

At one o'clock on the Fifth-day preceeding Yearly Meeting,—the school having been dismissed at noon—the carpenters come to take up desks and seats. The furniture of ten school-rooms is removed and piled high on very little floor space. Women, with brooms and scrub-brushes follow close upon the men who have removed the desks. A hired force of three men and ten women, directed and assisted by a few members of the committee, work all the afternoon.

The next morning the cots are brought out of the store rooms and set up, and the female members of the committee proceed to the making up of beds. The bedding has been previously taken out and spread about in the Meeting House for airing.

Clothes lines are strung up, curtains are hung to allow ventilation without draughts, mirrors, candlesticks, and various toilet articles are distributed, notices are posted, and the guests begin to arrive. About 40 of the 192 cots that are set up are in the rooms for men. Each bed is tagged with the name of the Friend to whom it has been assigned. All the while preparations for the work of feeding the multitudes, have been going on in the basement. The sweeping and scrubbing there are followed by the setting up of tables, the establishment of the cook in his department and the laundress in her's.

The number of people who get breakfast on the premises, is from 175 to 200, and is practically that of those who lodge on the premises. For dinner there are sometimes over 600 guests. As the dining room seats less than two hundred, each place must be used three or four times, and there is plenty of work for the young people who volunteer to wait upon table.

Quite as much work is needed again to pack away the beds and bedding and restore the conditions necessary for the resumption of school work after the meetings are over. When the weather

is warm and the working members of the committees are tired and hot, the questions is sometimes raised, whether it all pays. It is a question that cannot be generally answered. It pays the committee if it pays the guests. It pays the meeting if the visiting Friends bring or take away inspiration for the year's work.

---

Friends, of all people, should be free from the bonds of precedent, and equally free to follow precedent when convenience is subserved and no principle is involved. The earliest Friends had neither precedent nor Discipline to follow, they had only the Inner Light. The latest Friends, it would sometimes seem, forget, in their eagerness to adhere to the letter of the Discipline and the established order of the Society, that they, too, have an Inner Light.

---

A society founded upon the doctrine of the Inner Light, and formulating a creed for all its members to accept is an absurdity. A society teaching the all-sufficiency of the Inner Light in matters of business as well as in worship, and insisting upon certain rules of procedure in its meetings, is also an absurdity. The Society of Friends may, for the information of enquirers, issue a statement of the opinions that prevail among its members; it may adopt for convenience an order of procedure in the conduct of its business. It may not, consistently, require any member to accept the belief of the majority, nor any Meeting to follow the letter of the Discipline. The Discipline, like many other good things, is an excellent servant but a poor master. It is as unlike a state constitution as love and forbearance are unlike physical force and compulsion.

---

In one of our First-day School Meetings, it was said that when New York Friends proposed to start a First-day School at Manasquan, someone