

sections, without any concert of action. Consequently, many have been disappointed in the character of their land, and have made for themselves isolated homes, far away from any Friendly Association. It is thought that when this period of depression is over that emigration will again begin, and, with this in view, a concern arose in the Yearly Meeting last year, that an effort be made to aid by information and suggestion, those who contemplate seeking new homes, and that they should be encouraged to go in colonies in order to have better social and religious advantages. This resulted in a committee being appointed to make investigation and report this year. The committee had visited parts of Idaho, Utah, Eastern Oregon and New Mexico, travelling in all some 8,000 miles, and made a most interesting report upon the comparative merits of the localities visited.

After the business of the Yearly Meeting was finished on Fifth-day afternoon, an hour and a half was given to a devotional meeting, in which free expression was given to our appreciation of the kind and cordial hospitality with which we had been entertained, and the voices of many were raised in praise and thanksgiving for the privilege of having thus mingled with Friends from distant sections, all having a common interest and bound together in loving fellowships. Farewells were said, and we departed to our widely separated homes in the far east and west, bearing with us many pleasant and tender memories. C.

### THE FRIENDS AT CLEAR CREEK.

From Friends' Intelligencer and Journal.

The Friends at Clear Creek, Illinois, live, as was previously mentioned, in quite a compact group. The road running by the meeting-house is sometimes called Quaker Lane, and the neighborhood is very commonly known as the Quaker Settlement.

The region here is level prairie, the soil rich, and from fifteen inches to three feet deep. It is commonly underlain by a stratum of porous clay, from which many tile, to drain "sloughs," and also to drain the roadside have been made. The Clear Creek neighborhood is part of the Oxbow Prairie, a well-known local designation, so called, I believe, from the belt of native woodland, the "timber," which extends in a semi-circle, something like an oxbow, on the southern side, partially enclosing the settlement. This timber grows on clay land, and lies along the streams; it is much like our woods of eastern Pennsylvania, containing oaks and other hardwood trees.

The Clear Creek Friends are farmers, practically without exception. They have experienced, of course, the serious depression of agriculture, because their products have been sold at very low prices, but they have been less seriously affected, I should say, than many farmers elsewhere. Their main crop is corn, which seldom fails to yield well. This year the crop is good, and at the time of our visit was practically "made," so that frosts could do it little damage. There is practically no wheat raised here; it is apt to freeze out in the winter and early spring. There has been a great deal of old corn carried over, and we saw loads of it on the way to the railroad towns, for sale at the prevailing better prices. The corn is usually not cut off, as is the custom in the East, but the ears are husked on the stalks, and hauled away, and the fodder left standing for the cattle to eat at pleasure during the fall and winter. Anything left by them is plowed down in the spring, and goes to fertilization. Oats is raised extensively, and does well; great stacks of the straw are to be seen now in the fields, and like the corn-fodder will be mostly consumed before spring by the horses and cattle. Clover is much grown, and two good crops in a season are expected; usually the second crop is cut well-ripened for seed, which makes a pro-