

N^o 31st
Concerning the Poor
1693

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

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

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

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

to

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

1705

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

1709

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

1710

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

to have Certificate

2 What is to be deemed a Settlement

such

1710

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

3 Servants

4th Removing without a Certificate

This agreement to continue but four years, unless it be then Renewed. 1711.

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

If

1755
an
Explanation
to the 4th
Article
in 1750

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

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

1754

The agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1750 for the Settlement of the Poor, with the Amendment of the fourth Article the next year, is now agreed to be Continued.

1758

1718

The poor
are our
family &
not to be
turned
off

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

1720

1720

the beggar
is among
us -

None to be
sent to the
Parish

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

See Questions, page, 270.

1725

1725

A Question being Proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1750,

This Meeting concludes, that all ^{that} were not denied are to be Esteemed Members of the several Monthly Meetings in whose Compass they then Resided; and it is the Sense of this Meeting, that it was not Intended by the Minute of 1750, to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1724

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

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

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

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

Remove

to have Certificate

what may be Deemed a Settlement

Servants

1724

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

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

1729

1729

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

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

Secondly

to have Certificate

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

what may be Deemed a Settlement

3
Servants

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

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the

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

5th
ly

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

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

1729 Meeting within the compass of which they shall so three ^{years} inhabit, provided they were neither Dis-owned nor Insolvent before they removed.

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

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

to be
Liberal to
the poor in
times of
scarcity
or
Sickness

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

1733

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

1735

See Questions, page, 272

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements, pa; 287 to 29

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

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

N^o 32. Concerning Preachers.

1689

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

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

1695.

1695

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

1698

1698

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

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

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

1699

1699

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

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

1702

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

1713

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

1716

See Meetings for Worship page, 286

1720

1720

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

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

1723

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

1716 page 286

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

See 1698
p. 253

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 195

1728

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

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

See Scriptures, page, 316

1730

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

See Meetings for Discipline, p. 171

1731

1731

An Epistle of Advice to ministring Friends that Travel &c

Dear and well Beloved Friends,

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

And

Preachers

1734

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

ministers
to keep
good Har-
mony with the
Monthly Meetings

I ready
to receive
advise

Monthly
Meetings to
be careful
in giving
Certificates

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

Preachers

1736

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

1737

1737

a publick
friend
censured
or
disowned
readmitted
&c

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

1738

1738

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

Suffering

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

1740

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

1743

* see
1727, p. 254
1731, p. 255
1736, p. 256

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

and

1743
Accounts
of Publick
Friends
deceased.

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

1745
Disorderly
Persons who
travel up &
down
preaching
without
Certificates
to be stopped

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

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

and

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

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

1772

1772

At a yearly Meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhode Island 6^{mo} 1772

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

Prisoners

N^o 33ⁿ Concerning Prisoners.

1676

1676

See Records, page, — 277.

1681

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

1682

1682

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

1696

1696

See Questions, pages, — 279

1700

1700

See Records, page, — 289

Questions

1742

1742

Queries altered

New Queries

altered see p. 273

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

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

th 31

Questions

1742

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

1744

the 5th Query altered

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

1760

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

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

th 1

- 1760
- 4th Are Friends careful to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous Liquors the Unnecessary Frequenting of Taverns & places of Publick resort, & in all their Conversation walk as becomes the Professors of the Blessed Truth, in true Moderation & Temperance on the Account of Births, Marriages, & Burials and all other Occasions?
 - 5th Are Poor Friends Necessities duly Inspected they Relieved, or assisted in such Business, as they are Capable of, Do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business, & are they and other Friends Children placed among Friends?
 - 6th Do no young or unmarried persons make proposals of marriage with each other, without consent of Parents & Relations concerned, nor keep company with those of other Societies on that account?
 - 7th Do ~~not~~ Widowers or Widows make or Admit of proposals of Marriage too early after the Decease of former Husband or Wife, & are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages Neglected?
 - 8th Do you maintain a Faithful Testimony against the Payment of Priests Wages, bearing of Arms, Training or military Service, & against Depriving the King of his Duties, or buying or vending of Goods suspected to be Run?
 - 9th Are Friends careful to make their Wills & settle their outward Estates whilst in Health, and take Friends Advice therein when necessary, and are Publick Gifts or Legacies applied to the Uses Intended by the Donors?
 - 10th Are Friends Clear of Importing Negroes or buying them when Imported & Use those well, where they are Possessed By Inheritance or Otherwise Endeavouring to train them up in the Principles of Religion?
 - 11th Are Friends careful to Live within in the bounds of their Circumstances, & to avoid Launching into Trade & Business beyond their ability to manage & thereby Break their Promises, & neglect the Payment of their Just Debts, & are such as give reasonable grounds of Fear on those Accounts timely Labour'd with for their Recovery?
- 11th red
See p. 275

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

1770

1770

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

Records

N^o 35. Concerning Records.

1675

1675

See Discipline, page, 99.

1676

1676

what matters
are to be
Recorded

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

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

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

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

1678

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

1680

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

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page, — 265

1682

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

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

1689

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

1691

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

1693

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

1694

1694

1694

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

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

1695

1695

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

1698

1698

See Tythes, page — 368.

1700

1700

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

1705

1705

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

the

1705

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

1737

1737

See Questions, page, 272.

1740

1740

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

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

1746

1746

See Sufferings, page, 351.

Removals & Settlements 287

N^o 36th Rules for Removals & Settlements.

1737

1st

1737

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

Relieved.

2^d

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

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

yet

1737

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

3

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

4th

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

and

1737

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

5th

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

6th

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

7th

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

but

1737 but Certificates or other Recommendation in that Case shall continue to be required as heretofore, hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to. And Whereas Disputes may arise about Settlements where the Man brings a Certificate or Recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to another on account of Marriage, It is hereby Agreed, that such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be construed to make a Settlement unless his removal be expressed therein.

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

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

* See under the head Poor

Lastly which are under head Poor

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

1740
1740 It is Agreed, that no Proposition for altering the Rules for Removals & Settlements of Friends made in 1737, shall be Received by this Meeting, Unless such Proposition shall be Signed in and by Order of a Quarterly Meeting, or some other Meeting which do Directly Correspond with this Meeting.

1747
See Discipline, page, 103

No 37th Concerning Representatives.

1672

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

1687

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

1688

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

1690

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

1691

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

1700

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

advised

Representatives

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

1706

See Questions, page, 272

1709

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

not to go out of Town before the Meeting ends

1714

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

Qualifications

1728

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

Four to be Appointed

1730

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

County of York may have Eight

1733

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

annually

Representatives

1733

Qualifications

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

1743

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

1746

1746

Attendance required

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

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

1750

1750

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

Salutations

N^o 38th Concerning Salutations.

1715

1715

See Plainness, page, 226.

1718

1718

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

Schools

N^o 39ⁿ Concerning Schools.

1690

1690 See Children, page, 40.

1695

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

1696

1696 See Children, page, 41, & 42.

1697

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

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 179.

1753

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

in

1753
 in a Manner consistent with a religious Con-
 cern for their welfare have been recipiated
 to send them to those of other Perswasions where-
 by the tender minds of such Children have been
 in great Danger of being Seavened into the
 Language Customs and Habits of the World;
 from whence it is Difficult afterwards to Re-
 claim them. We Desire, Friends would attend
 to this Important Point; And in their Month-
 ly Meetings Assist young Men of Low Circumstan-
 ces, whose Genius & Conduct may be suitable for
 that Office, with the Means requisite to Obtain the
 proper Qualifications, and when so Qualified, af-
 ford them the Necessary Encouragement for their
 Support.

Scriptures

N^o 40ⁿ Concerning the Scriptures.

1706 ¹⁷⁰⁶ Advised, that Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, & bring them up in the frequent reading of the Scriptures of Truth; and also to instruct them in the great Love of God Through Jesus Christ, & the Work of Salvation by Him, and of Sanctification through his Blessed Spirit.

1709 ¹⁷⁰⁹ We Recommend it as an Incumbent Duty on Friends to Cause their Children to be frequent in reading the holy Scriptures, & in Observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early Learned the fear of God; and hearkened to his Counsel, Instructing them in the Fear & Dread of the Lord, planting Impressions upon their Spirits of reverence towards God, from whom they have their daily Supports, shewing them they Ought not to Offend Him, but Love, Serve and Honour Him in whose hand all Blessings are.

1712 ¹⁷¹² We Exhort all Parents of Children to be very careful to Educate and train them up in the Fear of God, and Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures, & be good Examples to them in all things.

1720 ¹⁷²⁰ Advised that no Friends suffer Romances, Play-Books, or other vain & idle Pamphlets in their Houses, or Families, which tend to Corrupt the minds of youth; but instead thereof that they excite them to the reading of the holy Scriptures & religious Books.

Let

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

1723

1723 See Children, page, — 45.

1728.

1728

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

operations

1728 Operations of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular, contained in that most excellent Book the Bible; & for the preserving them from being Defiled with the many Pernicious Notions & Principles Contrary to such sound Doctrines, which are at this time Industriously dispersed in the Nation, to the Reproach of the Christian Religion in General.

1729

1729

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

1730

1730

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

1731

1731

1731

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

See Children; page, 46. & 47

1732

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

1733

1733

1733

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

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

By

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

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

Instruct

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

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1736 See Children, page, 48.

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1737 See Kings & Governours, p. 132.

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1745 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 179.