

ness of Friends' testimony herein, though some in the different meetings appear entangled by apprehensions of a necessity to continue a traffic in this pernicious article. One report expressing that, upon the whole, it does not appear that the concern has gained ground since last year."

1793.—Report was made that committees in some of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings have visited such professing with us, who are in the practice of dealing in or promoting the unnecessary use of distilled spirituous liquors, some of whom have declined the business, and others acknowledge the righteousness of our testimony, yet greater readiness to relinquish the prospect of gain thro' that channel is still wanting in some. and three of the quarters intimate that they do not apprehend Friends' testimony has gained ground the last year."

A committee appointed to consider the subject made the following report, which being solidly attended to, the same was with much unanimity united with :

"We, the committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of distilled spirituous liquors, having met and weightily deliberated thereon, as also examined former minutes of the Yearly Meeting on the subject, agree to report: That it is our united sense and judgment, it would be expedient for the Yearly Meeting to recommend to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to continue their cares in a strict observance of the advices handed down by minutes of 1777 and 1788, and if any should reject the advice of their Friends by continuing the practice of importing or vending distilled spirituous liquors, either on their own account or as agents for others, or distil or retail such liquors, or sell or grind grain for the use of distillation, that such should not be employed in any services in the church; nor their contributions received for the use thereof, and a clear and explicit account of the state of their members, with the care of meet-

ings to such herein be sent up next year. And we further propose, if any should distil spirits out of grain, or retail such liquors, that Monthly Meetings should deal with them as with other offenders, and if they cannot be prevailed upon to desist from such a practice, be at liberty to declare their disunity with them."

1801.—"The subject of spirituous liquors has obtained solid attention and regard in the several meetings, from the accounts whereof it appears that there are fifteen members engaged in distillation, fifty that deal in or retail this article, and several others who frequently use it in the time of harvest or otherwise; several of the Quarters mention that some of their members are concerned in the practice, but do not specify the number, and there are also divers who have their fruit of cider converted into spirits. To nearly all those whose conduct has given occasion of concern and pain on this account, visits have been made and brotherly endeavors used to dissuade them from a practice so repugnant to the advice of the body and their own religious benefit; and tho' a degree of comfort is derived from a prospect of amendment in some places, a few seeming desirous of becoming disentangled from the business, yet, in general, little real advancement in this testimony has been made since last year."

From these extracts, which I have gleaned from articles in *Friends Review* (Philadelphia), we may see that though Friends began early in their testimony against the evils of intoxicating liquors the work towards prohibition was slow. However, within the memory of most of us here there has seldom come to our notice a member of our Society addicted to its use. We may say of the progress of the reform in this line within our Society, as Whittier said in reference to the abolition of slavery in our Society, "there is a perennial value in the example exhibited of the power of truth, urged patiently and in earnest love, to overcome the