

tention of Friends is gradually fixing more and more closely, on the excellence of the several testimonies which we are required to bear; and we are persuaded that, were our members universally more loosened in their affections from the profits and the friendships of the world, the standard of Truth would be more conspicuously and availingly displayed.

Let us consider, Brethern, what is the cause of our dissent from the prevailing opinions and practices of the age. Is it that we must surely believe that our faith is more consistent with the evangelical purity of the primitive times; and our manners less liable to promote an attachment to a world that passeth away? How then shall we set the candle that hath been thus mercifully lighted in any of us, under the bed or the bushel; giving up any part of our testimony, be it ever so small, for the sake of ease, or of outward advantage?

The beloved Apostle declared that "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." A manifestation of this divine light, in infinite mercy, is given to every man to lead him out of the misery of fallen nature, unto the Eternal Fountain of Life and Light. In every heart, and in every society of people, in which place is given to any kind of unrighteousness, an eclipse of the light necessarily follows as far as the compliance with evil extends; and, if this state be continued in, spiritual death must ensue. Wherefore, brethern, in your conduct as individuals, and in the part which ye take in the exercise of the discipline established amongst us, be ye animated to resist every appearance of evil; remembering that, as our Heavenly Father cannot unite with darkness, so neither must those unite with it, who desire to attain fellowship with Him; in which fellowship our happiness consisteth both in time and in eternity.

In these times of worldly commotion, the concern still remains with us, that our brethern may be preserved from

joining any things, that immediately or remotely conduces to promote it. And, although of late we have, from year to year, testified our desire that Friends may take no part in that which genders strife; we still fear all are not sufficiently cautious, or sensible of the advantage of mixing as little as possible with the fluctuating politics of the times. For, truly, were all concerned to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, the mind would be preserved on its proper centre; and to mix with the multitude, in their pursuit of the favorite object of any party, would be dreaded rather than desired.

Respecting the slave trade, though we have no good tidings to proclaim, we feel unwilling to pass it over in silence. As a body, we have been among the foremost to expose its turpitude; and, although it doth not appear at present to be our duty to take any public step as the advocates of this degraded class of our fellow creatures, we continue to view the commerce with unremitting abhorrence: and we much desire that no one, once touched with a sense of their complicated woe, may suffer its being thus dreadfully protracted, to efface the impression from his memory, or sympathy from his heart.

This meeting hath been very large, and our minds have been much exercised in a travail for the cause of Truth. O, Friends of every description, how would ye contribute, not only to your own peace as individuals, but to render our assemblies, under the sanction of the Master, seasons of rejoicing, were ye all to be engaged in earnest, each one for himself, to do away the hurtful and hindering things, which, ye must be sensible, are yet to be found within our borders!

Finally, dear Friends, remembering the apostolic declaration, "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." Strive therefore to become such, by obedience to his holy law. It hath been our uniform and constant