 The Uses for which it is Collected.

- 1676
1. For the Service of Truth beyond Sea.
  2. For Books Disposed of and given away to the Chief Rulers and Others.
  3. For Packets of Post Letters with accounts of General Sufferings, & Charges of Recording, & often Transcribing the Same.

1679

1679 Disbursements out of the National Stock to be such only as shall be agreed & Directed by the Weekly Meetings for Sufferings in London, and not any other.

1682

1682 Agreed, that for keeping the Moneys of the National Stock, at every yearly Meeting, three Friends shall be Chosen, & those three of the six that have served two preceding years, shall yearly be Dismissed, and others to be appointed in their Room as aforesaid, so that the Number of six may be still Compleat, who shall have the keeping of the Cash for the General Service Intended.

1692

1692 Advised, That for the future when there shall be Occasion for a Contribution, Friends that come up from the several Counties, bring with them an Account of the Total sum of each Collection, that may be made in their respective Counties, to the next ensuing yearly Meeting,

after

## Stock National

after such collection is made that it may be compared with the accounts here for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698

Ordered, That when a collection is made in the several Counties, It may be sent up to their correspondents here to pay to the several meeting for sufferings, and the Friends of the several Counties, when they come up to the next yearly Meeting, to bring up the total sum collected and returned in their County to the yearly Meeting.

1732

See Yearly Meeting, page, 416.

Sufferings

N<sup>o</sup> 45<sup>th</sup> Concerning Sufferings.  
1672

1672

Advised, that Friends be exact and brief in drawing up their Sufferings in each County, of the Times, Names, Causes, and Places of both Friends and their Persecutors, Distinctly, and send them up to the next General Meeting.

1675

1675  
Meeting about  
Sufferings  
first appointed

Agreed, that Certain Friends of this City be here Nominated to keep a Constant Meeting about Sufferings four times in a year, with the Day and time of Each Meeting here fixed & Settled.

Agreed, that a meeting of these City Friends under named be every fifth day of the week before each Term.

- Ratcliff. Arthur Cook. and Richard New.
- London. John Eggood. and Thomas Quayard.
- Wheler Street. Francis More. and William Welch.
- Westminster. Gilbert Lattice. and James Beech.
- Peck. John Elson. and John Staploe.
- Southwark. William Shewen. & Walter Myers.

Publick  
Friends  
Members

These Friends before named with as many as are free of the second Days Morning Meeting of Publick Friends to meet together as aforesaid.

one of  
each County

That at Least one Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting thereof, to be in readiness to repair to any of the said Meetings at this City, at such times as their Urgent Occasions or Sufferings shall require. That the Agreement about the Meetings for Sufferings four times in a year in London, be read to the second Days Meeting of this City, constantly before the day of the Meeting Appointed.

That

1675  
Poor  
Friends  
wasted by  
Sufferings  
to be taken  
care of

That the respective Quarterly Meetings be Encouraged in the Love of God, & Bowels of his Truth to take care of such Poor Friends as have been wasted much with Sufferings, & where any County is not sufficient to the Loves, among themselves, that they be mindful of the Order of Truth agreed to, of recommending their Case to the Adjacent Counties!

That notwithstanding the Meeting about Sufferings by the Nominated Friends of this City, It is Consented & agreed, That in any County, Meeting or Place in England or Wales, where any deep Sufferings may happen the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both state <sup>their</sup> Case fit to be presented to those in Power, & send up One, Two or three faithful Friends with their Case so stated to be presented, to attend those in Power there with for Relief, if they be <sup>convinced</sup> thereunto, or find a Necessity lying upon them to Endeavour for Relief, & this is a most likely way to be Effectual in their Applications.

1676 See Records, Article the 32<sup>th</sup> & the last pp, 277 & 278.

1678 Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.

And see Records, page, 278.

1679 <sup>1679</sup> Agreed, that any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any Extraordinary or Grievous Sufferings in their County, that they would have Printed forthwith, that they give notice thereof, & send up the same to the Meeting for Sufferings.

1681 <sup>1681</sup> That when Sufferings are sent up in Order for Redress, of any particular Case, the same be writ down as well to the Sops Sustained, Goods Distreined, Severe & Illegal treatment or Usage, by Justices or Other Persons, Plain, pertinent & distinct as to Matter

of

1681 of Fact only; without any reflections upon the Magistrates and Persons by whom Friends have suffered, or against whom any Complaint is made.

That Sufferings sent up to be recorded here, be first Perused by the Quarterly Meeting, & signed.

1682

1682 And when Necessity Requires that Accounts of Sufferings, Be sent up with such speed, that they can not stay to a Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, that such accounts be viewed & approved under the hands of three or four Friends at Least, to prevent Mistakes & Loose Uncertain Accounts of things Complained of. And that before any Accounts be entered in the Quarterly Meeting Books, the same be plainly & orderly drawn up by some knowing Friends in such Concerns.

Upon Consideration of Sufferings in General, It is the Advice of this Meeting, that in Cases of Difficulty, and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of advise, in any particular Case, they send up their respective case to the Meeting for Sufferings in London

1684

1684 If a Friends Goods be seized, and a Neighbour Buy them from the Sheriff, & they by Bill of Sale be made over to him, and he Leave them in the Sufferers Possession, It is a Suffering Case, and to be recorded as it is in it self.

It is thought most Convenient that all particular Accounts of any Great & Extream Sufferings which Require, Speedy Application or Complaint to the King, &c. After Carefully drawn up & signed by the respective Sufferers, & the truth thereof if Possible, Certified by some Other Faithful Friends of the same County or Neighbourhood, known here;

That

Sufferings

1684 That then they be brought up by One or Two Understanding Sound. Friends that may be capable to present them if need Require, having knowledge of the particular Cases, & that no such accounts be sent up unsigned.

1688

1688 And it is the Desire of Friends Generally, monthly Quarterly Meetings in Collecting the Sufferings of Friends by Priests & Impropriators for their Sufferings from them on that account, with the value thereof & also about repairs of Steeple houses, and about not Swearing, and all other Sufferings on Truths Account: & Let them be carefully Recorded, & Witnessed, and Copies sent up to London from your Quarterly Meetings to your Correspondents: That the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be Lost.

1689

See Records page, — 279.

1693

1693 The Meeting for Sufferings is Intrusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth & Conscience sake, as at first Intended

See Records, page, — 279.

1695

1695 See Records, page, — 280.

1700

1700 See Records, page, — 280.

Sufferings

1703 And where any Friend or Friends shall be prosecuted upon any Branch of their Testimony for the Truth; That such Labour in a sense of the Weight of their Testimony with the Prosecutor, before or at the Beginning of his Prosecution, that so if possible, the Witness of God in him may be reached, & he convinced that their refusal to comply, proceeds not from Obstinacy, or self Interest, but from a Godly Care to preserve a Conscience void of Offence towards God and Man.

1746

1746 This Meeting Desires, that for the future an Account of all Proceedings in such Suffering Cases as come under the Care of the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Issue thereof, may be duly brought or sent to that Meeting in Writing, specifying the Places or Counties where such Sufferers dwell, with the several Proceedings in the said Cases, in Order to be Duly Recorded.

1774

1774 At a yearly meeting held for New England This meeting being under a Weighty concern for friends who are or may be under Sufferings & Difficulties from the Powers of this world on account of our Religious Testimony to appoint our friends — a Committee who are desired to take Cognizance of all grievances arising amongst us wherein any friend or friends may be affected either in Person Property or in regard to our Christian Testimony &c and add to advise Counsel & assist as best may may limit, and they are desired to meet once more the

## Sufferings

month or oftner if need bee That seven of said  
Committee constitute a meeting which may transact  
the Business thereof, And that any agreed Friend  
or friends may apply to them either in a collective or  
separate capacity as the Circumstances of the case  
may require and that said Committee in a meeting  
Capacity draw on the Treasurers of this meeting for  
the monies that shall be necessary for the purpose  
afore said who is ordered to pay the same  
And that this Committee view and Judge of manuscripts  
proposed to be printed and correspond with the meeting  
for Sufferings at Philadelphia or elsewhere

1780

1780

The Testimony of many Friends in the Non-payment  
of Taxes part whereof goes for the support of war coming  
under Consideration of this meeting - It is our sense and  
judgment that the several monthly meetings collect  
accounts of the Sufferings of our Brethren or account  
of said Testimony and send them up to the meeting  
for Sufferings there to be recorded after due inspection,  
in friends Book of Sufferings as our Brethren Testimony  
for the Truth against the Appropriation of any part  
thereof to the purposes of War - And it is Recommended  
to friends that Labouring to be preserved unbiased  
 herein, as to the powers which are or may be, they  
keep a single Eye to the Testimony of Truth against  
War & Fighting -

## Tale-bearing &amp; Backbiting 357

N<sup>o</sup> 46<sup>n</sup> Concerning Tale-bearing & Backbiting.

1689

1689 Advised to watch against & shut out all Occasion of Offences, Contentions & Divisions, And in the Name of the Lord to stop & Judge down all Whisperings, Tale-bearing, Backbiting & evil speaking tending thereunto, & to be kind & tender hearted One to another, And Earnestly Labour and press for Universal Love, Union & Peace in all the Churches of Christ.

1692

1692 Advised, to be careful & Watchful against all Whisperings, Backbitings & Tale-bearing, to the Defaming Friends or Others, and put a speedy stop thereto, & pass righteous Judgment upon all Whisperers & Back-biters who appear. Instruments of Division & Offences, Contrary to that Peaceable Truth & Gospel, We Profess, & where any have received Offence against any other, first to speak privately to the party concerned, & Endeavour Reconciliation between themselves, & not to whisper or aggravate matters against them behind their backs, to the Making parties, and the Breach wider.

1695

1695 Let those Just & ancient Commands of God be Observed, Lev. 19. 16. "Thou shalt not go up & down as a Tale-bearer among thy People, & Exod. 23. 1. Thou shalt not raise a false report, & Psalms, 15. 3 he that Backbiteth not with his Tongue, nor Doth evil to his Neighbour, nor taketh up a Reproach against his Neighbour &c 'Tis only such Innocent ones that shall abide in

the



1695 The Lords Tabernacle & dwell in his holy hill, Wherefore in the fear of the Lord, stand against all Whispersers, Backbiters, Tale bearers, Defamers & Slanderers, & against all Whisperings, Backbitings, Tale bearings, Reproaching & Slandering & put a speedy stop thereto as much as in you lies, For such works of Darkness & Envy tend to Division & Discord, & the righteous Law of God goes against both the Authors, Somentors, Receivers & Encourgers thereof. See Prov. 11. 13. & 18, 8. & 20, 19, & 26. 20. 22. & also 2. Cor. 12, 20.

1719 The former advise of 1695, repeated, with this Addition, & therefore if you hear a report of a friend be carefull not to report it again but go to the person of whom the report is and Enquire if it be true or not ~~if you hear the report~~ if it be true then Deal with such a person for it, according to the Doctrine of Christ, Matt. 18. But if false then Endeavour as much as in you lies to stop such Report, for as Solomon says a Good name is rather to be Chosen than great riches, Prov. 22, 5.

- 1721 1721. The advices of 1695 & 1719, repeated,
- 1725 1725. The former advices again repeated,
- 1727 1727. The same again recommended.

1733 We think proper to Exhort Friends every where to avoid all Whisperings, Backbitings & Tale bearings tending to blemish the Reputation of any, or to sow Discord, & Create evil Surmizings one of another. A Practise which Ought to be Zealously Discouraged, as being of a most pernicious

Consequence

1733 Consequence to Society, tis therefore Recommended, That when any shall hear a report of such a nature, they take an opportunity to acquaint the Person concerned thereof, before they again report, or be Instrumental to spread the same; and in Order to stop the Mouths of all Tale bearers & Slanderers Friends would do well to manifest their Aversion to such a Practise: "The North Wind, saith Solomon driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue. Prov. 25. 23.

See Defamation, page, 93 & 94

1744 Whereas it may so happen, that some Friends may suffer much in their Reputation & Character, by a Detracting Spirit, which too much prevails among some bearing Our Name, Who shelter themselves under a pretence, That they say no more than they have heard from others; but will not Discover who they are; Wherefore to prevent this evil of Reporting and Tale bearing to the Prejudice of Others; It is Agreed that such Reporters or Tale bearers shall either Discover the Authors or be Dealt with and Testified against, as Authors thereof.

N<sup>o</sup> 47<sup>n</sup> Concerning Tithes.

1675

1675

our ancient  
Testimony  
to be upheld  
and  
offenders to  
be dealt  
with

Advised, That our Ancient Testimony against Tithes, which We have born from the beginning, and for which many have deeply Suffered, some not only the spoiling of their Goods, but Imprisonment even unto death be fully & punctually upheld and Countenanced in the Name of God; And that all those that oppose, slight or neglect that Testimony, be looked upon, and dealt withal, as unfaithful to the Ancient & universal Testimony of Truth, according to Gospel Order established among us.

Innocency in  
Suffering  
to be kept to  
1689.  
p. 367

That Truth's Testimony against Tithes, and Friends Innocency in Suffering, be kept to, and th<sup>o</sup> Innocent Endeavors may be used to save them from being taken away, yet that Friends be careful of violent th<sup>o</sup>ugh-ling to detain them, when the Adversary comes to take th<sup>o</sup>m by Force.

1676

1676

No Consent

That Tithes taken away by Force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.  
That all Friends have a care that they nei-ther Openly nor Secretly Consent to the taking away of their Tithes, nor to the Payment of them by any one whatsoever on their behalf, but keep faithful to their Testimony.

1678

1678

Tithes  
in kind

And because some have not kept an Account of the Tithes in kind, that have been taken from them, as if that were no Suffering, because the Priests and Impropriators pretended Due; We find our selves engaged in Spirit to desire you to rec<sup>o</sup>rd that of Tithes amongst the other Sufferings that you send up;

and

1678 and for the time to come, to take the same Care of Recording all taken away upon that Account in your Book of Sufferings.

See Records page, 278

1682 It is the Sense of this Meeting, that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth, have a Testimony against the Paying of the Tithes pretended to be due from the Testator, and ought to bear his Testimony against Payment thereof.

1687

1687

We do in the Love of God, & his blessed Truth, and Testimony of Jesus Christ, recommend to your tender & Christian Care, that Friends in the several Counties, do sincerely keep to their Ancient & Christian Testimony against that old and great Oppression of Tithes for which many faithful Friends & Servants of Christ have deeply suffered, some till Death (in days) and several still do suffer, whereby it appears that the Priests, as they were the first, so they are like to be the last Persecutors for Conscience sake; — And also We request it of you carefully to Collect, & make Return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings, whether by Imprisonments, or by taking away Goods as, Corn, Cattle, or other Goods, either by or without Law, both which are Sufferings, & ought to be accounted of, & Entered upon Record, in behalf of all faithful Friends who stand clear in their Testimony for Truth.

Tithes taken with or without Law to be recorded

who

1689 We desire your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the peaceable Spirit of Christ as becomes true Christians, rather suffering patiently in the spoiling of your Goods, than any way to strive or struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by Force, but humbly Commit your Cause to the Lord, who will plead it, and Judge Righteously.

not to strive with the Spoilers

1690

1690

That all Friends be faithful in their Testimony against Tithes of all Sorts, knowing that since they were Ended by Christ, they were imposed & Originally sprang from that Anti-Christian Root & Popish Innovation in Church & State. And that Friends would tenderly consider, that where any decline their Testimony, or are negligent in this weighty Case, they do there by increase the weight & Burthen of Sufferings upon them that are faithful, and strengthen the hands of their Adversaries.

1691

That the Christian Testimony against Tithes may be duly kept up, and such as are unfaithful therein be diligently exhorted to Obedience and Faithfulness to Christ Jesus, that they may not strengthen the Persecutors hands, increase others Sufferings, nor make void Truths Testimony therein, which so many have offered up, & laid down their Lives for.

1692

That Friends be careful & diligent to keep up their Ancient Christian Testimony against the Oppression of Tithes. For the more faithful and unanimous Friends are therein, We are really persuaded, the Lord will the sooner make way for our Ease and Deliverance from that Burthen.

1693

1693 <sup>1693</sup> Advised That our Christian Testimony against the grand Oppression and Anti-Christian yoke of Tithes, Born & greatly Suffered for be faithfully Maintained in all respects

1696 <sup>1696</sup> With respect to a Proposal about taking a Farm. Agreeing to pay so much the more to be Exempted from Tithes, It's left to the several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, to advise Friends to be careful that nothing be done that tends to weaken our Testimony against Tithes by any, & that such be admonished as they see Cause.

1698 <sup>1698</sup> Advised That our ancient Christian Testimony against Tithes be not avoided or shund by any indirect ways or Courses with Landlords, or otherwise. And that Friends be careful to keep a true Record of the Value of what is taken from them, on that Account, in the field, or otherwise, whether it exceeds the Demand or not, with the respective date of each Suffering, & the Time when any Suit is Commenced.

1701 <sup>1701</sup> Our Testimony against Tithes & Forced Maintenance in this Gospel Day, being received from Christ our Head & High Priest, is not of our own Making, or imposing, nor from the Tradition of Men: but what we have from Him, by whose Divine Power we were raised up to be a People, & by which we have been preserved to this Day, knowing that his Ministry & Gospel are free according to his own express Command,

Freely

1701 Freely ye have received. Freely give

1703 <sup>1703</sup> This Meeting taking Notice, as well from the Accounts of Sufferings brought in from divers Counties, as Relations by several Friends now present, that in many Places advantages are taken upon Friends, by making Stoppages upon them in the Way of Trade, or by Debtors, or otherwise, or by Kindred or Neighbours, laying down the Money for Tithes, or Church Rates, so called, and that this way of proceeding grows & increases upon Friends, in many Places.

Stoppages

It is therefore recommended, as the Sense & Advice of this Meeting, to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, to stir up Friends in their respective Meetings to Zeal & faithfulness, in this respect, that they may not consent to, or connive at, such Payments, Stoppages, or Discountings, on such Accounts, but to deal plainly & earnestly with their Relations, or Neighbours who shall so pay, or others who shall so Stop or discount, and not discharge the Debt by Coping their Books, if Traders men or otherwise, but keep the Debt still in demand, and be as wary & careful as they can for the future, to keep such Persons, as much as in them lies, out of a Capacity of Stopping upon them, that they may thereby discourage all such ways of proceeding, which tend to weaken or lessen their Testimony, and not to bring in such Stoppages as Sufferings, inasmuch as they do not discharge the Debt, which if they should do, they would thereby allow the Stoppage, & so let fall their Testimony.

Improperly  
acts Tithes

This Meeting declares it is their Sense & Judgment, that no Friend in Truth can either pay or receive Improperly Tithes, being Inconsistent with our Christian Testimony, & it's desired Friends of the several Counties may be advised thereof.

1706

Tithes

1706

This Meeting <sup>1706</sup> understanding, that notwithstanding the Judgment and Advice formerly and frequently given by this Meeting against the payment of Tithes, & more particularly in the year 1703 against the paying or receiving of Tithes, by any that do keep the holy Truth with us, there are some Persons who go under our Name, do yet continue not only to pay them, but some few also here, and there, having Dates in improper Tithes, (which are the same in Nature & Ground & Root with the Tithes paid to the ~~Princes~~ <sup>Princes</sup>) do not forbear as yet to receive them, to the great Dishonor of our holy Profession, and Grief of Faithful Friends who others have consentiously & very honourably given up & released them. This Meeting therefore doth now again signify, as the unanimous sense & Judgment of Faithful Friends, that for any among us in this Gospel Day to Day or receive Tithes, which were a part of the Cerimonial Law, belonged to the Levitical Priesthood, & were Abrogated, and taken away by the coming & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross) doth directly Oppose, & tend to overthrow the ancient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes, which hath been born by Friends from the beginning of our Day not only by Word & Doctrine, but by deep Sufferings, & sealed even with the blood of some of our dear & faithful Brethren, who have cheerfully laid down their Lives, by long & hard Imprisonments in Confirmation of that their conscientious Testimony. In the sense here of this Meeting doth earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings every where of Friends, that they be careful & diligent to make general Observations how Friends do answer and bear up that Testimony against Tithes in their Practice;

and

Tithes

1706

And if they shall find any going under our Name, that do either pay or receive Tithes, that they use their best & utmost Endeavors in the Spirit & Order of the Gospel, and in the Exercise of great tenderness and Brotherly kindness, to Inform, Convince, Exhort, Admonish and Reprove, as they see Cause, all such without respect of Persons, in Order to gain and bring them to the acknowledgment and Obedience of the Truth in that particular. — And if after such tender & gentle dealing with them, any such shall continue in their Unfaithfulness & Opposition to the Principle & Christian Practice of Friends in that Case, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting unto which such Person shall be reputed to belong, having exercised Christian patience & forbearance towards such, & finding themselves clear in the Sight of God, do manifestly declare, that such for their Unfaithfulness & Opposition to that our Christian Testimony, are unworthy to be admitted to the Meetings for Business amongst Friends, or to be received to join in the Collections made by Friends for the Service of the Church of Christ: And if after that, such Persons shall persist in such their unfaithfulness and Opposition, that then the Monthly, or Quarterly Meeting proceed further in the Lords Power to give Judgment for the clearing of Truth and Friends, as in the holy Counsel and Wisdom of God, they shall be directed and Guided therein.

1724

<sup>1724</sup>  
Former Advices again Recommended.

1725

<sup>1725</sup>  
Tis Advised & Earnestly recommended, that in as much as it doth appear there is in some places a Shortness & deficiency in bearing a Faithful Testimony against Tithes, that if any Monthly Meeting which have such Members; after a deliberate dealing with them;

In

1725 in the Wisdom of Truth, & the Meek Spirit of the Gospel, for their help & Information, Friends have recourse for their further proceedings to the yearly Meeting's Minute 1706.

1727 <sup>1727</sup> It doth Appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under Difficulty on account of stoppages made in respect to demands for Small Tithes, & Church Rates, so called, and for illegal Seizures without warrants on such Accounts, which are in some places made, whereby we apprehend a voluntary Compliance is implied which doth tend to weaken & lay waste our Testimony, and therefore this Meeting doth tenderly Renew the Caution & Advice thereupon given in a Minute Made in the year 1703, whereunto We Refer. \*

1730 <sup>1730</sup> Friends are heartily desired & Intreated to Read & Disperse Anthony Dearsons Great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good Effect, if read with a single Eye, to Manifest the Inconsistency of Tithes with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731 <sup>1731</sup> Former Advices of this Meeting again recommended. And particularly that in 1706.

1732 <sup>1732</sup> Recommended to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, tenderly to advise & earnestly to Exhort Friends to be careful in bearing a faithful Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Priests Maintenance,

and

1702 And Church Rates so called; the want whereof in some places hath tended to the Uneasiness & Burden of many Brethren, & added to the Sufferings of such as have stood faithful in this our ancient & Christian Testimony.

1733 This Meeting Observing a Remissness in some Places in respect to our Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes. An earnest Concern & Zeal has been on the Minds of Friends, that all might be excited & stirred up to faithfulness therein; In Order whereunto, We think necessary to put you in Mind, that the Zeal of our Friends who have abode faithful in their Testimony against Paying Tithes, Churchhouse Rates, & Priests Maintenance, has greatly tended to the Opening the Eyes of many not only in this, but also in other Countries. We received last year an Account from New England, where our Friends formerly underwent grievous Sufferings, that a Law is made exempting them from paying either to the Maintenance of the established Ministers, Or the Repairing of their Worship houses. And it is our Belief, that if all Friends here had been faithful in their Testimony against Tithes, the Time of our Deliverance from that Oppression, under which this Nation yet groans, would have been nearer at hand. We do therefore earnestly Exhort to a Close coming up in that, & every other Branch of our Testimony, tending to the promotion of Gospel Liberty, which it has been our Concern ever since We were a People, thro' manifold Sufferings, to Maintain. And if any Weakness or unfaithfulness shall appear among the Professors of Truth, We hope faithful Friends & Brethren will not be wanting to administer help;

and

## Tithes

1733 And Admonition in the Love & Counsel of God, as they shall see Occasion, for the restoring, and Strengthening of such; according to the advice given by the Apostle, Gal. 6. 1. Brethren if a Man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, Restore such an One in the Spirit of Meekness.

See Meetings for Discipline p. 173

1734 <sup>1734</sup> And, Dear Friends, for the sake of those particular Persons in some places, who yet continue remiss in maintaining their Testimony against the Antichristian yoke of Tithes, We think necessary to repeat the advice given last year, That Friends as they shall see Occasion, in the Wisdom of God, would Admonish such, & in a spirit of Love and Meekness Endeavor to help & strengthen them, and to excite & stir them up to faithfulness in that Branch of our Ancient Testimony.

1735 <sup>1735</sup> And, Dear Friends, as it hath been the Concern of this Meeting frequently to Advise, that Friends should stand faithful in their Testimony against that Antichristian yoke of Tithes, so We do now renew Our Advice in that respect.

And, We earnestly Intreat the faithful among you to take all suitable Opportunities of Endeavoring to demonstrate to such, as are weak & Unfaithful, the Importance of our Testimony against the receiving or paying of Tithes, the natural Tendency whereof is to obtain that Liberty which the purest Ages of Christianity Enjoyed, that is, a Liberty for any Person moved by the holy Spirit of God, to preach the Doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, freely, and of which they were not deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine & Practice were found amongst

the

## Tithes

1735 the Professors of Christianity, and the civil Powers were prevailed upon to Meddle with the Consciences of the People, which of right are to be subjected to God only.

We cannot therefore but Bless the Lord from an Experimental Witnessing of the Comfort and spiritual Advantage which Arises from such a Liberty, that He was pleased to raise up our Worthy Elders, and give them a Testimony against that Antichristian yoke making them willing in this & other Nations to suffer for that Testimony, thereby, shewing to the World, what the Love of Christ is able to do, — For We believe nothing short of that Love could have enabled them to suffer the Spoil of their Goods, & the long Imprisonments of their Bodies, even unto death, as some of them did for their Conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes, And We have reason to believe that if all among Us had followed their Example, by abiding faithful in this Our Christian Testimony, We might before this time have been in a great measure relieved from under that Oppression.

1736 <sup>1736</sup> And, Dear Friends, as we have ever since we were a People maintained our Christian Testimony against Tithes, & forced Maintenance of Ministers, as contrary to the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation. We cannot but repeat Our earnest Exhortation, that Friends every where stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free; & beware of burthening their own Consciences, by a mean Submission to an Antichristian yoke of Bondage thro' fear of suffering. A Meek & quiet Spirit under temporal Inconveniences for the sake of our Christian Testimony is one of the best proofs of our sincerity therein, & may be a means of effectually recommending Us to the Compassion of those whom God has placed in Authority over

Us

Fishes

1736 Us to whose hands, He has committed the power of giving us relief, and from whom it becometh us to seek it with Humility and Patience.

1737 This Meeting being informed that Friends in several Parts of this Nation are in the Practice of calling on their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Fishes, &c; And to Enquire whether such as bring in no Account, do stand clear in their Testimony; which having had a good Effect, It's therefore recommended that Friends thro' the Nation fall into the said Practice, And if they find any deficient, & persist in the same, that such Friends be dealt with, pursuant to the directions, & former Advice of this Meeting, & particularly in 1735, and those recommended therein.

p. 373 & 374  
p. 173.

You have been often reminded of the Importance of our Ancient Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Fishes, and as you are convinced in your Consciences of their Inconsistency with the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, 'tis certainly your necessary duty to Act agreeable to such Convictions, and if Sufferings for your Testimony shall be the Consequence of your Obedience therein, 'twill become you, after the Example of the primitive Christians cheerfully to submit, & to take Joyfully the Spoiling of your Goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of Offence toward God, and at the same time by your Christian Meekness & innocent Deportment, give reasonable Evidence of your Sincerity to Men.

See Trading, page. 391

Fishes

1738

1738

We therefore tenderly Exhort all who Profess the Truth, to watchfulness and Zeal, that this Branch of our Christian Testimony, be not laid waste by Connivance, or private agreement with Priests or Impropriators; But that all abide Patient under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear, not doubting but that the gradual progress of real Christianity will at length Operate to the Removal of a Yoke, so directly contrary to the Liberty where-with Christ hath made us free.

1742

1742

See Questions, page. 272.

1744

1744

See Questions, page. 273.

1750

1750

Whereas it appears that the Method of taking the Priests Demands, without Warrant, or due Form of Law, prevails more in some places than heretofore; Friends are therefore intreated to be as much upon their Guard, as possible, against the Introduction of any practices that may tend to encourage Unfaithfulness, or Collusion, a Disposition altogether Unbecoming the Nobility of Truth, and inconsistent with the Rightness it Requires.



N<sup>o</sup> 48. Concerning Tombstones.

1717

1717

This Meeting being informed, That Friends, in some places have gone into the Vain & Empty Custom of Erecting Monuments Over the Dead Bodies of Friends, by Stones, Inscriptions, Tombstones, &c. And being very desirous Friends should keep a Commendable plainness & Simplicity in this as well as other respects, It's therefore the Advice of this Meeting, That all such Monuments as are already in being Over Dead Bodies of Friends, should be removed, as much as may be with Discretion, and Convenience: And that none, be any where made or set up by or over the Dead Bodies of Friends, or Others in Friends Burying Places for time to come.

N<sup>o</sup> 49, Concerning Trading.

- 1675<sup>1675</sup> Advised, That none Trade beyond their Ability, nor stretch beyond their Compass, And that they use few Words in Dealings, & keep their words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardness, Dishonour to the precious Truth of God.
- 1688<sup>1688</sup> Advised, Not to Launch forth into Trading and Worldly Business beyond what they can Manage honourably, and with Reputation among the Sons of Men, and so that they keep their words with all men, And that their yea may prove yea indeed, & their Nay may be Nay indeed, for whatever is otherwise cometh of the Evil One: And such who make themselves guilty by thus dishonouring God, and the holy Profession of his Name & Truth, such are for Judgment by the Truth, & the Judgment of Truth ought to be set over them, that the Truth & those that abide & walk in it may be Clear of their Iniquities.
- 1692<sup>1692</sup> It is advised and earnestly desired, that the Payment of Just debts be not delayed by any professing Truth beyond the Time promised & agreed upon, nor Occasion given of Complaint to those they deal with; by their backwardness of Payment where no Time is limited, nor any to overcharge themselves with too much Trading & Commerce, beyond their Capacities to discharge a good Conscience towards all men; and that all Friends concerned be very careful not to contract Extravagant Debts to the Endangering the wronging of Others, And their Families, which some have done to the grieving the hearts of the upright;

nor

Trading

1692 Not to break their Promises, Contracts, or Agreements in their Buying or Selling, or in any other Lawfull Affairs, to the Injuring themselves, or Others; Occasioning Strife Contention, & Reproach to Truth and Friends: And it is advised, that all Friends that are Entering into Trade, or that in Trade, & have not Stock sufficient of their Own to answer the Trade they aim at, be very Cautious of Quanting themselves into Debts, without advising with some of their Ancient & Experienced Friends among whom they Live, & more especially such Trading as hath its Dependance on Sea Adventures.

1697 See plainness, p. 223.

1702 We earnestly desire that all professing the blessed Truth with Us, be very careful to keep their Words, & Promises, by paying their just Debts without unreasonable delay, & do Justice to all Men for Righteousness sake, & to prevent the great Reproach & Scandal of defrauding any Persons by breaking in their Debts, or otherwise Injuring any.

1703 A advised, that all Friends be weighty & Circumspect in their Conduct & Management of their outward Affairs, & careful to keep within Compass of their own Substance, to prevent failures & Breaches.

1708 To prevent the great Scandal & Reproach, which any Professing Truth may bring on it, by breaking in other Mens debts, We remind you to exercise a Godly Care therein, as much as in you lies, by giving timely Caution to any such as either Break their Promises,

or

Trading

1708 Or delay the Payment of their just Debts, or otherwise render themselves suspected.

1709 Truth leads all who faithfully follow it, to do Right & Justice to all, & not defraud or wrong any in any way of Commerce, Trade, Trust, or Dealing, much less to put any abuse upon the Government, &c.

See Kings & Governors, page, 129. Also the advice in 1703, again recommended.

1710 Considering the great Suffering that hath been brought upon Truth & faithful Friends by divers professing Truth amongst Us, breaking their Words, Promises & Obligations, to the great Injury of Others, by not paying their just Debts in due Time, & the sad Consequences thereof, & Reproaches brought thereby, notwithstanding our great Care, & many warnings given for prevention thereof, which being to many to recite here, We refer you to the Advice formerly given by our Ancient Friend & Brother, G. F. to Shop keepers, Merchants, Factors or any other Friends, which this Meeting hath thought proper to Recommend unto you in front, & advise that it be read in your Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, as you may see Occasion, at least once a Year.

1720 Let all Promises & Obligations for payment of just Debts be truly kept and performed.

1724 'Tis earnestly desired, that all Friends, every where be very careful to avoid all inordinate pursuit after the things of this World, by such ways & means as depend too much on the uncertain probabilities of hazardous Enterprises, but rather Labour to content themselves with such a plain way & Manner of Living, as is most agreeable to the self-denying Principle of Truth;

which

1724 which we profess, & which is most conducive to that Tranquility of Mind, that is requisite to a religious Conduct through this Troublesome World. — And the Advice in 1710. Repeated.

1727

1727 'Tis earnestly desired that all Friends be very careful not to run into larger Trading & Business, than their Capacities, & Abilities can well answer, and that they may frequently inspect their Circumstances, & do not Live at an expence beyond them. And if thro' Adverse Accidents any should fail, in paying their Just Debts, and should after his or her Composition with his or her Creditors, be so far Blest & prospered in their affairs, as to be capable of paying their deficiencies; 'Tis the earnest Desire & Advice of this Meeting, that they do not omit the same, 'T being agreeable to the Command of the Gospel, and Common Justice among men.

See Negroes, page, 203.

1728

1728 Forasmuch as repeated Occasion hath been given of great Grief & affliction to Friends, which hath caused the way of Truth to be Evil spoken of, by the Launching out of divers under our Profession, too far into the Affairs of this World, to their own hurt, the Reproach of the Society, & Wronging other Persons of their Just Properties. We recommend great Care and Circumspection to all Friends in this respect. & in particular do Refer to the Advices in the yearly Epistles, 1720, & 1724, & last year;

and

1728 And do Desire Friends at their Several Monthly Meetings, to use their utmost Endeavors, by a watchful Eye, to prevent, as much as in them lies, all such unjust Practises and Scandals.

1729

Notwithstanding many are the good & wholesome Advices, which in former years have been recommended from this Meeting, Exhorting to faithfulness & Perseverance in all Godlines & Honesty; yet to our Grief We find there are fresh Instances of great Shortness in coming up in the practice thereof, particularly by some injurious depriving their Creditors of their Just Debts, & not performing their Word & Promise, which have occasioned grievous Complaints, wherefore We desire, & intreat, when any such occasion of Reproach shall be, that whatsover monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof it may happen, that do not fail speedily to set righteous Judgment on the head of the Transgressor.

1730

1730 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 171.

1731

1731 See Conversation, page, 60.

1732

1732 We find it our Duty to remind our respective Members of the remarkable Uprightness & honesty of Our Friends in the beginning, in their Commerce & converse, How Exact were they in performing their Words & Promises, without evasive Excuse, and insincere Dealings. How Careful not to involve themselves in Business which they understood not, nor had Stock of their own to manage! How Circumspect not to contract great Debts than they were able to pay in due Time!

which

1732 Which brought great Credit & Reputation to our Religious Society: But with sorrow we observe that contrary to their Example, & the repeated Advices formerly given by this Meeting, particularly in the years 1729 & 1733, against an inordinate pursuit after Riches, too many have launched into Trade & Business above their Stocks and Capacities, by which unjustifiable Proceedings, & high Living, they have involved themselves & Families in Trouble & Ruin, and brought Considerable Loss upon others, to the great Reproach of our holy Profession. We therefore recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, to have a watchful Eye over all their Members, and where they observe any Deficient in discharging their Contracts, & just Debts in due time, so as to give reasonable Suspicion of weakness or Negligence, that Friends do earnestly Advise them to a suitable Care, and necessary Inspection into their Circumstances in order that they may be helped: And if any proceed contrary to such Advice, & by their failure bring open Scandal & Reproach on the Society, that then Friends justifiably may, & ought to testify against such Offenders.

1735 Again, Dear Friends, We esteem it our duty to renew our former Advices, that Friends every where, take diligent Care to prevent, as much as possible, Persons professing with us, defrauding their Creditors of their just Dues, to the great Scandal & Reproach of our holy Religion; by timely Admonishing & Cautioining all those of our Society, who by delays in payment, & breaking their words & Promises,

give

1735 give reasonable Cause of Suspicion that their Circumstances are desperate, Advising all such to inspect their Accounts, & Give up their Effects in time, in order to make the best they can to their Creditors, which will most conduce to their own peace, & Credit, & Reputation of our Christian Society. — But if any thro' Ambition or desire of Grandeur in the World, shall reduce themselves too Insolvently after having been thus plainly cautioned and dealt with, according to the Nature of the Offence, & pursuant to the Advices of this Meeting, in the years 1728, & 1732 to which We refer you, then the Society will justly be Fear of Reproach arising from the Misconduct of such. — A Care of this Nature, We earnestly recommend, not only to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their private Capacity watch over, advise and caution, One another when ever they observe any real Occasion for it.

1737 As some Reproach and Scandal have been brought upon our Religious Society, by some bearing our Name falling short of answering their just Debts, & others professing with us, being Unfaithful in bearing a testimony against the Antichristian yoke of Tithes, notwithstanding the several wholesome Advices given from this Meeting, the several whole some Advices given from this Meeting, that no Person who shall fail as aforesaid, ought to be admitted to act in meetings for Business, or join with Friends in collecting for the Poor & the Service of the Church, untill they have made Satisfaction to the Monthly Meeting they belong to, & Done what is in their Power, to take of the Reproach they have by their imprudent Conduct brought on our Christian Principle.

See Conversation, page, 64.

1738 See Conversation, page, 65.

N<sup>o</sup> 50, Concerning Wills.

- 1691 <sup>1691</sup> Advised, That care be taken in each monthly Meeting that Friends who have Estates to Dispose of by Will or otherwise, be particularly Advised to make their Wills, or settle their Estates, in due Time, to prevent the Inconveniences, Loss and Trouble that may follow upon their Relations and Friends, & Injury to the Poor, thro' their being Intestate, Delays & Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers respects.
- 1695 <sup>1695</sup> The above repeated, with this Addition: Making such Wills in due time, will shorten the Man's Day, but the Omission or Delay thereof has proved very pernicious to many, and Injurious to Truth.
- 1696 <sup>1696</sup> See poor, page 235.
- 1703 <sup>1703</sup> Knowing how quickly many are removed by Death 'tis weightily recommended, that all Friends in Time of Health, & Strength of Judgment, take Care firmly to make their Wills, & to dispose of their Substance, as in Justice and Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.
- 1705 <sup>1705</sup> The Advice in 1703 repeated.
- 1706 <sup>1706</sup> See Orphans, page 211.
- 1710 <sup>1710</sup> This Meeting recommends the Visiting the Sick amongst Friends timely, and see that they make their Wills in due time.

1713 <sup>1713</sup> Desired, That Friends will take Care that none do unadvisedly bring themselves or others into Sufferings, by undertaking Trusts or Executorships, where they cannot Legally discharge that Trust.

1715 <sup>1715</sup> Advised, That Trustees & Executors concerned in Wills and Settlements do take especial Care, that they faithfully discharge their respective Trusts, according to the Intent of the Donors & Testators, And that all Charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests and Settlements of Estates by Will or Deed, intended & Given for the use of the Poor, the Aged, the Impotent, or Putting Poor Friends Children to Education, or Apprenticeships, may not be appropriated, or converted to any other Uses than such as the Donors and Testators have directed and Enjoined them by Legal Settlement, Will or Testament.

Yearly Meetings

N<sup>o</sup> 51, Concerning the yearly Meeting.

1672

1672

yearly  
Meeting  
Constituted

Agreed, That One or Two of each County, that are concerned in the publick Service of the Truth in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a year, to be Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meetings of each County respectively for that purpose.

And the publick Labourers to be here in the same Week, on the second Day at even at farthest.

to be held  
in London  
in the Whit-  
sun Week

That for the better Ordering, managing, & Regulating of the publick affairs of Friends relating to the Truth, & the Service thereof, there be a General Meeting of Friends held at London Once a year, in the Week called Whit-sun Week, to consist of six Friends for the City of London. — Three for the City of Bristol. — Two for the Town of Colchester. & either One or Two from each County in England and Wales, to be Chosen at their respective Quarterly Meetings next preceeding the said Week called Whit-sun Week, & to be in London on the second Day of that Week.

Representatives  
to be Chosen

As Many Friends that Labour in the Truth, as have Freedom thereunto may be present at the said Meeting.

All Others except such as are Nominated by the Quarterly Meetings, are desired to forbear coming to the said General Meeting, except such Friends as they when met together shall see meet to admit.

The said Yearly Meeting of Representatives to continue till further Order.

1673

1673

Agreed, That the General Meeting consisting of two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about Publick Business, appointed the 29<sup>th</sup> of the third Month 1672, till further Order,

cc



Yearly Meetings

1673 Meeting of Friends was discontinued

be discontinued till Friends in Gods Wisdom shall see further Occasion.

That the General Meeting of Friends who Labour in the work of the Ministry do Continue as formerly appointed.

1677

Revised

Then Agreed, That the yearly Meeting of one or two from each County, as formerly agreed upon at a General Meeting in London, upon the 29<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> Month 1672, appointed yearly to meet about the publick Affairs of Friends, sometime in the Week called Whitsun Week, until further Order, and afterwards agreed to be discontinued from the 2<sup>d</sup> of the third Month 1673, till Friends in Gods Wisdom should see a further Occasion for it, Be again Revised & begun this time twelve months, And then Friends to Advise about the Continuance thereof, as they in Gods Counsel shall see Occasion.

1678

Sufferings Information Assistance

The End and Intent of the Meeting

1678 It is the desire of this Meeting, That you would Nominate One or two Friends to come up the next Year at the usual Time for the Service of Truth, & that they bring with them the total of the Sufferings of the foregoing Year not before sent up; And what is over else you desire Information or Assistance in, let it be writ & subscribed by some of your Meeting in the Name of the Rest. The End of this Meeting not being limited to the Case of Sufferings, but Intended for the more general Service of the Truth And Body of Friends, in all those things, wherein, We may be capable to serve One another in Love.

1679

Yearly Meetings

1679

1679 Agreed, That Friends be desired in their Quarterly Meetings respectively to take care to appoint some faithful Friends or Friends to attend this Meeting this time twelve Months as formerly.

N.B. Since <sup>this</sup> time it has annually continued.

1681

Wales

1681 A Yearly Meeting in Wales agreed to be held about a Month before that of London.

1688

1690

1691

1694

1695

Intent of

yearly

meetings

&c

1688 See Representatives, annis, 1688, 1690, 1691, p 301

1694 Agreed, That the Friends of the West of England may have a yearly Meeting for Worship at Bristol.

1695 The Good and blessed Intent & End of This, & all our Assemblies, is, with the Lords Assistance, for His honour, in promoting & maintaining of our Christian Society & Religion in Life and Practice in all the Parts and Branches thereof.

1696

See Epistles, page 113.

1697

Women

publick

Friends.

1697 Ordered, That such faithful Women Friends as have a publick Testimony, that are in the City at the Time of the Yearly Meeting, may have their Liberty to sit with their Ministering Brethren, at their Second Day's Morning Yearly Meeting for Worship.

1698

# Yearly Meetings

1698  
Northern Yearly Meeting\*  
A Proposition <sup>1698</sup> that Friends may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship Only, for their Comfort, and to provoke one another to Love & Good Works, for the Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, & Cheshire, & any other Neighbouring Counties that are free to join with them, consented to, until this Meeting shall otherwise direct, and upon condition that it may not interfere with the Service & Power of this Meeting. 1699. See p. 419

1700 See Representatives, page, 305.

1706 See Questions, page, 270

1707 Agreed, That when this Meeting directs the Morning Meeting, or any other Meeting, to a Service, that henceforth the said Meetings should be provided to give an account to the next Yearly Meeting.

1709 Representatives not to go out of Town before the Meeting Ends. — See Representatives, p. 302. And See Meetings for Discipline, p. 167.

1710 Orderly Managing the Business  
It is the Desire & Agreement of this Meeting, that the Business & Concerns thereof be solidly, in the Fear of God, managed & carryed on without Contention or Striving, & with as few Words, & in as pertinent Expressions to the Matter in hand as may be for Expedition of the Affairs thereof without Loss of Time, or any ways disordering the Meeting. But one at a Time speaking & standing up; that all things may be done decently & in good Order.

# Yearly Meetings

1718  
The Intent & Design of Yearly Meetings  
Friends, are reminded, That the Intent & holy Design of our Annual Assemblies, in their first Constitution, was for a great & weighty Oversight and Christian Care of the Affairs of the Churches, pertaining to our holy Profession & Christian Communion, that good Order, True Love, Unity & Concord may be faithfully followed & maintained among all of us, as a peculiar People called & Chosen out of the World, & the Errors and Corruptions there of, knowing also that Sincere Love & Union in general, will be a great Cause of Truths prosperity among our selves, & of the prevalency thereof over the World, & the Spirit of it. — All which seriously considered, We sincerely desire & humbly hope, that God will graciously please more & more to put into the Hearts of Friends & Brethren to be zealously concerned, that Universal Love, true Union, Peace & Concord be followed and maintained in all the Churches of Christ, and all the contrary, as Enmity, division, discord & Strife, watched against & shut out for ever, that the Power & Peace of our God may prevail & rule in all our hearts more & more, whereunto we are called in one Body, that the God of Love & Peace may be witness for ever, which is the earnest Desire and Travel of the Souls of all the faithful.

1719  
Advised, that the Several Meetings do commit the Epistles of the Yearly Meeting, whether printed or written, to the Custody of some suitable and able Friend, to whom Friends may have recourse as Occasion requires, or they may be read in Meetings at suitable Opportunities.

See Meetings for Discipline, p. 169

Yearly Meeting

1720  
a  
Circular Yearly Meetings in the Western Counties

1720  
By a Proposal from the Yearly Meeting in Bristol, held the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Days of the third Month last, sent by Samuel Bowdler & Joseph Dibble Desiring Liberty from this Meeting, to set up a Circular Yearly Meeting for Worship, in the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wilt, Worcester, & Bristol, The first Circular Meeting to begin the second first day in the seventh Month next coming at Bradford; — The said Proposal being taken into Consideration, It is agreed, That the said Circular Meeting may be held provided it be with these Restrictions, First, that the Meeting be for Worship only, & Secondly, that the Time of holding the said Circular Yearly Meeting be in the seventh Month in every Year.

1731

See Conversation, page, 60

1732

It is Agreed That all Papers to this Meeting, from Half Yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings ought to be signed in such Meetings.

It is Agreed, That for the future the Meeting for Sufferings shall Nominate Six Friends out of their own Members, to this Yearly Meeting in Order for this Meeting to Choose Three out of them instead of those who are to go out, to be Cashiers for this Meetings Stock, And that the Persons so nominated be such as are Members of the said Meeting.

1733

Yearly Meeting

1733  
Method for Choosing Clerk

1733  
Agreed, That in order to prevent Debate in the Yearly Meeting, respecting the Choice of a Clerk, that the several Meetings that are Members of this Yearly Meeting, be divided into Five Districts, as follows, viz!

North

Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland.

South

London, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Berkshire.

East

Essex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Norwich, Lincolnshire, Cambridgehire, & Ely Hunting.

West

Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcesterhire, North Wales, South Wales.

Midland

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire.

And that a Clerk be Annually Chosen by One of the said Districts, in the Course and Order that they do now stand.

And that as the Clerk for the present year is of the Northern District, so next Year One to be Chosen by the Friends of the Southern; and the Year following by the East, and the next succeeding Year by the West, and the Year after that by the Midland District; and so on in a continual Rotation;

until

Yearly Meeting

1733 Until the same shall be altered by the yearly Meeting.

And in Order that the Election of a Clerk as aforesaid, may be made in a convenient Manner, We think it will be proper, that the Meetings Composing the District on whom the Election for that year doth fall, be first called Over, & the Names of the Representatives of such Meetings, be first Entered, And that they then immediately retire into the Chamber, in Order to a Nomination of a proper Person to propose to the Meeting, for their Approbation as a Clerk, for that Year.

Advice Concerning deputing proper Persons, to attend the Yearly Meeting; See Representatives, page, 303.

1735 Propositions to be in writing

This Meeting desires that all Propositions from any Monthly Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings to this Meeting, be delivered in Writing, & signed by Order of such Meetings.

2 Days Morning Yearly Meeting

Ordered, That the Second Days Morning Meeting, which precedes every Yearly Meeting, do only consist of Publick Friends, & such as are, or shall be pursuant to the Minute of 1727, appointed to sit in the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministering Friends.

Conclusion of the Meeting

It is agreed, that immediately after the finishing of the Business of this Meeting, there be a reasonable Opportunity for the Ministering Friends, & other Members in the Wisdom of Truth, to speak what may be upon their Minds to Mutual Comfort and Edification;

and

Yearly Meeting

1735 And it is Ordered, That at such times, no Persons be permitted to stay in the Meeting, except Publick Friends, Representatives and Correspondents: After which it is agreed that a publick parting Meeting be held.

1736 Ordered, that all Letters directed to the Yearly Meeting, except from such Meetings as regularly correspond therewith, be perused by a Committee, who are to consider & report whether the same be proper to be read in the Meeting or Not.

1742 See Questions, page, 272.

1745 See Appeals, page, 4.

1746 See Representatives, page, 303.

1750 This Meeting observing with great concern a Deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, some being represented but by One Friend, & some without any, cannot but strongly recommend an Observance of the Minute in 1728, which directs that, less than four Friends should be appointed for each County, that in case of Sickness or other Accident there may be a sufficient Number to answer the Service of the Meeting, by the want of which the Business is too often obstructed.

x see Representatives, page 302.

1699

Declared, that it was & is the Intent of this Meeting, that those Meetings which are or shall be held Yearly in any of the Counties or Places in England, distinct from this Meeting, be only for Worship, also that they continue Only from Year to Year, intirely Subject to the Advice, of this Meeting.

1760

Yearly Meeting

1760

1760

At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was Agreed, & Concluded that the following Method for Constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders should be here added.

Method of Constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders

1. That in each Monthly Meeting, some Solid Friends of either or both Sides be appointed for each particular Meeting, as Elders to have the Oversight of the Ministers at home Advise & Counsel both the Ministers at home and such who Travel amongst them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may see Necessary.

2. That the Ministers in Unity and Elders be Appointed within the Compass of each Monthly Meeting, Meet by themselves, once in three Months, & wait to feel their Minds seasoned with the Virtue of Truth, & then read the Queries, & make diligent enquiry into the State of their Members, & form such Answers thereto, as appears Agreeable to their States. The said Answers to be signed by the Clerk, & some Friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders therewith, where the Queries are again to be read & answered, & at the Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting, that general Answers in writing be drawn up & transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders, by Friends appointed to attend the same, & that the Ministers in Unity & Elders appointed, as above Directed shall be only Deemed proper Members of said Meetings.

Jly 3

Yearly Meeting

1760

3. That where any Friends come forth by way of Publick Ministry, that the Elders and those of Experience have a tender Care over them & after a suitable time of tryal; if their Conversations be Clean and blameless, & Friends are convinced that the Lord hath called them to that weighty Work: That then the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, Do recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers. (By a Minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may set in the Meeting of Ministers and Elders.