

to the nearness we imitate Him in our course and conduct, seeking for, and relying upon the same Christ power will be our ideal of true justice. It is said that William Penn, growing uneasy about the wearing of his sword, was advised by George Fox to wear it as long as he could ; but bear in mind William Penn was, at that time, desirous of conforming to the Divine will ; he was earnestly seeking the light, and in due time his duty was made clear. So, to judge of Christian justice, there must be a prayerful searching for light, and a willingness to conform to the leadings of that revealed light. He who judges alone from intellectual ability cannot reach this high standard. Jesus, being perfect in obedience, and teaching only by Divine authority, his words are a safe guide for conduct. He said, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." To my mind there is no safer rule for mankind in general by which our dealings with each other can be governed than this saying of the blessed Jesus. It is complete and comprehensive, yet so simple and plain that all may fully understand, from young childhood to old age, regardless of sex, sect, race, education or social position. Could this condition prevail, the great question of capital and labor would be forever settled. Capital would adjust itself to the needs of labor, while labor's motive would be to advance the interests of capital. No more concern about military tactics ; for our armies of soldiers, policemen and guards would soon be disbanded and swallowed up in the peaceable pursuits and business avocations developed in this new way, this highway of holiness—the dawning of the millennium.

In conclusion, I wish to call attention to the last clause of the query—in substance : "Is due care extended to the erring ?" Many Friends realize the delicacy of this duty, devolving in a great measure according to rules and past customs, upon our overseers and

ministers, but not necessarily so. Oftentimes a private member, acting under Divine guidance, is enabled to accomplish more than one officially authorized. There are certain inexplicable characteristics peculiar to individuals, the tendency of which is a mutual attraction. The concerned, consecrated member realizing this vantage ground, if willingly submissive, will no doubt hear the call to plead with the wanderer, which call, if heeded, and the labor entered upon in the spirit of love, the light of Christ, the wisdom of God, will result in good. I believe there has been times in the past when overseers were too zealous in the performance of what they conceived to be their official duties, and in this day of liberalism may there not be danger of going to the other extreme ? Unless there be a good degree of consistent living among our members, I verily believe there will be a scattering of our fold, a decreasing in our numbers and influence equal to former conservatism and disciplinarian rigidity. Aside from the responsibility of the whole membership in rightly reproving the erring, encouraging the timid, and aiding the seeker, I conclude that there must be in the selection of overseers the deepest concern. The Committee selected to nominate persons for this office should be concerned Christians who are willing to lay aside all personal friendship and social preference, study the duties incumbent upon the office, and weightily consider the individual characters of those proposed, that it may be determined, if possible, whether the duties and the characters harmonize. The idea of placing in official position of any kind a person unfitted for the duties of that position in the hope that the office will raise or suit the individual to its requirements, I believe, as a rule, to be detrimental to the best interests of the Society or organization the office represents.

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