

and well worthy of repetition. The reading of each paper was followed by a general discussion, in which many good thoughts were advanced. After a short silence, the Meeting adjourned to meet 2nd mo. 25th.

M. W. F. MOON, Sec.

For YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

THOUGHTS ON THE ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS.

The hearing in our Meeting of the paper on our first query, by Edward Coale, and the subsequent reading in the REVIEW of the same, has re-awakened thoughts on the attendance of our Meetings, expressed several years ago, but which seem to apply with as much fitness to existing conditions to-day as when first penned; therefore I feel free to offer them. The paper above alluded to is very plain concerning the reality and character of the God all Christians profess to worship, also what public worship is; but in regard to the attendance of our Meetings for this purpose I wish to append these further thoughts.

Complaint is sometimes made, and with reason, of our small meetings. We know, that in outward nature, we see no effect without a producing cause; will not this rule hold equally good in relation to moral and spiritual matters? If so, there must be a reason for this condition. Now, to ascertain what causes are at work, either within or without the pale of our own Society, to produce this effect, to find out a remedy, and be able successfully to administer this remedy, should be the desire of every rightly concerned Friend. It is very evident that Friends' principles are spreading throughout the world; we can no longer claim as our exclusive doctrine the direct revelation of God's will to man (albeit it might have been claimed in the time of George Fox, and for generations following), since now professors of so many other denominations believe it, and their pastors publicly declare their faith in

the same. Our own members have not lost their belief in it, yet our organized meetings are fast dwindling in size in some places, while in others they are entirely extinct. To be a Society, we must have a working organization, but that we *must not* have without members, and those members willing to attend, and ready to work when in attendance. Now the question arises, what is the cause for this state? Is it in the principle professed; in the nature of the organization, or in the individual members? No Friend will presume to call in question the high character of those great truths, that enabled George Fox and his noble compeers to emerge from the bonds of priestcraft, and proclaim to the people a higher type of religion than had been preached since the days when Jesus and His apostles taught it in its purity. Though our organization is not perfection, being the production of humanity, which is ever prone to make mistakes, it will take a bolder pen than mine to attack it; neither would I dare asperse individual motives or character; but that there is fault *somewhere*, is plainly evident. True, there are extraneous causes, such as death, removal, etc., that must not be ignored, but these are not sufficient to account for all these deficiencies.

It was said by highest authority, that where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, there will His presence indeed be felt, and we need not multiply evidence to prove the truth of the assertion, but the two or three, though feeling the power of this presence and dwelling under its influence, can not transact the business that necessarily arises in an organized body; then, where would be our meetings for discipline? If, in attending meetings for worship, we become partakers of that spiritual food which nourishes the soul to eternal life, think you we would willingly absent ourselves from these gatherings? Would we not rather flock to them in such numbers, that our houses would have to be enlarged? Instead of so many