

Burlington Monthly Meeting made the following minute :

"It is desired that Friends would consider the matter, as touching the selling of rum unto the Indians [whether it] be lawful at all, for Friends professing Truth to be concerned in it."

In 1685 the Yearly Meeting made this record :

"This meeting doth unanimously agree, and give as their judgment, that it is not consistent with the honor of Truth, for any that make profession thereof, to sell rum or other strong liquors to the Indians, because they use them not to moderation, but to excess and drunkenness."

Another Yearly Meeting minute dated 1687 is very striking :

"The practice of selling rum, or other strong liquors, to the Indians, either directly or indirectly, or exchanging rum or other strong liquors for any goods or merchandise with them, considering the abuse they make of it, is a thing contrary to the mind of the Lord, and a great grief and burden to His people, and a great reflection and dishonor to the truth, so far as any professing it are concerned ; and, for the more effectual preventing this evil practice, as aforesaid, we advise that this our testimony be entered in every Monthly Meeting book, and every Friend belonging to said meeting to subscribe the same."

Michener, in his "Retrospect of Early Quakerism," tells us that "Middletown Monthly Meeting has a minute of this kind, signed by forty-nine members. Perhaps the earliest instance of a temperance pledge on record" In 1709 the Yearly Meeting

"Advised that none accustom themselves to vain and idle company, sipping and tipping of drams and strong drink, in inns or elsewhere."

In 1721 the Yearly Meeting refers in a minute to the fact that "peoples being hurt and disguised by strong drink seems to be a prevailing evil."

In 1738

"The proposal of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, respecting the great number of public houses, being considered, it is recommended (by the Yearly Meeting) to such Friends of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings belonging to this meeting as are magistrates, that they use their endeavors to lessen the number of persons recommended for that service ; and that Friends be careful not to sign petitions to recommend any but such as are proper persons, or where there is a real necessity."

In 1788 a committee of the Yearly Meeting recommended

"That the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings be excited and enjoined early to appoint committees, unitedly to proceed in visiting and treating with our members, individually, who are concerned in importing spirituous liquors from the West India Islands or other places ; . . . and those who purchase and retail such liquors in greater or less quantities ; as also those members who are concerned in the distillation of these liquors from grain or other produce, either in their own families, or encouraging or promoting it in others."

The same committee deemed it expedient to caution Friends as to excess in the medicinal use of spirituous liquors. That it was not spirituous liquors only which caused concern about this time is shown by the public acknowledgment of a member of New Garden Monthly Meeting, that "I, the subscriber, was so unguarded some time ago as to drink cider in public company, to my hurt, and to the reproach of the profession I make."

1792.—"The concern of the body respecting the distillation, dealing in and use of spirituous liquors, appears to have been attended to in the several quarters, and labor extended occasionally by committees of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, some of the reports being expressive of a degree of encouraging prospects, most of those visited acknowledging the righteous-