

Christian and Brotherly  
Advices

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

## Appeals

### N<sup>o</sup> 1 Concerning Appeals

1727  
Committee  
to be yearly  
chosen to  
Judge of all  
appeals

Time  
Limited  
from Month-  
ly or two  
weeks to Quar-  
terly meetings

From Quar-  
terly to  
Yearly  
Meetings

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

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

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

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

But

## Appeals

1727 But are immediate Members of the Yearly Meeting  
from month  
to the  
yearly meet-  
ing directly  
or other  
persons not  
pursuing those  
Directions  
Excluded.

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

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

Method for  
choosing  
the Committee

Appeals to  
be delivered  
on such  
Day &c

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

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

the

## Appeals

1728

any Seven  
to act

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

1733

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

This Meeting taking into their serious Consideration some inconveniences that may attend the Nominating Persons to hear and Judge of the fitness or unfitness of Appeals brought before this Meeting, Do agree that for the time to come no Friends of any County from whence or against whom such Appeals may come, shall be deemed proper to be nominated thereto; But that the Meeting proceed to a Nomination of other Persons in the next Counties, and that such Counties as are Omitted for the reason aforesaid be first called on next Year.

1736

To prevent  
appeals  
coming

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

Whereas

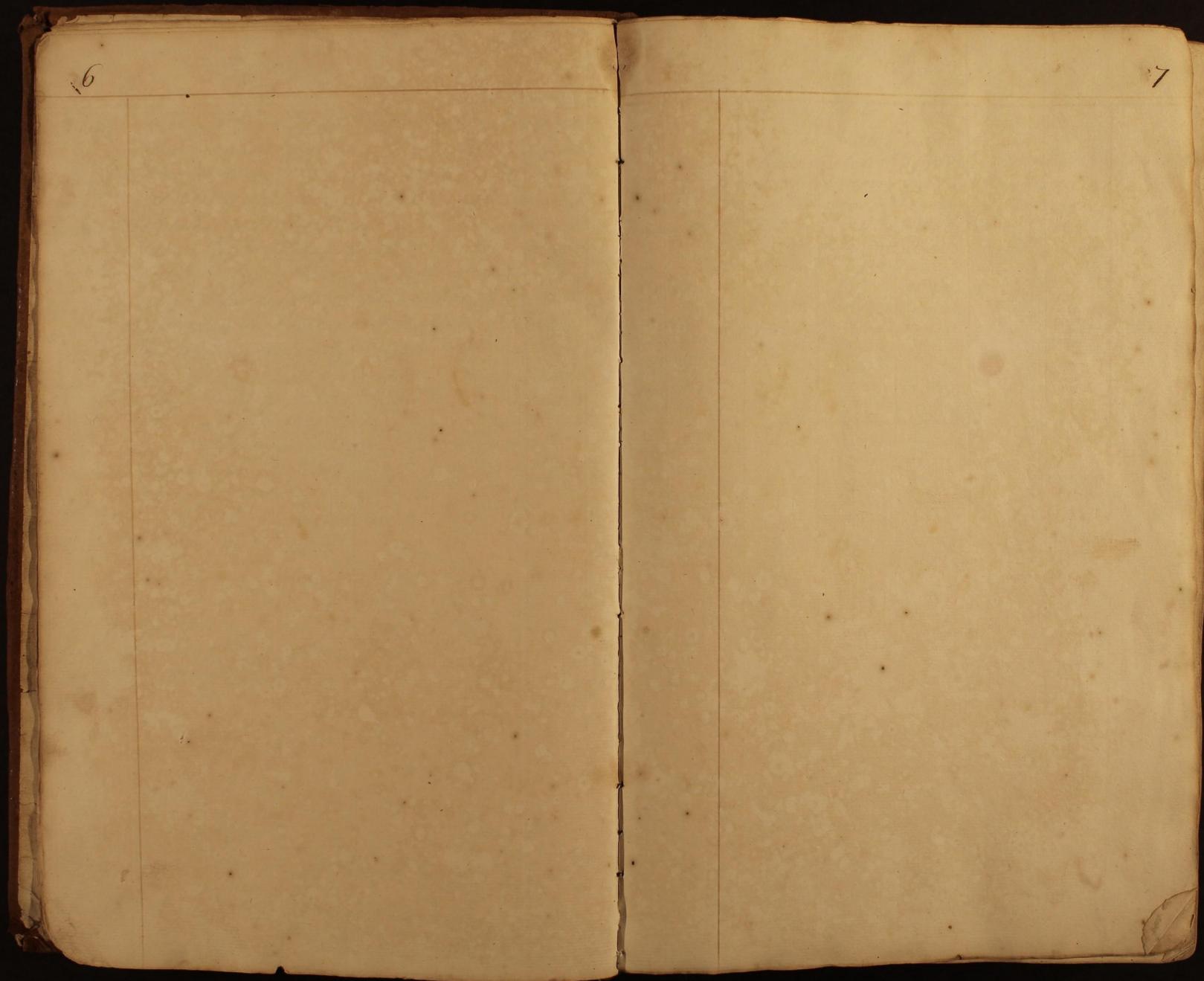
See Arbitrations, anno 1720, page 53

## Appeals

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

No appeals  
 to be a  
 second  
 time

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



## Arbitrations

N<sup>o</sup> 2 Concerning Arbitrations

1684

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

1692

to chose  
Arbitrators  
or to submit  
to the Choice  
of Monthly  
Meeting.

all contro-  
versies to be  
speedily  
ended

such as  
refuse are  
to be Dis-  
owned

1693

in a  
Doubtful  
point in  
Law -

Advised, that in all Cases of Controversie and  
Difference, the Persons concerned therein, either speedily  
compose the Difference between themselves Or make  
Choice of some Faithful unconcerned Friends to  
Determine the same, and they to stand to their Deter-  
mination; Or Otherwise if they cannot agree upon the  
Choice, of Certain Persons to Submit to the Monthly Meet-  
ings Choice of Certain Persons Meet to Inspect, and De-  
termine the Controversy: And to stand to their award and  
final Determination thereof: that such Controversys  
may not be Continued to cause a Sigh and Reproach,  
for they are great shame and Scandal. — And that  
care be taken for the speedy ending of all Controversys  
and Differences among Friends; And all Friends to  
take heed of being parties with one or another.  
for the prolonging thereof. And such persons as  
refuse to submit to truths Order, or to hear the  
Church of Christ, are to be Disowned and Testi-  
fied against, according to Christs Doctrine on that be-  
half.

1693 Advised, that all Differences happening in Perso-  
nal or Temporal Occasions be speedily Ended Accord-  
ing to the Advice given in our last Yearly Meeting  
Epistle; And if any Doubtfull point in Law be in  
the Case, then both parties may advise with  
some well knowing in the Law, for if any Lust  
to be Contentious we have no such Custom in  
the Churches of Christ.

for  
Revised

## Arbitrations

1696

Advised that no Friends shall go from the Order of Truth and former advice, to sue one Another at Law; But by themselves or by Reference, that all Differences among friends be Speedily ended, and not Prolonged or Delayed. — And Dear Friends shun all Occasions of Strife and Discord, and take care to make a speedy end of all Differences that are or may happen among yourselves, as hath been often Advised, and that according to the holy Apostles Doctrine;

*Read. 1. Cor 6c v. 1 to 8*

1697

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

Also this Meeting doth advise that if any Person,

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

1696

1697

## Arbitrations

11

1697

such as refuse to end their difference or refer it to the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong: and if after admonition he shall refuse so to refer his case that then the Meeting do Testify against such a Person and Disown him to be of our Society;

The person disowned may be sued at Law

arbitrators not to decline acting after they have accepted it

continuing to decline standing to be testified against

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

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

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

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

And

## Arbitrations

1697

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

No friend to sue another at Law -  
To conclude it is the sense and Judgment of this Meeting that if any Person Professing Truth shall arrest sue or Implead at Law any other Person Professing Truth before he hath Proceeded in the Methods herein Recommended. That such Person doth therein Depart from the Principle of Truth and the known way thereof, and acts Contrary thereto, and ought to be Dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to, therefore. And if he shall not give satisfaction to the Meeting, for such his disorderly Proceeding by condemning it and himself therein, that then he be Disowned by the Meeting therefor.

1705

Meetings to take place that Differences be speedily ended

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

1720

Minute of 1697 Explained

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

the

## Arbitrations

The report and explanation aforesaid are as followeth.

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

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

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

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

J.S.

## Arbitrations

1720 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 Circumstances the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so it is not to be Doubtful but they will do Justice to the parties concerned therein.

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

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

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

in

## Arbitrations

1720 In Gods Wisdom according to Gospel Order among us, either by mutual forgiveness, Christian Counsel or Just Arbitration as the case may require, and safely admit or allow, and the choice of Arbitrators and Umpires, be of such Just Impartial men as neither party can Justly object against but both agree to their choice.

1724

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

1728

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

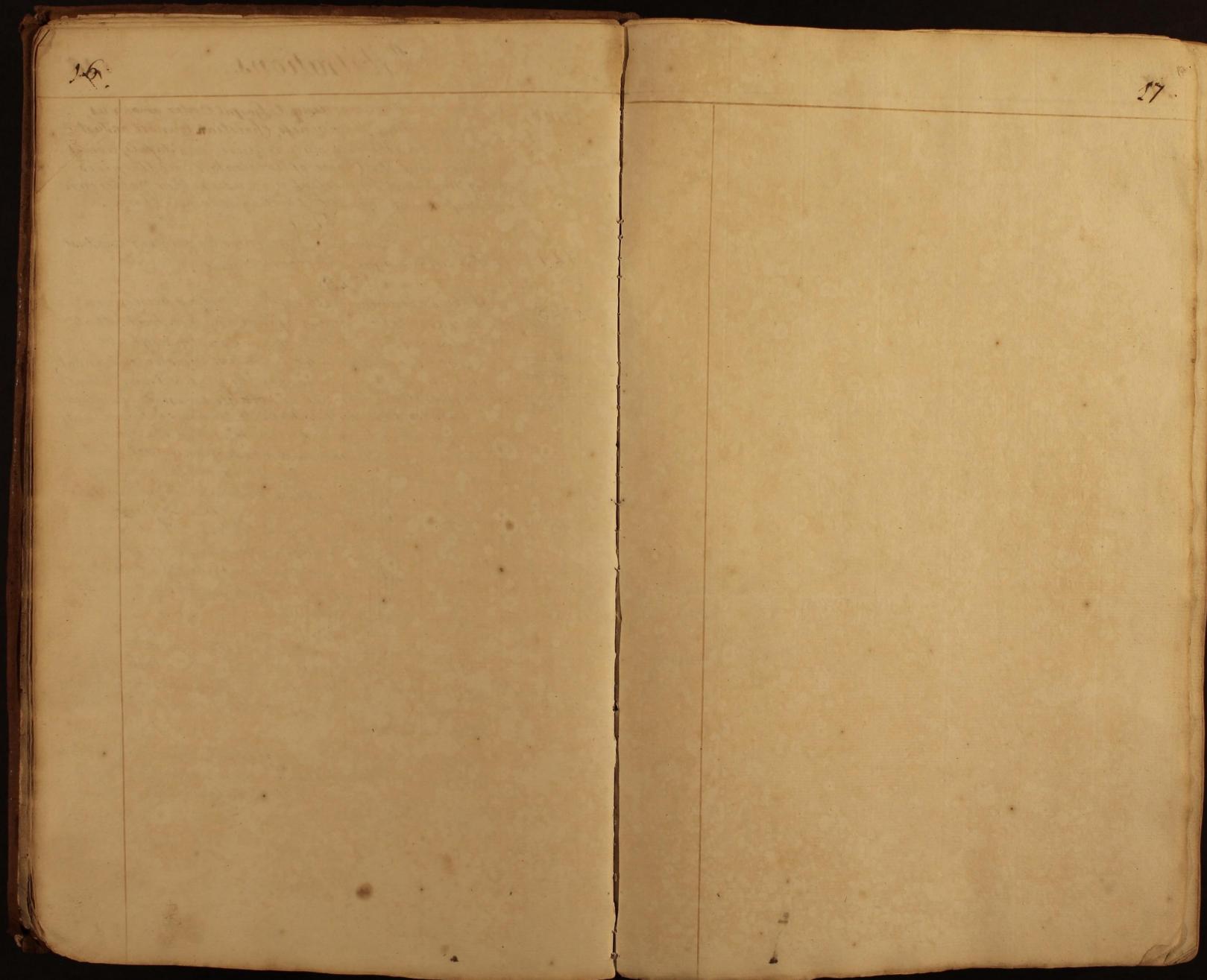
1737

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

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

1744

See Law page 138



18

19.

1775 8 Mo Then Rec'd of  
Hezekiah Smith for Subscriptions  
the sum of £ 3 6  
Jonathan Wilbur

## Books

No 3

Concerning Books

1672

Committee  
to Correct  
Books

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

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

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

That no second Edition be Printed without Order.

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

1673

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

1674

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

1679  
to be given  
by the meet-  
ing for suf-  
ferings  
p 26. 28. 29p 26. 8  
p 28. 1106

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

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

## Books

1680

p. 25

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

1691

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

See page 27  
151 monthly meetings

This Meeting Agrees for the taking off & Spreading Friends Books for the service of Truth. That such a Number of Friends Books, as shall be hereafter Printed by the approbation (excepting collections of Books) be taken off by Each Quarterly Meeting, as will only amount to two Books do not both exceed one Shilling in price: and if any one Book be above six pence price then but one of that sort to each Monthly Meeting who may send for ~~as many as~~ they have occasion for or Desire. —

We understand there are about one hundred and fifty, one Monthly Meetings in England & Wales. — And that the said Books, be sent to the several Correspondents in London, or by their Order to the Correspondents of each County, who are Desired to send up the money for the Books when received, to the Friends that are Correspondents in London, and be diligent in spreading Friends Books for Truth's Service.

1692

See 1695

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

and

## Books

1692  
Books to be kept in each Yearly and monthly meeting

see 1695  
Two of a sort under £16 one of a sort above to each monthly meeting  
see 1697

1697  
Spreading friends Books

Two of a sort not exceeding £1 per book  
was then agreed to be accepted by the Monthly Meetings  
to which they are sent by each Monthly Meeting  
for the future to accept of two Books of a sort  
that do not exceed Two Shillings per book,

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

1693

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

1697

Friends in the Several Counties in England are Desired to be diligent to spread Friends Books, which are Answers to Adversaries, and to get them Expeditiously published where Adversaries Books are sold, that the service of them may be answered; and the Printers are to be spoken to, to send down the Books in due time and not delay them till the service be partly over.

This Meeting Understanding that the minute of 1693 expired in 1696 with respect to printed Books of high price, It is Desired that all Books that are writ by such that are in Unity with Friends that was then agreed to be accepted by the Monthly Meetings for the future to accept of two Books of a sort that do not exceed Two Shillings per book, till this Meeting doth order otherwise

1698

## Books

1698

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

Friends  
to read  
over books  
in Answer  
to Adversaries

1702

Agreed to Recommend it to the Quarterly and  
 Monthly Meetings, in the several Counties to appoint  
 some Judicious Friends to read over <sup>such</sup> Books on  
~~Books~~  
 that are Published in vindication of Truth,  
 and the Doctrine of Friends against Adversaries;  
 in order that they may both better understand  
 the Controversies & be prepared to vindicate  
 the Doctrine of Friends and Obviate Objections.

1706

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

1709

North  
Brittain

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

1710

1710

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

in

## Books

1710

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

1732

see 1679  
1680

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

1735

Copies  
of Books

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

30.

O  
o  
t

31.

32

33

## Certificates

## No 4 Concerning certificates

1694

to have  
Certificates  
on  
removing  
into  
Ireland

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

or from one  
monthly or  
quarterly  
Meeting to  
another

1737

Friends removing from the Company of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another to have Certificates. See poor, page, 286, 286, 288, 249, 241, 243.

And see Removals & Settlements in 1737—

page, 287, 288, 290.

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

1745

See Preachers page 259.

1748

See Marriage, page, 155.

1772

At our yearly Meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhode Island 8<sup>th</sup> 1772

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

Traveling friends to have Certificate, See page 260

1688

Not to  
Indulge  
them

N<sup>o</sup>. 5 Concerning Children

1688

We do Entreat and Desire you all, our dear Friends Brethren and Sisters, That are Parents & Governorours of Famelies, That ye Diligently lay to heart your work and Calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge Committed to you, not only in becoming good Examples to the younger sort, But also to use your power in your own Famelies, in the Educating your Children, and Servants in Modesty, Sobriety and in the fear of God Curbinge the Extravagant humors in the young ones when it doth appear, and not to Indulge it & allow of it For you are set in your Famelies as Judges for God, and it is you <sup>that</sup> must give an account of the Power Committed to you;

And when you see a Libertine and Wanton spirit appear in your Children and Servants that Lusteth after the vain Customs & Fashions of the World, either in Dresings Habits, or outward Adornings, and Graves your Apis= tance and Allowance, without which it cannot get forward while they are under your Government.

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

1689

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

1689

1690

## Children

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

Send Dear Friends, it is our Christian & earnest Advice & Counsel to all Friends concerned so far as they are able or may be capable, to provide School-Masters and Mistresses who are faithful Friends, to teach & instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the corrupt ways Manners, Fashions, & Language of the World, & of the Heathen in their Authors, and names of the Heathenish Gods & Goddesses tending greatly to corrupt and alienate the minds of Children into an averseness or opposition against the Truth, and the simplicity of it, But to take care that you train up your Children in the good nurture & admonition & fear of the Lord, in that Plainness & Language which becomes Truth, And Parents Masters &c to be good Examples to them in a sober & Godly Conversation & Plainness of speech, not to use the word you or ye, to a Child or Servant &c, nor suffer your substance to be bestowed on your Children

## Children

{ to furnish them with such things as tend to pride, and to lift them up in vanity, or affect them with the vain fashions of the world.

1691 That Friends be exemplary to their children in plainness of language, Habit & deportment & train them up thereon that Modesty & Sobriety may be countenanced, and the Fear of the Lord take place and increase among them. See more in the same printed Epistle.

See plainness, page 223.

1692 Being sensible how incident youth is to be corrupted, & how liable to corrupt & hurt one another by evil example and liberty, It is earnestly requested that all Parents among Friends take all Godly and Christian care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, & not to allow them in any thing that may gratify a vain mind in immodest apparel or foolish garbs or other extravagancies tending to their hurt, and the reproach of our holy profession and incurring Gods displeasure & judgment which stands against the pride of life and haughtiness, But sincerely to use their best endeavours to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, in Sobriety, Modesty & plainness of apparel language & conversation, as becometh our holy profession and Christian Religion.

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

## Children

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

1697  
to be put  
apprentices  
to Friends

If being under consideration how Friends Children might be Disposed of that are trained up in the way of Truth and fit to be put forth Apprentices; It is the advise & Counsel of Friends that special care be taken to put them Apprentices to honest Friends, that they may be Preserved in the Way of Truth

1700  
1701  
1703  
1704

And Parents are again Reminded to continue their Godly Care, & Exercise their just & Due Authority & Command over their Children timely to restrain them from the worlds corruptions & Extravagances both in habit & language, Behaviour & Conversation, that they may keep the Way of the Lord & walk uprightly therein.

1706

Advised to keep Children out of the vain & foolish fashions & ways of the world & in plainness of language habit & Behaviour

1709

1709  
heads of  
Families  
& Elders  
to watch  
over the  
young &c  
p. 41  
to be Dealt  
with

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

1710

1710  
Caution  
against  
Degeneracy

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

1715  
Parents  
to watch  
over chil-  
dren

1715  
Labour  
with them

p 47

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

50

## Children

## Children

1715 So be you Concerned to acquaint them how the Lord Led you from one Degree of Faithfulness to Another, in a Denial of the Worlds Corrupt ways Language & Customs, which while we in Disobedience to him walked in, we could not enjoy true Peace. But as we bore the Cross and bowed to his Will, we had an Evidence of Acceptance with him. And be Careful that none of you by a neglect herein, become Examples unto them to Depart from the Scripture Language, wherein is true Propriety of Speech.

1717

1717 As touching the Education of Friends Children for which this Meeting hath often found a Concern, We think it our Duty to recommend unto you the Necessity that there is of a Care in preserving them in plainness of speech and habit, Suitable to our Holy Profession: and also that no opportunity be omitted, nor any Endeavours wanting to Instruct them in the Principle of Truth, which we Profess; that thereby they being sensible of the Operation thereof in themselves, may find their spirits not only softened and tender'd fit to receive the Impression of the Divine Image, but may also from thence find themselves under a Necessity to appear clear in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony: And as this will be most beneficial to them, being the fruits of Conviction so it is the most effectual way of propagating the same throughout the Church of Christ: And there being times & seasons wherein their Spirits are more than at

others

## Children

1717 Others Disposed to have those things Impressed upon them; so we Desire that all Parents and others Concerned in the Oversight of Youth, might wait in the Fear of God to know themselves Divinely Qualified for that Service, that in his Wisdom they may make use of every such Opportunity, which the Lord shall put into their hands. And we hereby warn and advise Friends in all places to flee every Appearance of Evil, and keep out of Pride, and following the vain fashions and Customs of the World, as Recommended in the Epistle, 1715.

1723

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

1724

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

1725

## Children

1725

*to Labour  
for an Inher-  
itance  
in the Truth  
rather than  
in this  
World*

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

*1 Tim 6:17*

1729

Company

It ought to be the great care & Concern of Parents, as they value the welfare of their Children & posterity, and others who have youth under their Care, that they Endeavour by their Example, as well as precept, to keep them from bad Company, for many have found by bad Experience, the truth of that Saying of the Apostle, Evil Communications doth corrupt Good Manners.

— See Scriptures. p. 317.

1731

Advice to  
Parents &  
Guardians

Inasmuch as we have a Large Body of youth growing up, the Offspring of Friends, we call for our special Care & Concern, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth in which our fore-fathers walked. & in order thereto, we tenderly recommend to all Parents & Guardians, first that they take heed to themselves that their own Spirits be rightly seasoned & directed for the help & good Government of their Children.

and

1725

1731

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

monthly meetings  
to stir up  
parents to  
this duty

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

1732

See Scriptures. page. 318.

1733

## Children

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

1736

And Dear Friends, you who have children under your care or Tuition, We beseech you to Accustom them early to the Reading of the Holy Scriptures and to train them up in the way of the Cross, as soon as they are capable of receiving Impressions of good & evil, that parents be careful how they indulge them in any thing that has an evil tendency, Endeavouring to restrain them from every hurtful thing, which their Natural Inclinations may lead them to desire after, this we think is the Indispensable Duty of all Parents and we cannot see how they can answer the Omision of it in the Sight of God, for such a neglect too often occasions ill habits which afterwards are not to be restrained without great Difficulties, if at all.

Y<sup>w</sup>th En-  
treated to  
receive  
Admonition

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

1737

We therefore earnestly Entreat our Young Friends, with all readiness of mind to receive, & give place to the Labour of Love and wholesome Admonitions bestowed upon them by their Parents & others for their Benefit & Instruction; And Carefully to avoid all evil Company, which corrupts good Manners and leads into Disorders and Extravagancies; And that the Endeavours of Parents may be crowned with success, it behoveth them to enforce their advice by a Suitable Practice, and an Exemplary walking in all Holyness & Godliness of Conversation.

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

Countries

## Children

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

See Families, page, 118.

1738

It has been matter of affliction to this Meeting to understand by the Accounts received from divers Countries that notwithstanding the repeated Exhortations, and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting, to Parents & others concerned for Youth, and that ought to be properly engaged for their due Education, and the forming their tender Minds to the Exercise of Piety & Religion, yet too great Deficiency appears in that important Duty: Under a pressing concern of mind for the Revival of so necessary a care, early enjoined the Chosen people of God i.e. the Israelites, and the Concern of the Faithful in every age; We communicate this Additional Counsel, and Entreat them to consider that there Ought to be proper Limitations Assigned to their Anxiety after this World, and an hearty Engagement to seek Primarily after that Blessing that makes truly Rich, and brings no sorrow with it: The neglect of this weighty Obligation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in many Places; The Life of Religion being lost by the Parents, they have been disabled from instructing their Children, and the most excellent part of that near Relation has been entirely lost; Their minds bent to the World, and Devoted to its pursuits has centered them in the Acquisition of Earthly Possessions as their Principal & only Good

and

## Children

1703

And a Jealous Righteous God has often Punished such in themselves or Offspring as he did the people of Old Haggai, 1. Ye looked for much & so it came to little, and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it, Why? saith the Lord of Hosts; — Because of mine House that is wast, and ye run every man into his own House.

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

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

1703

Advised that all Parents be watchful over their Children <sup>causing</sup> not to suffer them to get up into Pride & Excess, but to keep them to that Decent plainesp which becomes the People of God,

*This is omitted in  
(to prop space)*

That

## Children

51

1703

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

Brought up  
to useful  
Employment

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

1774

At a Yearly meeting held at Newport on Rhody sande the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1774

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

The following Explanation of the minute 1774 is substituted in 1777

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

## Children —

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

And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of the parents are members of our Society that they Endeavour to Educate their Children agreeable to Truth as far as in their power, and not neglect to ask the Care & friend in behalf of them

# Conversation

## N<sup>o</sup> 6 Concerning Conversation.

1675

to keep to  
the Testimo-  
ny of Truth

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

1675

1676

See Covetousness, page 85.

1688

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

1691

to watch  
against  
the spirit  
of the world

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

1691

and

## Conversation

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

And See plainess, page, 223

1712 See plainess, page 225

1725

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

1731

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

*Caution  
to be care-  
ful of their  
Conversation  
at Inns  
&c*

and

## Conversation

1731 And we advise that the Quarterly Meetings in those Counties where such Meetings are held take special Care in this respect with regard to that Openness and good Disposition which appears in the minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, & some Convincement in divers places, We earnestly advise Friends, That they be careful of their Conduct at all times & on all Occasions, That no stumbling block be laid in the way of honest Enquirers nor offence given to tender young Convinced Friends, Let your Light so shine before men they may see your goods Works, & glorify your Father which is in Heaven, Let us walk wisely towards those that are without, as well as those within, Let our Moderation & Prudence, as well as Truth & Justice, appear to all men, and in all things, in trading & Commerce, in Speech & Communication, in Eating & Drinking, in Habit, and Furniture, & through all in a meek lowly Quiet spirit, That as we profess to be a spiritual minded People, We may appear to be such, as being bounded by the Cross of Christ, Shew forth the Power of that Divine Principle we make Profession of, by a Conversation every way agreeable thereto.

1734 And seeing it is very evident, that evil communications corrupt Good manners, We think proper to recommend with much affection to our young Friends that they be very careful to avoid all such Company, as that they be easily led by a light & vain Conversation would tend to alienate their minds from the love of virtue & Sobriety, for the Discourse of Fools is irksome, and their Sport is in the Wantonness of Sin, Ecclesiastes 27:13, If therefore thou be among the Indivisit, observe the time, tarry not there, but be continually among men of understanding, ver. 12.—

And See Scriptures, page, 359

1736

## Conversation

1736

Declension  
Observedand from  
whence  
it arisesethby what  
the holy  
obtained  
a good  
Report  
in all ages

The accounts we have received from some Places in this & other Countries, of the Prosperity of Truth, and of the coming forth of some among us in a publick Testimony thereunto, have been very acceptable unto us; yet it is very much grief and concern that we observe in some a Declension from the way of Righteousness & Truth, as well as from the plainness of Habit & Simplicity of speech & Behaviour, which were so conspicuous in our early Friends, & many of their offspring: — This Declension we apprehend arises from a Disregard to the Divine Light & Truth they have often been Recommended to, as the Regulator of their Hords & Actions. — By a careful Conscientious regard to this the Holy Men in all ages obtained a good report, & our Ancients & many of their immediate Offspring were comely in the Eyes of the Nation, for their sole deportment, & Religious regard to their words & Actions, a Godly Fear rested upon their minds, That the Precious Truth & Principle which they professed, & felt the blessed Effects of, might not suffer reproach from their misconduct: the like holy Concern now would tend to regulate our youth and render them more comely in the Eyes of beholders, than any External Ornaments or deckings of the Body whatsoever: this would instruct them to avoid all pride & affectation, & endue them with Humility Modesty & virtue which recommend to the favour of God, & a good esteem among men. A Religious regard to the Principle of Light & Truth, Gods Witness in the mind & heart of Man, ever produces the most Beneficial Effects, as well to Society in General as to every one in Particular. This would introduce Universal Love Peace & Concord among mankind.

This

## Conversation

63

1736

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

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

1737

## Conversation

1737

the like  
in 1731  
page 63

1737

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

See  
page 59, 61,  
62 and  
underplain  
ref p 223  
to p 229  
  
Under  
Trading  
p. 391 to  
p. 397

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

1738

1738

And forasmuch as we are called with an high & holy calling, to all Holiness & purity of conversation; Let your Behaviour among men be unblameable & Such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ; Let not the vain and foolish fashions of the World prevail over you; — avoid Sports, Plays, & all such Diversions, as tending to alienate the mind from God; and to deprive the soul of His comfortable presence & power; Be Temperate and Sober, shun all excess in eating & drinking, Let such of you as deal in spirituous liquors, be careful to limit your trade within the bounds prescribed by the law of the land; Beware lest any of you suffer as an evil doer.  
— 1. Pet 2. 14. 15.

1739

1739 The advice in 1738 renewed, and earnestly beseeched our Friends and the youth especially, to avoid all such conversations as tends to draw out their minds into the foolish & wicked pastimes with which this age abounds particularly balls, gaming places, horse races, & play houses, those nurseries of debauchery and wickedness. — the burden and grief of the sober part of other societies, as well as of our own, — Practices wholly unbecoming a people under the Christian profession, &c see the printed Epistle.

1743

See plainness page 230

## Conversation

1738

against  
vain festa-  
tions, sports  
plays  
&c  
be  
temperate  
&c

1739

1743

## Correspondents

### N<sup>o</sup> 7 Concerning Correspondents

- 1682  
see 1703  
1725  
1747
- 1693  
Friends  
to write  
to corre-  
spondents
- 1703  
who are  
proper  
members  
of the meet-  
ing for sufferings
- 1703  
see 1724
- 1709  
for foreign  
parts  
see 1730,  
p.77.
- 1682  
Agreed, that the Persons to be Corresponded  
with here, be from time to time, agreed and Directed by  
the Meeting for Sufferings in London.
- 1693  
Agreed that each Quarterly Meeting take care  
to Advise the Correspondents for the Counties, and  
any others concerned, to write only to the Correspondents  
in London, about their Sufferings and not to other Persons,  
lest their Suffering Case be Delayed.
- 1703  
This Meeting Desires the City Correspondents, Do  
write to the several places beyond sea; at Least once a  
Year.
- 1702  
Agreed after a Serious Consideration, that none  
are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings,  
But Publick Friends, and such as are appointed or  
approved by the several Quarterly Meetings of the  
Counties, and other Counties that Correspond with this  
Meeting in all Places, and are Entered as such in the  
Correspond Book.
- 1703  
After a Consideration about the Correspondents  
in London, it was agreed by this Meeting, That it was  
of Right for the Deputies of the Counties to Diminish or  
Add to their Correspondents, as they see meet.
- 1709  
It is agreed, that in the Epistles to Foreign Parts,  
Friends be acquainted of such Friends as are  
named here for them to correspond with upon  
the Affairs of Truth; and inform them how they  
may Direct to them, if the Friends there approve  
of them, Otherwise that they advise this Meeting,

who

## Correspondents

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

1713 Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to Enquire, whether the Epistles be duly sent by the Correspondents to the Foreign Plantations.

1717 Agreed, That the London Correspondents be no more than four for any one County or Place for the future, & that where the number at Present exceeds four, as soon as any of them Decline or Die, & they are reduced to four, the number in those places also shall be kept to a Number not exceeding Four.

1720 The Meeting for Sufferings is Desired to call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of their Assistance on all Recepary Occasions; wherefore the Said Meeting is Desired to acquaint them with the County for whom such Friends as instance neglecting to serve, are Appointed, that they may name or appoint some other Friends who can or will attend the Service on all Recepary Occasions.

1725 Agreed, that the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be Directed, Expressly to give Instructions, to their Deputies, who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall Nominate in the City, in the room of any Friend Deceased or Removed, or else expressly leave them to their Liberty of Choice, &

And

## Correspondents

1723 And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some Seasonable time after the Death of any of their Members meeting for Sufferings Do give notice to the County or Counties for whom the said Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such Directions, the next yearly Meeting.

1730 This meeting having had under their Consideration a Proposition made relating to persons Employed as Correspondents, some of whom have failed in the payment of their Just Debts; It is Deemed that no Person under such Circumstance is fit to be Employed in that Station, till he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to, satisfaction; And therefore hereby Recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings, That for the future they take special Care, where any such failure has or may happen, that they duly apprise the Counties thereof, for which they stand Correspondents, in order that a new Choice may be made to Supply his Place. — A Copy of this Minute to be sent down to the Several Counties, for Friends there also to act agreeable hereto with Respect to Correspondents in the Country Likewise.

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

1709 & 1713  
imp. 76)

## Correspondents

1734

attendance  
Required  
See 1720

1736

1737

1734

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

1735

A minute of the like purport

1736

attendance  
&c  
See 1737

1736

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

1737

not attending  
six times a  
year to be  
struck out

1737

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

## Correspondents

1743

See Representatives, page 303

1747

Qualifications  
to be con-  
sidered:  
See 1730  
p. 77

This Meeting having Considered the nature and Importance of the Affairs Transacted by the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Continued Necessity there is that they should be Managed by grave & weighty Friends, such as are themselves men of clear hands, and adorning the doctrine they profess in their Lives and Conversations. it is become the Earnest Desire of this Meeting that for the future, Friends every where will be Particularly careful in the choice of such who are to act as Correspondents either in the City or the Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be, of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services; And that such only may be nominated, Who are Faithful in the Several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Sithes, bearing Arms & swearing; And who are also exemplary in their Conduct and Conversation amongst men; and coming up in that plainness of Speech, Behaviour and apparel which highly becomes those in an Especial manner who are concerned in managing the Affairs of the Church.

1743

# Covetousness

No<sup>o</sup> 8 Concerning Covetousnes

1676

1676 And none strive nor covet to be rich in this world in  
not covet these changable things that will pass away, but your faith  
to be rich to stand in the Lord God, who changes not, that created  
all and gives the increase of all.

1697

beware of  
covetous-  
nesse

We do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, warn and  
charge all that profess the truth among us, to take heed  
and beware of covetousness, over-reaching, oppressing  
& defrauding of any, from whence strife contention and  
law suits do often arise, & if any difference about these  
things do happen among you, to stop & suppress it.

1699

abide un-  
der the  
Daily Cross  
yc

Let all Friends be exhorted to abide under  
the daily cross, whereby the earthly mind may be  
crucified, which hath its delight & ease in vanity, pride  
& covetousness, &c, That Friends being preserved out  
of those things wherein the enemy hath had & has his  
kingdom, and too plainly lays shares to hinder their  
holly progress may every where be more & more a reli-  
ed serious plain and self-denying people, growing  
in the grace & knowledge of God, and our Lord Jesus  
Christ and exalting his spiritual kingdom in their souls.

1720

Beware of  
covetous-  
nesse &  
hastening to  
be rich

As our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ exhorted  
and warned to beware & take heed of covetous-  
ness, which is idolatry, We are concerned that all  
professing Christianity among us, may take heed  
of pride, covetousness, & hastening to be rich in  
the world which are pernicious & growing  
evils, Let them be watched against,  
resisted and suppressed

in

86

## Covetousness

1720 in the Fear and Dread of Almighty God & have no place or Countenance in His Camp.—  
O ye Grave Elders both men and Women! Pray be Careful & Watchful Against these Evils,  
and over the Youth in these Cafes.

- 1721 The last years Caution Repeated.  
1725 See Children. page, 46.

87

## Days

N<sup>o</sup> 9 Concerning Days

1690

1690

See Children, page, 40.

1691

1691

Advised that Friends keeps to their Wonted Example and Testimony against the Superstitious Observation of Days.

1697

1697

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

1705

1705

See Plainness, page, 226.

## Defamation

No<sup>o</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Concerning Defamation

1718

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

First, The Person Defamed or Supposed to be defamed, in his own Person, or any other to whom the knowledge of the Case shall come, to go to the Accused and tell him his fault or Supposed Fault, between them alone, and by the best method he is capable of, to Labour to convince him of it in order to his acknowledgement of the Truth, & Repentance if he appears to be guilty. But if the Accused shall appear, either thro' Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro' Willfulness not to yield to it, Or being Convinced, Shall refuse to make such Satisfaction as the nature of the Case requires, that being the (Consequence of True Repentance) In such Case, the accuser to take with him one or two more, of the Monthly Meeting the accused belongs to, if it may conveniently be done; & if the accused thinks fit, he may bring with him one or two ~~to~~<sup>or two also</sup> friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting, if it may conveniently be done, & they together in the Wisdom of God, to Endeavor the true Knowledge of the Case, by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion, And if they all shall Judge him Guilty, & he doth not make Satisfaction, or if they do not all agree that he is Innocent, in either of these Cases, happening, The Person charging hath Liberty to bring the Matter before the Church, Who are the only Judges now remaining, both of the Nature of the fact, and the Validity of the Proof of it. And they in the Wisdom of God, which we hope will not be wanting to his Church, as they Humbly wait on him for it,

may bring  
the Case  
before the  
Church

## Defamation

1728 to Deal with him for the good ends before mentioned  
and as they see cause, upon a mature & deliberate  
consideration to Justify or condemn him;  
And if the Church shall see meet to commit the  
consideration of a case of this nature for better  
dispatch, to certain Persons of their own body,  
We recommend it as our tender advice, That in  
case the accused shall object against one or more  
of the Friends so chosen, that the Church have a due  
regard to such objection, and lay aside the Person or  
Persons so objected against, And substitute another  
or others in his or their room, Provided such ob-  
jection doth not extend to the major part of the  
Friends so chosen: And in General, We Desire  
all tenderness and regard may be had to a Per-  
son under such circumstances, and that Friends in  
a spirit of Love & Condescension, should be  
ready to make him as easy as they can, Provided  
they keep up the Authority of their Meeting

*if a case  
be committed  
regard is to  
be had to  
the objects  
of censure*

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

See Talebearing & Backbiting, page, 357  
to page, 359.

## Discipline

1698

Friends to be appointed to oversee & admonish &c  
Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is concerned, Faithful friends of the Respective monthly Meetings be Appointed to see how well those things be Observed and tenderly to Admonish such in Brotherly Love that Shall Decline the Same.

1701

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

1703

to watch over the Flock

the faulty to be Admonished

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

1708

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

have

1698

1703

1703

1708

## Discipline

10.

1708

such who have come under & Given a paper of Condemnation yet not to be too early received

1718

watch over one another for Good

1735

keeping up the Discipline a means of preservation

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

1718

See Defamation, page, 93, 94,

1734

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

1735

And We do further Recommend, as a means very conducive to the Preservation of Friends a People of one heart & one way, for the good of themselves & their Children after them, That the Discipline of the Church, in the several Meetings Instituted for that purpose, be kept up & managed in a spirit of Love & Wisdom, Let all things in those Meetings be done with Charity, Let the love of God in an especial Manner rule in your hearts, and therein, tho' sometimes different sentiments may arise yet will every Member have the same thing in view vizt the Glory of God & the good of his Church & People, & in this singleness of heart they will best promote the great end & services of those Meetings. We advise therefore upon this occasion that nothing be done thro' Strife and Contentions,

nor

## Discipline

1698

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

1701

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

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## Discipline

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nor

## Discipline

1735

nor from any private View, or the Influence of Numbers; but in lowliness of mind let each Esteem another better than himself. & where any Debates arise, Endeavour in a spirit of Meekness to convince one another; and as you so stand mutually Engaged in Love, your hearts will be Enlarged, & all undue warmth & discord will be gradually removed, and you will be enabled thro' Meekness, Humility, Long suffering & forbearance One of Another, to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace, always bearing in mind that Excellent caution of the Apostle, Gal. 5. 26  
 "Let us not be Desirous of vain Glory, provoking one another envying one another, knowing this that the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, against such there is no Law, and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections & lusts, if we live in the Spirit Let us also walk in the Spirit, ver. 22, 23, 24, 25.

See Appeals page, 1 to 4  
 Arbitrations p. 9 to 16  
 Families - p. 117 to 159  
 Fighting - p. 123 to 125  
 Marriage - p. 145 to 152

1741

1743

See Marriage, page, 152.  
 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 176.

1744

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

1745

See Appeals, page, 4.

## Discipline

1747

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

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

See Marriage, page, 154.

1748

See Marriage, page, 155

1749

*Report out of heats & strife*

Advised, That Friends would be very careful to avoid & beware of that Spirit which leadeth into heats & strife, & which can never work the Righteousness of God, but treat such with tenderness & affection in whom there may be a Difference of Opinion Endeavouring in the love & Meekness of Truth to convince their judgments, and patiently to wait for the healing influences of the love of God, which will produce that brotherly regard and condescension, as may unite their spirits to him and one unto another.

1750

The want of due concern to deal with such as walk inconsistently with our holy profession, and are unfaithful in respect to our Christian

Testimony

# Discipline

1750 Testimony being but too obvious, An early and  
early & Diligent care over such is Earnestly recommend-  
ed; And We desire, that all who have at heart  
the Honour of God, & the Prosperity of Truth,  
the Unfaith-  
ful Recom-  
mend-  
ed would be stirred to discharge this necessary  
part of Christian Duty in their respective Sta-  
tions, timely caution may often prevent un-  
happy Effects, and a brotherly care over such  
as are in danger of receiving hurt, may be  
Rewarded with the Secret Satisfaction of being  
made Instrumental in their Preservation.

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

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

As this neglect of steadily applying & waiting for  
Heavenly Virtue & ability to Discharge the duties required  
of us is the source of Loss & Decay to particulars with  
respect to a growth in Religion, so the same unhappy  
Effects are Communicated to the Body, and where this is  
the Case Evidently Discover themselves in Disre-  
gard to Discipline, & the want of a proper Concern for  
the Good Order of the Church.

Let

# Discipline

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

answers to  
the Queries  
plain &  
Explicit

Elders

method  
for initiate-  
ing Envine  
re persons  
into Member-  
ship

1750 The Answers to Our Queries brought in  
being plain & Explicit, have in that respect  
given this Meeting good Satisfaction, — Thereby  
affording an opportunity to this Meeting to Im-  
part the necessary Advices, Which care we Recom-  
mend to the Practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

And we Intreat the Elders amongst you Rule  
with Diligence, abide in that Power that gives Do-  
mination over all corrupt spirits, & in Meekness & Conde-  
scension seek to recover that which is strayed, that  
that when the great Shepherd shall appear, you may  
Receive Your Reward.

1760 Agreed & Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held  
in Newport on Rhode Island, that for initiating Envine  
re Persons into Membership, who have not had their  
Birth & Education amongst Friends.

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

Whereupon

## Discipline

1760

Whereupon the Monthly <sup>Meeting</sup> shall appoint some suitable Friends to Enquire into the Persons Life & Conversation & also to take a solid opportunity of Conference with the Petitioner in Order the better to understand whether their Motive for such Request be Sincere and from the Bottom of true Conviction & make report accordingly to the Monthly Meeting which is satisfactory to the Meeting, that a Minute be then made thereon signifying their Accepting such a Person into Membership with us.

But in all such cases Friends are Desired carefully to Attend to the Advice of the Apostle vizt  
Lay hands suddenly on no man

See Removals, &c page 287.

1772

1772

The following matter were concluded upon at a yearly meeting of friends held at Newport on Rhode Island in the C<sup>o</sup> 1772

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

1772

The matter of friends undertaking to join people in marriage after the manner of the world. — See Marriages page 156

## Discipline

1772

It is agreed upon at a yearly <sup>Meeting</sup> of friends held at Newport on Rhode Island of 6<sup>mo</sup> 1772

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

1770

Friends to be Laboured with in love ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> exhortation for non-attendance of meetings. — See page 194 under Meeting for Worship

What Children are Entitled to membership. See page 55

# Disputes

## N<sup>o</sup>. 12 Concerning Disputes.

1676

Shun Vain  
Disputes

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

1699

an humble  
Condenc-  
ing spirit  
Recommend  
= 20to prevent  
all occasions  
of strifeAnd crush  
all  
Differences

Because our Comfort as a People depends upon our care to Maintain Peace & Fellowship among Brethren in all, that with Godly Fear & Wisdom, & Meekness we may be so ordered in all our respective Services that every high & rough thing may be laid low & all occasions of Striving be prevented, the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved & augmented among us; And to that Purpose it is tenderly Advised, that we Diligently & Carefully Observe the Comely & Polished Gospel Order so long known, & in practice among us, in the Spirit of Meekness & of a sound Mind which is the way to crush all Differences in their fancy, & Supress the rise as well as stop the Progress of every thing that's Unseemly & Inconsistent with the Testimony of the Precious Truth.

1736

Seek Peace  
& not be  
apt to  
take offence

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

This

150

## Disputes

1736

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

151

## Epistles

N<sup>o</sup>. 13 Concerning Epistles.

1696  
to be per-  
sed before  
read in  
the yearly  
meeting

1696  
Ordered, That all Epistles directed to the  
Yearly Meeting, not already Read by the Second  
Days Morning Meeting, be perused & Considered  
by Persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting, be-  
fore they are Publickly Read in the said Meeting.

1698  
answers

1698  
Ordered, That the answers to the several fo-  
reign Epistles when <sup>drawn</sup> brought to the Second-  
Days Morning Meeting before sent, and Copies  
left there. 1701

1701

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

1709  
1713

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

1715  
to be signed  
at the monthly  
meetings &  
meetings for  
Sufferings

1715  
This Meeting Desires the Correspondents  
to make speedy Answers to the Epistles Delivered  
them, and that the same, when prepared, be brought to the  
Morning Meeting, and the Meeting for Sufferings in  
Order to be Signed.

1719  
Epistles  
from foreign  
parts

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

1719 That as often as may be, such Epistles may be Read and approved in those Meetings, and Expreped in the Epistles they have been so. The Correspondents for foreign parts to give them notice hereof.

1728 1728 Is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to besent to take care to send Epistles to all the A- to all parts American Islands & other Places abroad in where from the British or other Domenions where any are Friends are Resident.

1730 This Meeting Recommends it to the Meet-  
ing for Sufferings to take due care to see that  
for sufferings to ~~see that~~ the Correspondents for foreign  
to answer Countries Answer the several Epistles re-  
ceived from thence, and also to write  
to write to the several Distant places in the World.  
to all other Wherewithall, this Meeting hath heretofore  
places corresponded, where any Friends are,  
wherefrom altho no Notwithstanding at any time this Meet-  
Epistles 1730 may not have any account from  
be received thence either by Epistle or otherwise  
and that all such Answers allowed, be  
Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on  
behalf of this yearly Meeting.

## Families

N<sup>o</sup> 34<sup>th</sup> Concerning Visiting of Families

1708.

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

1710

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

1729

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

1731

See Children page 47.

1731

1783

## Families

1733 1733 We again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings, to take especial Care to appoint proper Prudent & Judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former Advices, vizt in the Epistles 1708 & 1729 herewith sent; and that such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love & in the Meekness of Wisdom, to Convince the Judgment of their Respective Members of the Necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Testimony, which Truth hath given our Ancients & us to bear, may be maintained Unviolated. See Meetings for Discipline 17173.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, having Received very comfortable accounts from divers Places of the good Disposition raised in the Minds of young Persons to walk in that Plainness & self-Denial which have been often Recommended by this Meeting, We earnestly Desire, that Parents & Guardians, & Friends every Where, would Watch over such, & Encourage & Cherish every thing, that may contribute to their Growth & Progress in the Ways of Truth and Holiness: and for the Strength & Encouragement of every such Well Disposed young Person, We earnestly beseech Masters & Mistresses of Families to be Exemplary, & to enforce their Advice by an agreeable Conversation or Practice and in no wise to discourage, but Encourage both their Children & Servants in that plainness of Speech & Behaviour, which the Truth Leads to.

## Families

## Fighting

No<sup>o</sup> 15 Concerning Fighting.

1693

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

1709

The foregoing advice still Recommended

1730

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

and

1730  
against  
bearing  
arms or  
fighting

## Fighting

1730 And to the Universal Love and Grace of God  
this Testimony we Desire may be Strictly and  
Carefully Maintained by a Godly care and concern  
in all to stand Single and clear therein; so shall we  
Strengthen and comfort one another.

1742 See Questions, page, 272.

1744 It having been in prepsing terms represented  
and complained of to this Meeting, that notwithstanding  
we have, as a People looked upon ourselves as well  
as the Primitive Christians to be included in that Note-  
able Prophecy, Isaiah 2: they shall beat their swords  
into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks,  
and learn war no more. Agreeable to the Doctrind of  
our Blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, and his Apo-  
stles, to which our Ancient Friends abundantly bore  
Testimony, both in Doctrine and Practice & suffered  
Deeply for, and Confirmed & Ratified by several of our  
yearly Meetings, particularly, in the year 1693, 1709 & 1739,  
by their Express Declarations & Testimonys against carry-  
ing Guns for defending our Ships Persons & Goods: and  
being under many strong Engagements to Observe  
the same, from the particular care of Providence  
over such as have been faithful to this our Tes-  
timony, particularly those of Our Friends  
In Pensilvania.

privatering  
sc

Nevertheless some Professing to be of our  
Society have of late slighted and neglected  
this our Ancient and Christian Testimony  
to that Degree, as to be concerned in Privateer-  
ing, or as Owners in Ships going with Letters  
of Marque, which is a flagrant and lamenta-  
ble Departure from our Peaceable Principle  
which hath always been to confide in the  
Protection and Providence of Almighty God  
& not in weapons of war;

which

## Fighting

1744 Which Practice of theirs may be attended with  
Injustice, Barbarity and Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this  
Sorrowful and Afflicting Case, and Breach of our An-  
cient Testimony, into our Serious Consideration,  
have thought it our Incumbent Duty, to bear our Tes-  
timony against such Practises: And 'tis the unanimous  
Sense of this Meeting, That all Quarterly and Monthly  
Meetings ought speedily to deal with every Person  
found in the Practice of such things, in the spirit  
of Truth and Love, in Order to bring them to a sense  
of their Error, and to reclaim them from it;  
which if they cannot do, then to Testifie against  
them, and let them know we have no Unity  
or Fellowship with them.

and See Questions, page, 273.