

N<sup>o</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Concerning Kings & Governours

1689

1689  
to give no  
offence to  
those in  
Government

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

1690

1690

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

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

1692



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

thankful Acknowledgment of the favour of the Government

to live Peaceably under it

1695

See Parliament, page, 215

1698

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

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

1703

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

1705

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

1709

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

and

1695

1698

Testimony against the Government

1703

not to Defraud the Government

1705

to walk worthy of the favour of the Government

1709

not to Diminish Customs &c



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

to Deal with the guilty  
against being concerned in prohibited goods and wrecks

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

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

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

offenders to be testified against

1721

The Advice of 1719 repeated

1723

1723 See Questions, page, 275.

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

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

1733 The last Years advice again recommended.

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

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

with



## Kings &amp; Governours

1735

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

1736

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

1737

1737

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

1735

signing  
Commissions  
for Militia  
ary Affairs

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

## Kings &amp; Governours 333



N<sup>o</sup> 57<sup>o</sup> Concerning Law.

1675

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

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

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

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

1676

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

1693



1693

1693, 1696, 1697.

1696

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

1697

1698

1698

See Kings & Governours, page, 129

1720

1720, 1725, 1737.

1725

See Arbitrations, page, 13 & 16

1737

1744

1744

<sup>a</sup> See Arbitrations, page, 14

<sup>b</sup> refers to a minute in 1697 See Arbitrations, p. 12 & 14

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

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



## Love

N<sup>o</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Concerning Love.

1703

See Discipline, page, 100.

1718.

See Yearly Meeting, page, 436

1730

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

1734. See Scriptures, page, 339

1735. See Discipline, page, 101, 102

1736. See Disputes, page, 109



N<sup>o</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Concerning Marriage.

1675

1675

against  
Marriage  
with near  
Kindred

particularly  
for Cousins

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

to break or  
Violate any  
Engagement  
not to be  
allowed

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

We



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

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

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

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

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

People

Consent of Parents to be first had

to be twice proposed at least to the Meetings See page 148

And Accomplished Publickly

outward Estates to be settled before Engage

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

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

1691 Advised that great Care be taken about Marriages for the Consent of Parents, due & Orderly Publication thereof & solemnizing them in a Meeting appointed for that End & purpose, or on week day Meetings which Method is convenient & commendable, as it has been lately made appear in the <sup>of the Government</sup> And well Resented.

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

young people to consent & wait their Consent in the first place to wait upon the Lord

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to be careful herein

Concerning Orderly Proceedings

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

1692



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

See 1691  
page 147  
&  
1675, p. 146

1692

Advised That all as Profess the Truth among Friends, Do publish their Intentions of Marriage at two Sundry two Weeks Meetings, in such places where they are settled, before they solemnize the same, that convenient time may be allowed friends Concerned for Enquiry & Satisfaction Concerning the Consent of Parents & Guardians, & their Clearness from all Scandal and Precontracts, That friends may own & Stand by their Proceedings before the Government & all in Authority, which otherwise they cannot, if they Proceed not in the due & Orderly Publication & Method of Truth, settled among friends, being a Matter greatly Enquired into truly Warrantable, and to be stood by.

1695

1695  
against  
marrying  
with those  
not of our  
Profession  
nor  
without Consent  
of Parents  
nor with  
near kin

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

1707

1707

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

or

1707

if any  
Endeavour  
to Entangle  
the Affections  
of a young  
Woman  
without Consent  
of Parents  
nor to be allowed

Parents not  
to break off  
or worldly  
accounts

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

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

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

1709

1709  
Second  
Cousins

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

1710

1710

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

fn



Marriage

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

1715

See plainness, page, 226

1718

1718 A Testimony against running into Excessive sumptuous & costly Entertainments at Marriages, Excessive Dinners, a great Part of which would be better Sumptuous Employed in relieving the Necessities of the Poor. Entertainments

1719

1719 In order to put a Stop to an Undue Liberty Endeavour to be used to in Contracting Marriages with such as are not of Our Society; It is Advised that all Parents & prevent most Marriage Guardians of Children, do take special care as much as in them lieth to prevent their Children from running into such Marriages, And that friends of Each Particular Meeting as also of the Monthly Meeting to which such persons belong, do in the Wisdom & Power of Truth, Use their Endeavours to put a Stop to the said Evil, by admonishing such as may attempt to marry as aforesaid, to Desist before they accomplish the same: But if they Refuse to take Counsel or privately go on to Marry as aforesaid, that then such Persons be Dealt with, according to the good Order of Truth & Judgment fixed upon all such as take such an Undue Liberty.

If any do so marry they are to be Dealt with

1722

1722 Parents who have Children to Dispose of in Marriage, are tenderly Advised, not to make it their first or Chief care to obtain for them Large Portions or Settlements of Marriage, but rather be Careful that their Children be joined in Marriage with Persons of Religious Inclinations,

suitable

Marriage

1722

against most Marriages

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

1723

1723

Children to advise with parents or guardians

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

1724

1724

to prevent designing person from entangling the affections of youth

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

1727

1727

The Advice in the year 1698, repeated

1730

1730

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

monthly



1730 Monthly Meeting to which they belong, such the good Order of Friends relating to Marriage to be maintained

proceeding being of a clandestine nature tending to make void the just care of Friends in that case, which is of good Esteem among the People, We advise that the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to Testify against the Practice, as well as against the Persons Concerned therein.

1734

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

1738

1738 See the printed Epistle of 1738

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

the re who marry by the Priests to be dealt with

Deal

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

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

1744

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

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

to



Marriage

1744 To our known Discipline: And that after  
 those who Do Marry in any manner Contrary to our Rules, to be dealt with  
 the Commission of such Offence, & during such dealing, their Collection shall not be received Nor shall they be relieved in the manner of Poor Friends, Nor be admitted to sit in Meetings for Discipline until they are restored into Unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

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

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 178

1747 against marriage with first or second Cousins

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

Marriage

1747 Do Declare it to be our Sense and Judgment, That notwithstanding <sup>or other Meeting</sup> whatsoever should pass, First Cousins in Order for Marriage, And this Meeting earnestly desires all Friends whenever they know or hear of any first Cousins Designing or Intending to Marry, that they Immediately advise them against it.

1745, 147  
 See 1709 in p. 149

1748

1748

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

1749

1749

near of kin  
 p. 145, 147  
 148, 149

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

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

N.B. Signed the 19<sup>th</sup> mo: 1749 by 48 Friends



## Marriage

1770

1770

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

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

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

1772

1772

The following matter were concluded upon  
at a yearly Meeting of friends held at  
Newport on Rhode Island in the 6<sup>mo</sup> 1772

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

## Marriage

1773

1773

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



Meeting Houses

N<sup>o</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Concerning Meeting Houses

1691

1691  
All Meeting  
Houses to  
be Inspected  
According to  
Law

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

1703

1703

Titles to be  
made  
inspected  
& secured

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

1737

1737

Titles to be  
inspected &  
secured

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

And to keep  
Records  
thereof



N<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Concerning Meetings for Discipline.  
1675

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

of the Estab-  
lishment  
of Mens &  
Womens  
Meetings

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

the Autho-  
rity & who  
have right  
thereunto

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

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

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

1693

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

That



1693<sup>1</sup> That all Friends have a Care of Gods Glory & be tender thereof as hath been often advised.

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

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

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

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

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

See Records, page, 279.

1696

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

1697

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

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

1703

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

And



Meetings for Discipline

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

1704

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

1705

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

1706

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

in

Meetings for Discipline 167

1706

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

See Questions, page, 270

1707

1707  
Womens Meetings to be Encouraged

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

1709

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

See Teachers, page, 252.

1715

as Monthly Meetings to divide it self

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

Elders & Overseers

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

ownings



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

See Meetings for Worship, page, 136

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

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

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

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

And see Yearly Meeting, page, 455

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

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



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

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

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

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

Reasoned

Meetings for Discipline 171

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

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

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

See Morning Meeting of Ministers, p. 195

1730  
\* See Comes  
pendents  
P. 77  
resolutions

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

already



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

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

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

and

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

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

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

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

branches

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

Dealing with Offenders

none to be disowned without Dealing

1733

Tythes &c Justice Plainness

Monthly Meeting to appoint Friends to visit Families



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1733

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

Diligently to attend Meetings for Discipline

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

1734

younger Friends to be Encouraged

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

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

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1735

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

1736

younger Friends to be Encouraged

to attend Meetings for worship

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

See appeal, page, 3

1737

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

1738

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

But



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

1740 See Records, page, 283

1741 See Doer, page, 245

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

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

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

Monthly Meeting to submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting

In case they do not &c

of

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

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

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

1743 of a Quarterly Meeting do Dissolve a Monthly Meeting

any Monthly Meeting aggrieved may appeal

to deal in due time with Disorderly Walkers

When



178 Meetings for Discipline

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

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

See Law, page, 138  
See Marriage, p<sup>s</sup> 153, 154  
See Sale bearing, page

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

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

And

Meetings for Discipline 179

School  
Masters or  
Mistresses

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

See Appeals, page, 4.

1747 See Discipline, page, 103.

See Marriage, page, 154.

1748 See the same, page, 155.

1751 See Discipline, page, 105.

At our yearly Meeting held at Smithfield for New England 6<sup>th</sup> 1748

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

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



Meetings for Worship

N<sup>o</sup> 22<sup>n</sup> Concerning Meetings for Worship.

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

1675  
That as it hath been our care and Practice from the Beginning, that an open Testimony for the Lord should be born, & a publick Standard for Truth & Righteousness upheld in the Power and Spirit of God, by our open & known Meetings, against the Spirit of Persecution that in all Ages hath sought to lay wast Gods Heritage; & that only thro Faithfulness constancy & Patience Victory hath been & is Obtained; so it is Our advice & Judgment, That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus keep up these Publick Testimonies in their respective places, and not decline forsake or Remove their Publick Assemblies because of times of Sufferings, as worldly fearful and Politick Professors have done, because of Informers & the like Persecutors; for such Practices are not consistent with the Nobility of Truth, & therefore not to be Owned in the Church of Christ. 1678

1678  
to be Zealous & Diligent in assembling together in times of Joyal

1678  
And by how much the more it is a day of Joyal & an hour of Temptation, Forsake ye not the assembling of yourselves together, but by so much the more be Zealous & Diligent in keeping all your Meetings, both Publick Meetings, and your Mens & Womens Meeting in the Lords Everlasting Power by which they were set up; & as you are found Diligent and Steadfast in the Work of the Lord, the God of Peace will suddenly tread down Satan under your feet, and plentifully reward into all your bosoms, your Patience and perseverance with the dumb Blessings, Peace & Joy of that Kingdom, which was before the World began, and never shall have End.

1689

1689  
Let every one be watchful against an earthly Spirit getting up in any, for that Will choke the good seed, & bring forth a slighting or neglecting your Testimony,

in



Meetings for Worship

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

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

1696

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

1697

Advised, duly to keep up week-day meetings.

1706

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 166.

1715

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

1716

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

Meetings for Worship

1718

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

1723

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

See Preachers, page, 253, 254.

1724

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

1725

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

For



188 Meetings for Worship

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

1729 We again Recommend the advice in the Year 1723.

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

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

1734

Meetings for Worship 189

1734 And Dear Friends, We Desire that you would Excite & Stir up your Children to a Diligent attending the First Day & Week day Meetings, and be Exemplary your selves therein, not in a meer formal and customary Attendance but in a serious & Diligent waiting upon the Lord, for as formality in Worship Occasioned the Lord to Complain of his People in Days of Old, That they drew near to him with their Mouths & with their Lips did Honour him, but had removed their hearts far from him Isa: 29. 13. so we have Reason to fear that the same formality has been One Cause of that great Declension from the Purity & Spirituality of Gospel Worship which is too Apparent among many of the Professors of Christianity.

Caution against formality

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

1735 As it hath Pleas'd the Lord in his great Mercy, & Goodness to favour the Faithful among his People, not only such publick Assemblies as these, but also in their small retired Meeting in the Country every where with the lifting up of the Sight of his Countenance upon them, by which they are greatly Encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name,

and



190 Meetings for Worship

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

1736

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 175

1738

See Preachers, page, 257.

1739

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

Meetings for Worship

191

1770

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



## Morning Meeting of Ministers 195

N<sup>o</sup> 23<sup>o</sup> Concerning the Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1675

1675 See Sufferings, page, 347

1697

1697 See Yearly Meeting, page, 453.

1706

1706 See Books - page, 28.

1707

1707 See Yearly Meeting, page, 454.

1723

1723 It is the Unanimous Agreement of this Meeting, That it does not belong to the Morning Meeting, or any other Meeting of Ministers, to disown any Minister or other Person, but that the Sole Right of so doing belongs to Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly, or yearly Meetings. See further, page, 597.

1727

1727 A Proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire, relating to the Extending a care in Friends to young Ministers, &c being read, this Meeting Desires all Monthly Meetings to appoint Serious Discreet & Judicious Friends, who are not Ministers, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise others, as they in the Wisdom of God see Occasion: and where there are Meetings of Ministering Friends, such Friends so Chosen be admitted as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and act therein for the good Purposes aforesaid.

1732

1732 See Books, pages, 29.



196 Morning Meeting of Ministers

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

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

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

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

Meetings of Ministers may advise Rebuke &c

no Power to disown any

Part

Morning Meeting of Ministers 197

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

1770

1770

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

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

1781

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



## Mourning

## No 241 Concerning Mourning.

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

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

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

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



N<sup>o</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Concerning Importing Negroes.

1727

1727

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

1760

1760

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

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



## Negroes

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



N<sup>o</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Concerning Oaths.

1693

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



## Orphans

N<sup>o</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Concerning Orphans

1706

1706

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



N<sup>o</sup> 28. Concerning Applying to Parliament

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



Persecution

N<sup>o</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Concerning Persecution.

1675

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

1678

See Meetings for Worship, page 185

1703

See Sufferings, page, 351

1707

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

to live in  
a grateful  
sense of the  
present  
Liberty



## Plainness

N<sup>o</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Concerning Plainness in  
Habit & Speech &c.  
1675

1675 See Conversation, page, 59.

1688 See Conversation, page, 59  
1691

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

1697

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

1700 &amp; 1701

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

1703

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

Doth



Plainness

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

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

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

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

to restrain Children

Plainness

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

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

to follow the Examples of holy Ancients

Extravagant Wigs

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

Danger of flying the Cross

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

and



1715  
Caution  
against  
false  
Liberty

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

Pride most  
Marriages  
bowing  
Flattering  
Titles  
&c.

1718

1718  
Testimony  
against  
undue  
Liberty

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

vain  
Fashions

gold Chains  
Necklaces  
gold watches  
naked necks  
& breasts hooped  
petticoats

Furniture

Speech

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

and

1718

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

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

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

not to adorn  
children  
with gaudy  
apparel

1732

keep under  
the power  
of the Cross

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

1735

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

or



## Plainness

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

1736

See Conversation, page, 62

1737

See Families, page, 158.

1739

## Plainness

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

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

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

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

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