

mersville, (now Athens), Leeds county, where there was a large and influential membership for years and a substantial and well attended meeting house or more. If any exist there now, the number has become very few.

In Adolphustown to-day there is probably not one person left who considers himself in active membership with the Society. It seems somewhat sad that a body once so numerous, influential and respected, with principles so good, and maintaining such a high standard of morality and honor, should have thus dwindled down. Let others moralize over the reasons. The descendants are mostly now exemplary members of other denominations, holding the principles and practices of their forefathers in high respect and esteem.

There are yet good societies at Pickering, Yonge street, north of Toronto, in Oxford county and elsewhere, but in the Bay of Quinte district, of which these notes treat, there appear to be few members remaining, outside of Bloomfield.

#### FIRST MEETING HOUSE.

The first Quaker meeting house built in Upper Canada was at Adolphustown, on the south shore of Hay Bay, about a mile west of the first Methodist church erected in the province. The remains of both these historic old buildings are yet standing, though neither has been used as a place of worship for many years. Here are some references to it in the original minutes:

"At the Preparative Meeting held 24th day of 19th month, 1798, the written Epistle from London being presented and read to good satisfaction, and also the Epistle from Philadelphia handed to this meeting and read to satisfaction. The friends appointed to the consideration of building a Meeting House report, that having taken the matter into consideration do unite in proposing to commence building a house twenty-five by thirty feet with eighteen feet posts. After solid consideration thereon, this meeting concurs therewith and appoints James Nexon, Aaron Brewer and John Dorland to consider upon a spot of ground suitable to set a house, and inquire into the price of the land."

On the 28th of 11th month a report was made, recommending one acre and a half on the farm of John Dorland,

the price to be four pounds. In 1799, 27th day of 11th month, a committee was appointed to superintend the construction of the building, and in 1800, James Nexon and John Dorland were named to have oversight of the burying ground," and to admit such persons to inter their dead there as are willing to conform to the good order used among Friends."

That "God's Acre" was used for years by members of the Society, but few others. To this day some descendants of the old families are being laid beside their kindred. It has been kept in fairly good repair. There are but few headstones left remaining now legible; among them are the names of representatives of four generations of John Dorland's family, some of the Barkers, Ingersolls, Clapps, Haight's, Caseys, Weeks, and some others, whose names and memories were long revered. It is perhaps the most historic Quaker burying ground in the province.

#### MATTERS OF DISCIPLINE.

We cannot read these early minutes without being impressed how strict were the Quaker Societies about the "walk and conversation" of their members. What a change it would make in some religious bodies were there as strict enquiries and reports made in regard to the conduct of each member! Here is a sample of the answers sent to the Monthly Meeting. Such reports were made at least once each year. That was in 1798:

"1. Friends appear generally careful in attending meeting. The hour nearly observed; as clear in other parts of the Query, as far as appears.

2. It is believed that a good degree of love and unity subsists amongst us.

3. It is believed that Friends are in a good degree careful on these accounts.

4. We believe there is a good degree of care with Friends to keep themselves and others under their tuition in plainness of speech, behavior, and apparel, and to guard against the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors, clearing of frequency of taverns, and attending places of diversion.

5. We believe there is a good degree of care with Friends in reading the scriptures, and to guard against reading pernicious books.

6. It does not appear that there is