

MINUTES  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS

OF  
Genesee Yearly Meeting  
OF FRIENDS

HELD AT  
SPARTA, ONTARIO.

6th Month, 1896.

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STRATHROY, ONT.:  
EVANS BROTHERS, PRINTERS.

1896.

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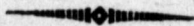
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MINUTES  
—OF—  
Genesee Yearly Meeting  
OF FRIENDS.

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*At Genesee Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Sparta, Ontario, by adjournments from the 15th of the 6th Month to the 18th of the same, inclusive, 1896.*

By the written reports received from our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings, it appears that the following named Friends have been appointed Representatives to this meeting, viz.:

*From Farmington.*

Sarah K. Shelden,	Phebe F. Lawrence.
Sarah A. Greene,	Mary T. Freeman,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	William Greene,
Phebe Jane Noxon,	Charlotte W. Cox.

*From Scipio.*

Mary E. Hoxie,	Hannah H. Howland,
Mary E. Searing,	Dorinda Hoxie,
Wm. P. Giles.	



*From Canada.*

Elisha W. Talcott,  
William Armitage,  
Ruth C. Wilson,

Maggie J. Brown,  
William G. Brown,  
Parmelia K. Armitage,

Isaac Wilson.

*From Pelham.*

Catherine T. Ward,  
James Zavitz,  
Edward G. Schooley,  
Richard W. Brown,  
Alfred Wilson,

Amelia R. Page,  
Amy Bitner,  
Edgar Haight,  
John Muma,  
Arnold Zavitz.

On calling their names, all were present, except three from Farmington, four from Scipio, one from Canada, and three from Pelham.

Satisfactory reasons were given for the absence of two from Farmington, and two from Scipio.

Minutes of Unity for Friends in attendance from other Yearly Meetings were read as follows, viz. :

For Joel Borton, a Minister, and Mary E. Borton, his wife, and companion, a member, from Pilesgrove Monthly Meeting, and endorsed by Salem Quarterly Meeting, N. J.

Their company is very acceptable to us, also that of some present without minutes from other Yearly Meetings.

To essay replies to the Epistles received from other Yearly Meetings, and present at a future sitting of this meeting, the following Friends were appointed, viz. :

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Serena A. Minard,  
Arletta Cutler,  
Rebecca Zavitz,  
Ella Zavitz,

Samuel P. Zavitz,  
Wm. G. Brown,  
Edward G. Schooley,  
Augusta Schooley.

To collect, compile, and present at a future sitting such of the exercises of this meeting as way may open for, the following Committee was appointed, viz:

Joseph Fritts,  
Alberta Wilson,  
William Armitage,  
Frank Schooley,

Sarah A. Greene,  
Caroline V. Cutler,  
Ethel M. Cutler,  
Louisa Pound.

Joint Epistles have been received from Baltimore, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Yearly Meetings; also an Epistle from Women's Branch of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and those from Baltimore, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and the Epistle from Women's Branch of Philadelphia Y. M. read at this time.

To audit the Treasurer's accounts, report what sum, if any, it may be necessary to raise the present year, and propose the name of a Friend for Treasurer, the following Friends were appointed, viz.:

William Greene,  
Mary E. Hoxie,  
Parmelia K. Armitage,  
Ida Zavitz.

Phebe F. Lawrence,  
Elisha W. Talcott,  
Reuben Haight,

The time for which the Committee on Philanthropic Labor was appointed, expiring this year, the meeting appoints the following named Friends to consider and propose



the names of Friends to constitute said Committee, and report at a future sitting of this meeting, viz.:

Wm Penn Clothier,	Sarah A. Greene,
Mary E. Hoxie,	Isaac Wilson,
Parmelia K. Armitage,	Rebecca Schooley,
Jonah D. Zavitz.	

Our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings report their respective proportions of money called for by this meeting last year, raised and paid as directed.

The Committee to have the care of printing 800 copies of the minutes of this meeting and the First-day School Association last year, and distributing them among our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, report the expense to have been as follows: For printing, \$57.20; express charges, \$3.35; total, \$60.55. Which amount has been paid by the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting.

The report, being read, was approved by the meeting.

The Representatives are requested to remain at the close of this sitting to consider of and propose, at the opening of our next session, the names of Friends to serve this Meeting as Clerks for the ensuing year.

The Meeting then adjourned to the 11th hour to-morrow morning.

*Third of the week and sixteenth of the month.*

At about the time adjourned to, the Meeting convened.

Edward G. Schooley, on behalf of the Representatives, reported that they had conferred together and were united

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in proposing the names of Samuel P. Zavitz and Arletta Cutler for Clerks for the ensuing year. The names proposed being separately considered were united with and they appointed to that service for one year.

The Epistle of Men's Branch of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and that received from Illinois, were now read.

The reading of the Epistles from our kindred Yearly Meetings have been very comforting and encouraging to us, inspiring us, by the love and life they contained, to a higher and nobler endeavor in the broader field of labor opening up to our branch of the Christian Church.

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the State of Society as exhibited by the answers to the queries, received from our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, the following summaries of which were directed to be recorded as descriptive of our present state.

Ans. 1. Most Friends are diligent in the attendance of our meetings on First-days, mid-week meetings not so well attended; some improvement in their attendance of late, noted by one meeting; the hour nearly observed; no unbecoming behavior to remark, except one report says "some instances of sleeping and some care taken."

Ans. 2. Love and fellowship are maintained as becomes our Christian profession, except a slight abatement on the part of one Meeting. When differences have arisen care has been taken to end them,—tale-bearing and detraction avoided and discouraged as far as appears.

Ans. 3. As far as we know, Friends are clear of the use

of intoxicating liquors as a beverage ; they are thoughtful to extend a proper influence toward total abstinence in their neighborhoods, and give help and encouragement to the intemperate for their reformation, and avoid attending places of diversion of demoralizing tendencies, except one report says, "With *some*, more care respecting attending places of diversion seems desirable."

Ans. 4. We are not aware of any neglect in regard to the requirements of this query.

Ans. 5. With a few exceptions, our members maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a free gospel ministry, resting upon Divine qualification alone ; also, against war, oaths, and all forms of oppression, and one meeting says, "some care taken in the deficiencies noted."

Ans. 6. We believe our members are mostly careful to observe the several requirements of this query. Admonition and advice have been extended.

Ans. 7. Care has been taken in most cases to labor seasonably with delinquents in the spirit of meekness, and with the object queried after.

Ans. 8. They are.

The committee appointed to propose names of Friends for a Standing Committee on Philanthropic work presented the following, which being considered and united with, they are appointed to the service for three years.

Jonathan D. Noxon,  
Mary P. Blaker,

Arletta Cutler,  
Beulah A. Muma,

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John  
Hugh  
Amy  
Edgar  
Mary  
Georg



Mary T. Freeman,  
 William Green,  
 Oscar B. Gardner,  
 Samuel Searing,  
 Amelia G. Searing,  
 Jane E. Iden,  
 Mary E. Hoxie,  
 William Penn Clothier,  
 Granville H. Haight,  
 Edward G. Schooley,  
 Maria E. Haight,  
 Frank A. Schooley,  
 Augusta L. Schooley,  
 Robert Graham,  
 Emma G. Schooley,  
 Bessie G. Haight,  
 Arnold G. Schooley,  
 Edgar Haight,  
 Louisa R. Pound,  
 Henry H. Way,  
 Arnold Zavitz,  
 Anna L. C. Brown,  
 Ethel M. Cutler,  
 John Sitter,  
 Hugh N. Brown,  
 Amy Atkin,  
 Edgar M. Zavitz,  
 Mary B. Willson,  
 Georgia Zavitz,

Phebe C. Zavitz,  
 John E. Bycraft,  
 Ella Zavitz,  
 Ida C. Zavitz,  
 James W. Talcott,  
 Gideon V. Christy,  
 Charlotte C. Talcott,  
 Lydia R. Richards,  
 George Phillips,  
 William G. Brown,  
 Alberta Webster,  
 Milton Brown,  
 Caroline Austin,  
 Freeman Talcott,  
 Alma Watson,  
 Wilmot Watson,  
 Charles Wilson,  
 James Widdifield,  
 Fred. C. Brown,  
 Minnie E. Brown,  
 Stephen W. Armitage,  
 William Dennis,  
 Eliza Pearson,  
 Amelia Hughes,  
 Eli Armitage,  
 Alma Dennis,  
 Elva Watson,  
 Paulina Brown,  
 Rebecca Watson,

Names subsequently added by Yearly Meeting :

Chester J. Hampton,	Isaac Wilson,
Samuel F. Zavitz,	Rebecca Schooley,
Serena A. Minard.	

Then adjourned to meet on 5th day morning at 11 o'clock.

*Fifth of the week and eighteenth of the month.*

At near the time adjourned to Friends again assembled.

The minutes of the Representative Committee were now read, and its proceedings for the past year approved.

The recommendation of the Committee for our Yearly Meeting to procure 100 copies of J. J. Cornell's recent publication, "*The Principles of the Society of Friends*," was approved. Jonathan D. Noxon is appointed to procure the same, have them distributed to our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, and call upon the Treasurer for the expense, and report.

The meeting approved of the recommendation of the Representative Committee to memorialize the Parliament of Canada in regard to some of the Principles of Friends as follows :

*To the Governor-General-in-Council, the Parliament and the Senate of Canada :*

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Sparta, Ont., in session assembled this 18th day of the sixth month, 1896, desires to greet you in the name of

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a common Christianity, and to acknowledge the blessings of all good and impartial government enjoyed under Divine Providence in this fair Dominion. While rejoicing also at the general diffusion of knowledge, we nevertheless deplore the follies and injustice of selfish men and classes; the tendency under democratic institutions to yield to the exigencies of mere partizanship, and to pander to ends inimical to equal privileges and subversive of public morals. The political and social life of our country impels us, we feel, to emphasize the tremendous responsibility upon public men as leaders and as examples of fearless integrity and a broad patriotism. Being members of a Society which recognizes in its primal doctrine the universality of the Divine Immanence, and consequently a broad view of individual enfranchisement, we would urge in behalf of the stability and unity of the Dominion, that individual pursuit and individual conviction, consistent with the common good, be strongly encouraged and boldly maintained in Parliament, as the sacred heritage of a liberty-loving people; that self reliance, integrity, and peaceful methods receive the fostering care of Government quite as much as trade and commerce. Our religious Society having practised, for more than 200 years, the settlement of all differences by peaceful methods, we regard with much satisfaction the timely expression of Parliament in favor of international arbitration. With gratitude we note a wide-spread conviction that in the English-speaking world, at least, there should be blotted out forever the unchristian and execrable practice of war. We desire that legislation shall keep in view continually not only high purposes of the Dominion but of the Empire, and in Anglo-Saxon unity, the excellency of whose moral force



the world will not be able to withstand. In harmony with this spirit we would ask Government to discourage military appropriations, and militarism itself, as opposed in its nature to higher and progressive citizenship.

We further desire that the citizenship of this country be relieved from legalizing the sacrifice of human life for any cause whatsoever. Believing it wantonly wrong for one man to take the life of another, we cannot understand that the offence is mitigated by two men, or two hundred men, or an entire community in the name of law and justice, doing so. We believe the individual standard should be the national standard. We can find no Christian nor moral ground in support of capital punishment. Expediency and extermination to us are indicative of the impotency of state, and unbecoming a Christian community. We would not withhold punishment that is of any value, nor allow the freedom of citizenship without good cause; but urge in the case of murder, as in all other crime, that restitution, so far as possible, to the injured, and the reformation, not the destruction of the criminal, be the chief aim of justice in the infliction of punishment.

Further, we desire the early and earnest attention of Parliament turned to that great *source* of misery and *crime*, which it inconsistently legalizes, namely, the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquor, the fruits of which in this country are a constant menace to and drain upon legitimate institutions, life, and citizenship.

We also desire that an affirmation or declaration be taken in every case where an oath by law is now required, and for the following reasons :

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*First.* An irreverence towards Scripture and Truth, to which the frequent careless and formal use of the oath leads.

*Second.* The false and superstitious idea which it tends to create, namely, that men are not responsible to their Creator and to society, except when His particular attention is called to witness in an oath. It recognizes as the motive to speak truth the fear of future torment, which fear is of very doubtful virtue. We believe, men almost entirely speak the truth because of the spirit of right and justice, and occasionally from the legal consequences of perjury.

*Third.* The respect which a Christian Government and a Christian people ought to have for the Scriptures, and for the admonition of the Founder of Christianity, who said :

“Swear not at all : neither by heaven ; for it is God’s throne :

“Nor by the earth ; for it is his footstool : neither by Jerusalem ; for it is the city of the great King.

“Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

“But let your communication be, Yea, yea ; Nay, nay ; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”

*Fourth.* Inasmuch as the declaration has already taken the place largely of the affidavit, it does not appear why it may not find complete acceptance.

Isaac Wilson, Wm. G. Brown, Granville H. Haight, S. P. Zavitz, and Serena A. Minard, were appointed to have the Memorial presented to the proper authorities as they deem best, and call upon the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting for the expenses, and report.

The Committee on Philanthropic Labor made the following report :

Since our last meeting some progress has been made in working along the lines of this Committee, reports of which are herewith submitted.

Canada Half Yearly Meeting reports that at their recent session appropriate readings, recitations, and dialogues were given, also two essays on Social Purity were read, which were followed by an interesting and instructive discussion, giving evidence of increased interest in the work.

The following has been sent in aid of the colored schools in South Carolina :—Scipio Quarterly Meeting, 1 barrel of clothing and \$2.40 in money; East Hamburg Monthly Meeting, \$8.00 and 1 barrel; Farmington Executive, 2 barrels of clothing and \$7.00; Yarmouth Preparative Meeting, \$4.00.

*To Chester J. Hampton, Chairman of Philanthropic Union :*

The following is our annual report for the year ending 6th month, 1896.

The philanthropic work is carried on in the same manner as previously.

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The Union presented petitions to the Board of Directors of the local fairs in regard to prohibiting "games of chance" and immoral side-shows from the exhibition grounds, which petitions were favorably received.

Some literature has been distributed, also some public institutions visited, but our practical work has mostly been confined to individual efforts.

As an outgrowth of our philanthropic work we have established in our neighborhood a Band of Mercy for the children, in which much interest is manifest.

We would also call attention to a recent decision of the Privy Council in reference to Local Option and Prohibitory Laws in the Provinces and the Dominion of Canada.

ELLA ZAVITZ,  
Secretary Coldstream Philanthropic Union.

Since the last annual gathering of Genesee Yearly Meeting in 6th month, 1895.

The Farmington Quarterly Meeting Temperance Committee have held four conferences, viz.: One in each of the following places, in succession, at time of holding the Quarterly Meetings, at East Hamburg, N. Y., in 8th month, 1895; Farmington, in 11th month; Macedon Centre, in 2nd month, 1896, and at Mendon in 5th month, 1896.

In all of these conferences there seemed to be a deep interest manifested to advance the cause of temperance by practical work. It was thought that we should not only be earnest in word, but as we went out from those meetings



whenever we came in touch with the leprosy of intemperance to not shrink from duty but strive in every way open to us to reclaim, if possible, and to firmly set aside political party principle, and make the ballot a power against this gigantic evil. In prohibition is the key note for the establishment of a temperance standard everywhere, whether local, sectional or national.

The Raines Bill, passed by the New York Legislature last winter, was not endorsed by our Friends in general, as one of its chief principles was license, and large license.

In all of our conferences the young people have taken a lively part, helping much to make them interesting and instructive, by both original essays and selected readings, particularly so in East Hamburg, many outside of the Society participating. One temperance lecture was given in which was much valuable suggestive thought.

In some instances useful work has been done by joining hands with the W. C. T. U. in Scientific Temperance Instruction, Suffrage, Wealth and Heredity, and Mothers' Meetings, which might not otherwise have been done.

Thus we feel to press forward in the good work, and trust that God's blessing will rest upon it.

SARAH A. GREENE,

Secretary Pro. Tem.

The report, on being read, was approved by the meeting, and the Committee is encouraged to prosecute its work in the varied fields in which it may be called to labor. A

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request to have added a few more names to the Committee on Philanthropic Labor was approved, and the following names added:

Chester J. Hampton,  
Isaac Wilson,

Samuel P. Zavitz,  
Rebecca Schooley,

Serena A. Minard.

The Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts made the following report:

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer submit the following report:

We have examined his accounts and vouchers and find them correct, the total receipts being \$522.81; total disbursements, \$174.70; leaving a balance in Treasurer's hands of \$348.11.

It is the judgment of this Committee that it will not be necessary to raise any money for the use of the Yearly Meeting this year.

We propose Edward G. Schooley for Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee,

WILLIAM GREENE,  
MARY E. HOXIE.

The meeting united with the report and Edward G. Schooley is appointed Treasurer for one year.

Edgar M. Zavitz,  
Ruth Wilson,  
Serena A. Minard,

Wm. P. Clothier,  
Isaac Wilson,  
Samuel P. Zavitz,

Are appointed delegates to represent us at the approaching Religious Congress to be held at Swarthmore College in 8th mo. next, with power to select members to represent us on the Executive Committee.

To represent us at the Educational Congress to be held at Swarthmore College in 8th mo., the following Friends are appointed delegates :

Wm. G. Justice,  
Harry V. Haight,  
Charles Schooley,  
Charlotte W. Cox,

Wm. G. Brown,  
Charlotte C. Talcott,  
Chas. A. Zavitz,  
Eliza Cronk,

With power to appoint members to represent us on its Executive Committee.

The Committee to compile such of the exercises of the meeting, as was opened for, presented the following, which was approved by the meeting and directed to be inserted in the printed minutes :

Under the hallowed influence of prayer our Yearly Meeting opened, and in its first moments we were exhorted to bring our gifts to the altar, and freely offer them, that the sessions of the meeting might be fruitful ones to us, and the means of strength to the body at large.

Although our meeting is small, earnest attention was given to the helpful truths, freely handed forth by dedicated servants, in the service of the Master.

We were lovingly entreated to keep very near the only true God, that we may reach the grandest heights of man-

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hood and womanhood here, and be prepared to enjoy the glorious inheritance of an eternal life.

We have the endearing presence of Friends from other Yearly Meetings. their Gospel ministry and loving sympathy have strengthened and encouraged us to so live under the guidance of the Divine Spirit as to be able to discharge our duties aright.

The business of the meetings have been transacted in harmony. Our testimonies, as they were introduced through the queries, awakened thoughtful consideration, some of the answers thereto showing the necessity of greater watchfulness.

The Epistles were fraught with practical and encouraging suggestions for the dissemination of our principles, to meet the great needs of the world to-day.

Three sessions of our First-day School were held, at one of which an interesting programme was rendered, and the thought was presented that the work of our First-day School might be explained in two words—love and service.

In Philanthropic Labor considerable work has been done in various departments, in support of our testimonies in regard to intemperance, and for social purity.

Some help has been extended to the Colored Schools of the South.

We are much encouraged by the interest which our young people manifested and their willingness to assume the responsibilities that devolve upon them.

An earnest hope was expressed that we may return to our homes, and to our smaller meetings strengthened anew to perform the various duties of life

The Committee to essay replies to the Epistles received from the other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond produced two, which, on being read, were approved.

The Clerks are authorized to transcribe, sign, and forward a copy to each of the Yearly Meetings referred to.

The Clerk of the First-day School Association is authorized to draw on the Treasurer of this Meeting for the necessary expenses of the Association.

Edgar M. Zavitz, Carrie F. Zavitz, and Ida C. Zavitz, are appointed to assist the Clerks in printing and distributing 800 copies of the Minutes of this meeting, together with the Epistles received from the other Yearly Meetings, and the proceedings of the First-day School Association, to call upon the Treasurer of this meeting for the expense incurred, and report next year.

With our hearts overflowing with gratitude to the Divine One for the manifestation of His presence amongst us during the several sessions of this meeting, covering us with His love as with a mantle, and preserving us in harmony and brotherly love in the transaction of the affairs of our Society, renewing our hope and encouraging us to persevere in the performance of life's duties, we say farewell, to meet at Bloomfield, Ont., at the usual time next year, if so permitted.

SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ,  
ARLETTA CUTLER,  
Clerks.

*From Ill*

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## EPISTLES.

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*From Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING:

DEAR FRIENDS,—We are thankful to our Heavenly Father that so many of us are privileged to again assemble in a religious capacity. This is our twenty-first year, and we have with us those who have improved their opportunity by faithfully attending each of these twenty-one gatherings. We have with us at this time an increased number of Representatives and others of our members, also of visiting Friends, who greatly aid and cheer us both religiously and socially. From our numbers we have lost many valued Friends, some within the past year,—never to meet again with us in these annual re-unions. The feeble steps and whitened heads of others indicate that more will, in a few years at most, travel the same journey. Leaving these sad thoughts, we will now talk of more pleasant things. Sad, did we say? There should be no sorrow along the way marked out by our Heavenly Father for his acknowledged children to travel. It is their reward to be released from the cares of this world, and ours to profit by their good works.

Our annual gathering this year is proving a profitable one. The answers to the Queries from the various meetings show that we are steadily advancing toward purer lives. The one adopted last year relative to the use and handling of tobacco, brings forth a surprisingly quick and good



return. We sometimes grow impatient because progress does not come faster in reforming the world. Two hundred years ago, Friends were allowed something for travelling expenses and for whiskey. Illinois Yearly Meeting is an offspring of those of Baltimore and Indiana. In the discipline of 1725 of one of these, reads something like this, "Friends are admonished to indulge in refreshments in moderation and to avoid that unsuitable custom of strong drink and cakes which inconveniences many who attend our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings." In 1806 it says "However, a medical quality may be urged in favor of spirituous liquors, but we should watch carefully and not use it unnecessarily." The great reforms in early times, it seems, did grow slowly, for in the harvest fields as late as 1830, and perhaps later, many Friends used and provided strong drink for their men; but soon after, the ten and four o'clock lunches were substituted, and with some, extra pay. Still later, science in machinery has aided us in doing away with even the latter in the harvest fields. But the great progress made in this reform in all our Yearly Meetings is well known, yet we would call your attention again to our new-born Query regarding tobacco, and the gratifying report. We are comparatively clear to-day, and we hope in twenty-one more years its use will be the rare exception among the men and boys of the land in all religious and other walks of life, instead of the rule as it is to-day.

The attendance this year and the interest manifested is gratifying. Dear friends are here who have lost their crops in the drought-stricken regions of the West in past years, and have poor prospects for the present. Others have

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written us of their inability to attend on account of these failures. An expressed feeling of sorrow for these people was given by many which has been formulated into an address and forwarded to the absent ones.

We are now twenty-one years old, and one of the gratifying thoughts of this occasion is that she who recorded our birth, or in other words, the first clerk chosen by the women in their separate meeting is now with us.

The Epistles from other Yearly Meetings were read, and a feeling of love came from many hearts in beautiful expression. The fields of work you speak of, we, too, are engaged in. The Philanthropic Committee is well organized, and it is surprising how much they have found to do, and how well they have done their duty. The report of the Visiting Committee was very satisfactory, and a silent vote of thanks, as it were, was given to those who thus labor with love for their only reward.

We recognize the First-day School Association as an important link in our organized body ; good schooling there invariably makes the best members of society.

Trusting you will remember us in the future with the same love and kindness you have shown in the past, we bid you an affectionate adieu.

Signed by direction of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

OLIVER WILSON,  
Clerk.

*From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Richmond, Ind., by adjournments, from the Thirtieth of the Ninth Month, to the Third of the Tenth Month, inclusive, 1895.*

TO THE NEXT GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

Dear Friends :—The reading of the Epistles, which contain so much for our benefit and encouragement, seems to impress our minds afresh with our dependence upon that power which alone is able to direct our thoughts aright, and to harmonize them to the upbuilding of God's kingdom in our hearts ; and we feel to express our faith in the belief that those who please and honor the Father most, are those who are most earnest in the love and elevation of our fellow beings.

We have ministering Friends amongst us who are sowing many precious seeds for our strength and advancement. They counsel us to so fill our hearts with love to our Heavenly Father that there will be no room left for the frailties of our fellow-men to find lodgement, thereby avoiding all jealousies—ill-feeling, and envy of whatever kind—feeling only love to God and to our neighbors as ourselves. This we feel must, in its season, bear rich fruitage.

Much earnest advice has been given the mothers in regard to rearing their children—to teach them self-control while young, and to throw around them every loving influence possible to advance their welfare and preservation, that theirs may become noble lives.

We have especially noticed that to the answering of the Queries unusual care has been given, that the answers

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might truthfully and exactly represent the state of our Society.

Loving counsel, sympathy and encouragement from Friends of other Yearly Meetings have been as balm to the hearts of many of our number, and we thank our Heavenly Father that it has pleased Him to send them into our midst at this time. We have felt in an unusual degree the necessity of making God our refuge, and that while it is our duty to do all we can for the advancement of our spiritual welfare and those around us, we must never forget that, after all, we are only instruments in His hands, and are not destined to finish our work our own way, for "He will make complete our incompleteness"; we can surely leave all in the Father's hands, knowing "He doeth all things well."

The First-day School Association—of which we have held two sessions—has been well attended, and many seem consecrated to the work, feeling that it is good for them thus to labor for the Society. We have ten schools, and the enrollment is larger than it has been for years. A new school, established through the effort of the children, seems to be carried on with life and interest. A goodly number has been added to our membership through the influence of the First-day Schools.

A wish has been expressed that we might have more books within reach of the smaller meetings, to meet the needs of the youth of different ages, especially books in which the leading principles of our Society might be set forth, so that the childish mind could grasp them, and we do earnestly desire that in all the seven Yearly Meetings

of our Society, some minds be led to prepare this literature to meet the awakening interest in earliest testimonies of Friends.

A living concern with some that a committee be appointed to visit Friends—especially the older and isolated ones—in this, and in our smaller meetings, met with great unity, and the committee was appointed.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend,” was exemplified in a remarkable degree when the decision was reached that the time had come for the Yearly Meeting to transact its business in joint sessions. Scarcely ever has it been our privilege to witness such beautiful submission, and the feeling prevailed that, whichever way the decision had been made all would have felt that it was right. In adopting this change, the deep exercise of many Friends was felt to influence all the succeeding sessions of the Yearly Meeting.

We were encouraged to go on in the work of temperance, even though the results seemed at times discouraging, but we trust that the time will come ere long when our beloved country will break the shackles and stand forth free indeed.

In regard to Military Discipline in the Public Schools, our Friends feel concerned that we speak with no uncertain sound against that which may grow to be a giant evil.

The Young Friends' Association, recently established at Richmond, is a source of encouragement, since many dear young Friends, and some not of our faith, are entering zealously into the work. As it is to the young people we

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must look for the upholding of our principles, we welcome this awakening as an evidence of the Lord's continued care for our part of his heritage.

The report of the Philanthropic Committee shows that more has been accomplished than usual in many lines of work. Letters of commendation have been written to the press and to individuals for their efforts in the suppression of vice in the form of lotteries, impure literature, and of improper exhibitions at fairs, and we hope that such encouragement will be productive of good,—for honest appreciation of effort is always encouraging.

The sessions have been especially marked by the desire of all to work in harmony and to do that which will be not only for the best interest of the Society but the will of Him who bade us "walk worthy of the high vocation to which we are called."

With thankful hearts we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends,

RACHEL M. MATTHEWS, } Clerks.  
GEORGE R. THORPE, }

*From Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends held by adjournments from the 26th of the Eighth Month to the 29th of the same, inclusive, 1895.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS:

Dear Friends,—With thankful hearts to the Divine Master, we acknowledge that He has been in our midst



during our various sessions, and we have realized the fulfillment of the blessed promise that, as we "cast our burdens upon the Lord, He will sustain us."

We were blessed in having dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose labors were truly comforting to us.

The report of the Philanthropic Committee shows that the helping hand has gone forth towards the needy and suffering ones in the far west as well as to those who live in our midst.

The First-day School Association held two very interesting and encouraging sessions, one of which was for the children especially. A forcible paper against military drill in our Public Schools was read, and we felt the necessity of guarding our children and teaching them by example and precept that the rule of brotherly kindness and love should be the governing law of life.

The reading and answering of the Queries brought an exercise over us in which the duty of attending our religious meetings was clearly set before us. We earnestly trust that we will renew our diligence in this reasonable service, endeavoring to bring to the altar of the Lord a living offering, that these gatherings may not be a lifeless form. As we are thus gathered under the Divine Power, the influence will be felt by the children and the young minds impressed, even though they may not have arrived at years of full understanding.

We have a renewed concern to educate our children in that simplicity that tends to untrammel and unbias their

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minds, and, when practicable, place them under the tuition of Friends. May all those who are entrusted with the care and training of the young minds be concerned to seek Divine assistance, "oftener than the returning morning," to enable them to lead and guide them aright.

In response to the request of the Executive Committee on Education, appointed by the conference at Chappaqua, delegates were appointed to attend the Educational Conference to be held at Swarthmore, Penn., next year.

Desiring for you, with ourselves, the presence of God in our daily lives, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction of the meeting,

JOSEPH S. HARTLEY, } Clerks.  
MARY ANNA PACKER, }

*From Baltimore.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

Dear Friends :—We thankfully acknowledge our appreciation of the favor of being once more permitted to assemble in our annual gathering for the transaction of the business affairs of the Church, and in social, religious fellowship renew the bonds of affection and love.

Valuable counsel has been extended, calling us to self-examination and close communion with the Father. "Obey, and thy soul shall live." If through obedience to manifest duty, we thus dedicate our lives, we will know, through living experience, what the Lord requires of us, and strength



will be given to "do to-day's duty, to overcome to-day's temptations."

The reading of your acceptable Epistle, together with those received from other Yearly Meetings, evidencing as they do, an earnest and increased devotion to our fundamental principle, of the indwelling and guidance of the Divine Spirit, and its application to the conditions of life in which we move, and are surrounded, has tended to strengthen and encourage us in the prosecution of our duties in similar lines of work.

The exercises in the Youths' meeting on First-day afternoon, bore evidence of thoughtful preparation, and it was plainly manifest, there was no waning interest in the work of the First-day School. The report was very encouraging, showing that five (5) new schools have been organized, that new life had been awakened through the establishment of Unions, which are now held in all of our Quarterly Meetings, with the result of arousing and holding a deeper interest in this important work of the Society. Parents were cited to the importance of moulding the pliable mind of the child, by instilling lessons of self-control, humility, and love, thus strengthening them to resist temptation, and practically emphasizing in daily life the instruction received at the First-day School.

The Committee having in charge the purifying of the press made a full and interesting report, by which it was shown that good results had already followed their efforts and that the outlook for further improvement was hopeful. While their efforts were at first looked upon as chimerical and

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visionary, they are now attracting the attention and receiving the commendation of many of the most prominent and earnest thinkers connected with the press and with the ministry, as is shown by the responses to the appeals of our Committee. The thought was expressed that the different families, into whose homes the papers come, should communicate to the editors thereof, their disapproval of the publication of the details of crime and immorality, and to substitute that kind of literature that would elevate and promote a higher tone of thought and feeling in the family life. The Committee was encouraged to pursue the work.

The report of the Philanthropic Committee was felt to be the most thorough and full that has been received from that Committee. The practical work done by it in the various lines in which it is engaged, cannot fail to produce good results in the end, and we feel that in no line of work can we more truly and perfectly manifest the practical nature of the religion we profess than that which shows itself along the paths which will relieve the suffering, ameliorate the sorrow and remove the causes of distress in the human family.

The report of the Indian Committee, while it did not show that much work had been done, gave evidence that some progress had been made, and that the prospects of establishing a school among the remnants of the Six Nations in New York was claiming their serious consideration, and that some active steps would be taken within the coming year to determine its advisability. It is yet apparent that there is need for the friends of the Indians to keep a watchful care over them, so as to use our influence to protect

them from the encroachments of unscrupulous white men. A new danger seems to threaten those to whom the lands have been allotted in severalty, from the claims of traders, that this removes them from the restrictions imposed by the Government regarding the sale of intoxicants to the Indians and is a cause of serious alarm, but we hope to be able to bring some influence to bear to have the laws so amended as to throw around them the needed protection.

As the state of our Society was brought before us by the reading and answering of the Queries, while some deficiencies were apparent, it was thought to be a cause for thankfulness, that we were found to be in as good a state as they represented, and under this feeling, there did not seem to be much room for comment or the expression of much exercise; although regret was expressed for the discontinuance of some of our mid-week meetings and the very small attendance of others. In answer to the Fourth Query, the thought was presented, that though many Friends continued the use of tobacco, yet it was encouraging to notice great improvement in that respect within the last few years, and it was recommended that "Anti-Nicotine Leagues" be formed among the children in the Public Schools, First-day Schools, or wherever they can be established to advantage, influencing the children to abstain from that which vitiates and depraves the appetite.

The thought was also expressed, that though many who have met with us in former times, have passed away, we need not be discouraged, for the presence and evident interest taken by those in the younger walks of life, have en-

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couraged us to believe that they will take the place of the absent ones and carry forward the good work.

We have had the company of several visiting Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose presence and labors of love have incited us to renewed diligence in the performance of the duties the Divine Master may require at our hands.

With the feeling that these fraternal greetings tend to bind and cement us in one body, with one common interest, and with the salutation of love, we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, by

EDWARD STABLER, JR.,  
Clerk of Men's Branch.

ELIZABETH M. KOSER,  
Clerk of Women's Branch.

*From Philadelphia.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends : We have been encouraged and strengthened by the reading of your welcome Epistle. The evidence it affords that we are all engaged in the same work, that the same concerns are claiming our attention, that we are undergoing like struggles and trials, has served to draw us nearer to you in sympathy and love, and to remind us that our joint strength exerted in the same cause is more effective than separate action.

We find that the cause of Peace and the encouragement of arbitration as a mode of settling differences, both local



and international, have engaged the attention of Friends in our Yearly Meetings generally. And we unite in the conviction that Friends at this time are especially called upon to maintain consistently and earnestly our testimony against war. The movement to induce our Government and that of Great Britain to unite in establishing a system of arbitration, which shall adjust differences arising between them not settled by diplomacy, is an encouraging indication that the cause of Peace and Arbitration is taking a strong hold upon all classes and denominations.

"My kingdom," declared our Divine Master to Pilate, "is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight." Remembering this, we have viewed with sadness the efforts about us to organize what have been called "boys' brigades," and we rejoice to believe that this proposed degradation of professed Christian organizations from their high mission of love and good will is already falling under condemnation. The related movement to establish military training in the public schools has again been encountered, in one instance, within our limits, during the past year, and, partly through the efforts of one of our Committees on Philanthropic Labor, it failed of success.

Our meeting, this year, has been well attended, though not larger than heretofore. We have had the acceptable company of several visiting Friends, whose counsel and exhortation we have received, we trust, with profit. Our sessions have been much occupied, as usual, with the several subjects of outward business which need to be considered. In dealing with these, we have realized that they are but

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subsidiary, though necessary, and that it is part of our duty to keep them in their right place,—as a ship may safely carry her cargo in the hold, but may be endangered when it is placed upon the deck.

A concern for the care of the aged and infirm amongst us has been brought prominently into view at this time. Within a few years, a boarding home for such Friends has been successfully maintained under the care of a committee of women appointed in one of our Quarterly Meetings, and the general subject has been in charge, since last year, of a committee of the Yearly Meeting. We have now had the gift of a large sum of money (\$200,000) for the purpose of aiding in the establishment and maintenance of such homes for aged and infirm Friends, and those in sympathy with us. Of this generous gift, presented by one earnest and concerned for our principles, we hope to render a faithful stewardship.

Reports from our several Committees engaged in Philanthropic Labor and in the administration of trusts with which the Meeting is concerned, have been made encouragingly. Activity is shown in behalf of Temperance and of Education. We have given attention, when it seemed practicable and a measure of aid, to the freed people of color and to the Indians. We have signified our protest against corrupting literature, and have endeavored to promote the conviction that the periodical and newspaper publications of the day greatly need a higher tone and a cleaner method.

We are encouraged to believe that our First-day Schools



and Young Friends' Associations are contributing to our strength, that they tend to increase the attendance of our meetings, and are educating our members in the history, discipline and testimonies of our Society. Yet we realize that these, as is the case with all of us, must receive spiritual food daily, that this fresh manna is as necessary to our spiritual life as outward bread for our bodily strength. A general meeting of Friends' Associations and one of the First-day School Association, and two meetings in support of the concerns entrusted to the Committee on Philanthropic Labor, have been held during the week in the evenings. These were well attended, and we trust promotive of a sincere interest in the subjects considered. We are encouraged to believe that the work of concerned Friends along these lines is increasing in usefulness.

In the enumeration of these matters, concerning which it seems appropriate to write to you, we beg you not to regard us, dear Friends, as believing ourselves in any way strong. Our meeting is sadly conscious of losses sustained from year to year in the departure of those to whom we have looked for wise counsel and enlightened direction. We feel our weakness, and we pray for greater strength. We desire your aid and support in those things which are deep founded and permanent. We crave your union with us, not merely in that which is outward and therefore perishable, but in that which is spiritual and therefore lasting. We are aware that no learning is of value which is not enlightened by the Spirit of Truth, and no outward gain profitable which is unaccompanied by humility. We join with you, dear Friends, in that exhortation of the Apostle

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to the Gentiles, when, addressing the Christians at Ephesus, he said: "I . . . beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia by adjournments from the eleventh day of the fifth month to the fifteenth of the same, inclusive, 1896.

EMMOR ROBERTS,

Clerk.

*From New York.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

Dear Friends:—We meet again in our annual gathering under a renewed sense of our dependence upon the only source of divine wisdom who is ever ready to lead and guide us aright.

One by one we miss the faithful standard-bearers who have, for many years, borne the burden in the heat of the day, but we are comforted in the belief there will still be devoted workers in the Father's vineyard who will continue to hold up to the world the simplicity of the truth as held by the Society of Friends. While it is true that we hear more and more allusions made to the inshining of the divine

light in the soul, is it not also true, that, amid the prominence given to outward things, there is danger of the importance of the sum and substance of all, the fountain of all religious life, the Christ spirit, the divine immanence in the soul, becoming dwarfed and overshadowed? The need of our Society still exists. In the increasing interest of our young people, especially as shown in the Young Friends' Association, an organization which seems to be preparing its members for active service in future fields of usefulness, we see the sign of encouragement for our Society. A lively interest was expressed that our borders might be enlarged, that others might be drawn into our fold through efforts to spread wider a knowledge of our simple faith in the loving Father, who, through His Holy Spirit, is the teacher of His people Himself.

We have been cheered and comforted by the reading of your valued Epistle together with those from the other Yearly Meetings, believing these interchanges of love and esteem tend to cement and strengthen us in our common efforts for the betterment of ourselves and those about us.

The report of our Philanthropic Committee was read in joint session. Its reading elicited much exercise upon the subject of purity, regarding which, we rejoice to know, that our Society has given no uncertain sound. This must be the indispensable foundation for the happy home, the basis of a prosperous nation. In the consideration of peace and arbitration the thought was feelingly expressed, that the time had come when the people, as never before, were prepared for the settlement of all national differences by arbitration. The movements towards that end, both by our

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own and the English people, give to all lovers of peace great cause for encouragement.

The report on Temperance and Tobacco brought out a lively exercise that all should bear an earnest and consistent testimony regarding these subjects, both by example and precept.

The increased opening during the past years for work in the Indian concerns was also of much interest.

At a public meeting held under the direction of the Philanthropic Committee, the importance of the very early training of the children was impressively brought to our attention, by the reading of an interesting paper on "Kindergarten for the Poor." It was felt that the work in saving the child was the foundation of Philanthropic Labor.

The establishment of the system of military training in our Public School, now so strongly advocated in many quarters, brought a deep exercise over the Meeting.

The vigorous protest of our representative Committee against legislation upon this subject seems to have been effective in this State.

The voice of exhortation has been heard from some of our young members to make free use of kind words. We can do this so easily. The amount of good thus done, the encouragement thus given to others, we cannot estimate; but our reward is sure. We were warned also against the blighting influence of unkind words and urged to teach our children self control in this respect.



The First-day School has assumed an important position in our religious work. We feel more than ever the importance of dealing rightly and wisely with our children and young people and while we instruct them in the history of our Society and in the testimony of the Fathers, our aim must be to lovingly present to their receptive minds the spirit of Christ's teaching of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, thus leading them to the Christ power within themselves.

We have with us several Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose company and counsel have been very acceptable. These visits of love and interest in each other's welfare, we feel to be both mutually encouraging and profitable.

Much unity and interest have characterized our several sittings. We bid you, workers with us for the best interest of our Society, an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in New York City from the 25th to the 28th, inclusive, of fifth month, 1896.

WM. H. WILLITS, } Clerks.  
EMILY P. YEO, }

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*From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held  
by adjournments, from the Eleventh of Fifth Month to  
the Fifteenth of the same, inclusive, 1896.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Sisters:—Again in our annual gathering comes the impulse to send words of greeting and cheer to our sisters of other Yearly Meetings, whose messages of love and sympathy have incited us to increased watchfulness and renewed dedication of heart. “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that ye also may have fellowship with us.”

We are brought into a feeling of increased responsibility as we see the vacant places once filled by devoted advocates of Truth. Individual faithfulness to known duty, and a belief that our Father quickens, qualifies and sustains every faithful follower, bring about a spiritual condition which alone will make possible the continuance of the work.

Wise counsel has been offered to the young who are desirous to find a place among the world's workers, to await the Father's time. In external nature some of the seeds of slowest development produce the most vigorous, later growth; some must endure even the winter's rigors, before they grow into greenness and beauty,—so, after the time of waiting, the mature and disciplined mind may be more fully prepared for the Father's service, for He will provide fields of labor appropriate to the exercise of the gift He has bestowed, and, when the word of command is heard, let willing obedience be rendered.



"Be still and know that I am God." Across the silence of our hearts this command rings out with a clearer meaning than ever before. Let us be still from our own desires, free from our own searching, then shall we be able to hear God's voice in us, and learn His will concerning us. When this is our attitude of mind, a new-born consciousness is awakened, and this God-given revelation to the heart of man becomes real and tangible, to be used in every experience and need of daily life.

Love to God has its highest manifestation in the service we render to our fellow-man. Our Philanthropic Committee is gradually widening the scope of its labors. The increased zeal of its members, and their growth in good works were manifest in the encouraging report presented to the meeting. While untiring efforts are still being made to overcome the evils of intemperance, we feel especial encouragement in noting the increasing appreciation of the danger arising from the use of narcotics.

Faithfulness in maintaining our testimony in favor of Peace and Arbitration was never more needed than at the present time. In the wide-spread effort to introduce enforced military training into our Public Schools, we recognize a menace to progress especially formidable, because it operates upon the minds of the rising generation in whom the hopes of the future are centred.

The condition of the Indian, and the necessities of the colored people, still claim our active interest. A deep sympathy has been expressed for the educated colored people, who, because of their color, are debarred from occu-

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pations in which they may hope for advancement. We feel that, both as a Society and as individuals, it is our duty to open to them avenues of employment for which their education has fitted them. Remove but the obstacles that impede their progress, and they will rise by their own efforts.

The deep concern felt by Friends for the guarded education of their children does not lessen. The moral and spiritual guidance of the First-day Schools, and the influence of the numerous Young Friends' Associations, are felt to be bearing fruit in the growing interest of the young in our Society. We have an earnest body of young people who are yearning for work in the Master's vineyard, and only waiting for the Divine commission to go forward. Let those of us who have already entered the field see to it that we place in the way no barrier of our own making.

Mothers have been lovingly urged to the importance of endeavoring to hold their little ones very near to them, even when time and strength seem inadequate for their many cares. It is far better to give up some preconceived notions of what constitutes good housekeeping than to fail in the slightest degree to meet the needs of the child in its physical, mental, or spiritual growth. And we were counselled not to let the sense of the responsibility cease as the children grow older, but through the even more critical years of approaching manhood and womanhood to make earnest endeavor to retain the close confidence of our sons and daughters.

We were entreated to be faithful in the attendance of mid-week and smaller meetings, and to use the persuasive

power that love gives, to induce our children to accompany us. It may often seem that there are obstacles in the way of this reasonable service, but when an effort has been made to overcome these, the language has been realized, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ; they shall mount up with wings as eagles ; they shall run, and not be weary ; and they shall walk and not faint."

We, as women, in whom has been implanted the Divine instinct of motherhood,—whether this incidental relation has come to us or not,—were earnestly exhorted to let the mother love go out to the rescue of the weak or the preservation of the tempted.

The importance of the requirement of the same standard of purity in man and woman was impressed upon us.

The mother's pure conception of the mystery of the sexual life must forestall in the child's mind anything less pure which may come from other sources. As the early impression of the true and pure leaves no room for the false and impure, womanhood will be sacred to the boy and to the man ; and the possibility of fatherhood, as its realization, will be to him a gift of God, for which as a possibility, his whole being must be kept pure, and which, as a reality, is to be accepted reverently as a holy trust.

The tendering influence of our Heavenly Father's love has been felt throughout the various sessions of our Yearly Meeting, cementing us in the Truth and uniting us in that spirit which recognizes the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

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With thankfulness for these evidences of Divine indwelling, we remain, your sisters.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting,

SARAH GRISCOM,

Clerk.



# PROCEEDINGS

—OF—

## Genesee First-day School Associat'n

HELD AT SPARTA, ONT., 6TH MO., 1896.

*At a Meeting of the First-day School Association of Genesee Yearly Meeting, held at Sparta, Thirteenth of the Sixth Month, 1896.*

The Assistant Clerk not being present, Arletta Cutler's name was proposed, united with, and she appointed to that service for the session.

Written reports from nearly all the First-day schools within the limits of this Yearly Meeting were received and read at this time. Although some show a small decrease in numbers, caused by sickness and other circumstances over which we have no control; other reports denote an increase and, throughout all, we have indications of deep interest and earnest, hopeful work.

Frank A. Schooley, Ethel M. Cutler, Augusta Schooley and Ella Zavitz are appointed to produce to a future session an essay of reply to Epistles received from other Yearly Meeting First-day School Associations.

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We are thankful to have with us to-day the very acceptable company of Joel and Mary Borton, and Bennett S. and Tacy B. Walton, all of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, also Katie Shotwell and Rebecca DePeel, of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Epistles were received from nearly all of the Yearly Meeting First-day School Associations, and those from Indiana, New York and Ohio read at this time, through which we are cheered, as by letters from distant members of the same family and co-laborers in this important cause.

The well-rounded life of our endeared friend, Joseph A. Bogardus, was touchingly referred to in the Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting First-day School Association, and feelings of tenderest love and deep, heart-felt bereavement were given utterance to, yet all things lie in the hands of an all-seeing and all-wise Father, and if only faithful to known duties and filled with the desire to profit by his noble example set before us, the places left vacant will be filled—perhaps not by one, but by many.

Samuel P. Zavitz, Maria Haight, Rebecca Zavitz and Augusta Schooley are appointed a committee to arrange a programme of exercises for our special session on second day.

Then adjourned to meet at three o'clock on second day afternoon.

Second-day afternoon, the Association met according to adjournment.

The time expiring for which the Clerks were appointed,

Edward G. Schooley and Rebecca Zavitz were proposed, united with and appointed to that service for one year.

The Committee on Exercises produced the following programme :

Emily Zavitz,	-	-	Reading,
Mabel Pound,	-	-	Recitation,
Louisa Haight,	-	-	Paper,
Elma Zavitz,	-	-	Reading,
Agnes Haight,	-	-	Recitation,
W. G. Brown,	-	-	Address,
Bertie Zavitz,	-	-	Reading,
Emma Schooley,	-	-	Recitation,
Alberta Wilson,	-	-	Reading,

Which proved interesting and instructive—the selections chosen were well rendered and the papers displayed originality of thought. Kindly remarks and words of encouragement followed giving the impression that we had a successful meeting.

Adjourned to meet at half-past two o'clock on fourth day afternoon.

Fourth-day afternoon, about the time adjourned to, the Association convened.

Epistles from Illinois and Baltimore were read and their contents proved interesting and instructive.

The Committee to prepare an Epistle to be sent to each of the First-day School Associations with which we correspond produced an Essay, which being read and approved,

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the Clerks are directed to transcribe, sign, and forward a copy to each of the Associations referred to.

There was much expression on the subject of the Lesson Leaves, and while we did regret a departure from the International Lessons, we are now united in saying we have enjoyed our Lesson Leaves, and feel willing to acquiesce in the judgment of the General Conference and its Committee, and sympathize with them in their labors.

To have a programme prepared for next year the following committee was appointed, viz.:

Edgar Haight,	Isaac Wilson,
Samuel P. Zavitz,	Charlotte C. Talcott,
Rebecca Zavitz,	Maria Haight,
Louisa R. Pound,	Edward G. Schooley,
Ruth C. Wilson,	Alberta Webster,
	Rebecca Schooley.

To serve on the Executive of the First-day School General Conference, the following Friends were appointed, viz.:

Samuel P. Zavitz,	Mary T. Freeman,
Amelia G. Searing,	Richard W. Brown,
George Phillips,	William G. Brown,
Maria Haight,	Augusta L. Schooley,
	Ella Zavitz.

Maria Haight,	Charlotte C. Talcott,
Mary T. Freeman,	Serena A. Minard,
Rebecca Schooley,	Granville Haight,

Edward G. Schooley,  
 Frank A. Schooley,  
 E. Arnold Zavitz,  
 Anna S. Cutler,  
 Arletta Cutler,

Rebecca Zavitz,  
 Edgar M. Zavitz,  
 Charles Zavitz,  
 William Cox,  
 Elveretta Cutler,

Are appointed to attend the General Conference to be held at Swarthmore, Penna., in 8th month next, with the business from this, and report.

The Clerks are instructed to request of the Yearly Meeting at its next session to have the proceedings of this Association printed with the Yearly Meeting minutes; also to grant this Association sufficient funds to meet its necessary expenses for the next year.

Under a covering of Divine love, and with a sense of being mutually benefited by our friendly association, we adjourn to meet at Bloomfield, Ontario, at 3 o'clock on seventh-day afternoon of Yearly Meeting week, if so permitted.

EDWARD G. SCHOOLEY, } Clerks.  
 REBECCA ZAVITZ, }

*From*

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## EPISTLES.

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*From Philadelphia.*

TO THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF GENESEE YEARLY  
MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends:—We are drawn into close sympathy with you in the cause in which we are mutually interested, —the advancement of truth. The continued efforts of many earnest minds, with the concern that is felt by these to meet the spirit of inquiry among the young, denote an awakening to our needs and a steady growth in interest.

We are cheered by having among us many young teachers, who show by their earnestness and devotion a love and fitness for the work. Since, in the divine economy, labor for the welfare of others tends to advance our own spiritual growth, we encourage such as are willing to enter this service. But we believe that all should be impressed with the thought that it is not a work to be taken up lightly. The mind of a little child is reaching out in all directions into the world of the unknown, and accepts as truth all that is given it. Impressions made at this early age, for good or for ill, may affect the child's whole life. But by far the strongest influence which a teacher can bring to bear is the example of a truly dedicated life—"a heaven directed eye" and an ear ever open to Divine impressions.



We are brought into a feeling of increased responsibility as we recall the many vacant places once filled by devoted advocates of Truth. There is pressing need of individual faithfulness to known duty, and belief that our Father will quicken, qualify and sustain, if we would realize a spiritual growth that will enable us to continue the work.

The year has not been without the loss of those who have been earnest laborers in the cause. More than one of those whose counsel and advice have helped us in past years to maintain our courage, and whose labors in their own especial fields have been marked by great success, have finished their work and gone up higher. In this connection, we feel that we, in common with yourselves and with all laborers in the good cause in which we are engaged, have sustained a great loss in the death of Joseph A. Bogardus, of New York. His life was so full of activity and service, his sympathy so widely extended, and his ability so great that no narrow circle can claim the bereavement to be wholly theirs. His long service as Clerk of the General Conference, and in the Literature Committee, brought him very closely in touch with all our First-day School work and will make his loss felt throughout the entire organization.

It is for us to kindle anew our zeal, and with humility, yet with high courage, to take up the work which will miss these strong hands and these devoted hearts.

We feel to express our appreciation of the course of lessons resulting from the action of the General Conference of 1892, which we think has been of peculiar excellence and

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value, and we are looking forward with especial interest to its continuance.

The fostering care of our Yearly Meeting in bringing our Schools into close touch and sympathy with that superior body, the hearty co-operation of many young people, and the continued active interest of increased numbers of adults are some of the fruits of many years of patient labor. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for these results and we fervently acknowledge "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory."

We remain, affectionately your friends,

Signed on behalf of the Philadelphia First-day School Association,

I. FRANK CHANDLER, } Clerks.  
SALLIE L. BLACK, }

Philadelphia, 5th month, 13th, 1896.

*From Baltimore Yearly Meeting's First-day School Committee.*

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

The reading of the Epistles from other First-day School Associations awakens in us a renewed confidence that we are pressing forward in the good work, and the interest and earnestness manifested by the remarks which followed show a hopefulness for our Society.

Our Youths' Meeting, on First-day afternoon, was well attended. The children feel that it is *their* meeting and



that they form a part of our annual gathering. Their bright sunny faces help to keep us young and encourage us to more faithful endeavors. We recognize the great benefit derived from the "Lesson Leaves," and feel very grateful to the Committee upon whom the labor of preparation falls. In addition to these, such papers as "The Scattered Seeds" and "Young Friends' Review" are found, by many, to be helpful both to teacher and pupil. Some have felt the need of a series of lessons better adapted to the infant classes.

To meet this requirement, the object lesson was recommended. The religion of Jesus was framed from the common things of every-day life. The budding flower was the emblem of the growth of the spirit life. The rocks and stones of the desert places were the solid foundations upon which to build the faith that would lead to a knowledge of God and his attributes.

The importance of a more extended knowledge of Bible history was alluded to, and felt by many to be a present need in our Society. It was suggested that teachers visit their pupils and know of their homes and surroundings, so as to be able to enter into the spirit of the children in their every-day work and play, and thus encourage them to put into practice the lessons they have learned in the First-day School.

The attendance of parents and older Friends cannot be too strongly urged. A dignity and importance is added by their presence, which is felt by the children. "Come" and not "Go" should be the watchword of the parent.

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We must search the Scriptures, we must study the Bible systematically with our "Lesson Leaves," we must hold teachers' meetings, we must have illustrated lessons, we must have individual work from our scholars, and we must have class work, etc.

Yet, with all, if we do not come back to the foundation principle of the Society and teach *that*, we shall fail. We must teach the "Light within" as a guide to every man who comes into the world.

It is a source of encouragement to report the establishment of five new schools during the past year.

We wish to encourage all to give their best efforts to this work, knowing that we cannot go forth in helpfulness to others without being helped ourselves, and remembering that "The power we do not use, falls from us"

Signed by direction and on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's First-day School Committee.

ELI M. LAMB,

Chairman.

SARAH R. MATTHEWS,

Clerk.

Tenth month. 1895.

*From the New York First-day School Association.*

TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF GENESEE, TO BE HELD IN YARMOUTH, ONT.:

Dear Friends: During Yearly Meeting week we have held two sessions of our Association, one devoted to reports of schools and routine business, the other given chiefly to a consideration of methods of Bible teaching. This important subject was introduced by three papers, and a general discussion followed. The first paper treated the subject principally from the religious standpoint, advising the treatment, in a Friendly way, of those parts of the Bible discussed in the International Lesson Leaves. The writer felt that this would give us a better opportunity of putting our views before the world.

The second paper viewed the matter from the ethical standpoint, throwing upon the Bible the light of higher criticism and making practical suggestions in regard to the use of books and pictures in First-day school work. The writer told us that unmounted photographs of Biblical subjects could be had at very moderate rates, photographs from great artists which might help the child's imagination in forming ideas of the times about which he is studying.

Judicious selections of such pictures might be made by Library Committees.

The third paper dwelt upon the pedagogical as well as the ethical side of the question. The writer thought we should study the Bible as we would any other historical

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work, also becoming familiar with it as literature and glean-  
ing from it its ethical lessons. An important point in this  
paper was that the subject should be made interesting by  
appealing to the child's experience.

In the discussion which followed a short but clear ex-  
position of the higher criticism was given in which we were  
told that the men who are studying the Bible from this  
standpoint are not at all antagonistic in their attitude  
toward it, but are men who belong to the so-called evan-  
gelical churches and who believe it to be the inspired Word  
of God.

It was thought that in teaching even little children the  
Bible stories, they should be made as familiar as possible  
with the text of the Bible itself.

In our First-day School work we can all see the results  
of the labors of those who have gone before ; we are prone  
to desire to see *results* of our *own* labors, and sometimes  
are permitted this high privilege, but often we must content  
ourselves with the feeling that the mills of God grind  
slowly, and the knowledge that effects *will* follow causes.  
Indifferent, purposeless work to-day will yield fruit of its  
own kind in due season, and, in turn, faithful, intelligent,  
continuous effort will just as surely bring its reward.

We appreciate the earnest service of our teachers, but  
we feel the need, in the prosecution of our work, of more  
teachers qualified for the dual service of intellect and  
spiritual guidance.

The highest efficiency in secular teaching is obtained  
only by training, combined with natural adaptation. The



responsible service of the First-day School teacher also requires a kindred preparation. It must for the present remain a dream of the future, to have among our teachers only men and women thoroughly equipped and furnished unto every good work, with persistency of purpose, breadth of knowledge and experience and depth of spiritual power; but toward this ideal we look for the more effectual realization of our desires for the Society.

A desire to arrange First-day School Unions in order to bring our schools into closer sympathy has long existed among us, but our widely scattered constituent elements have hitherto debarred any decided movement toward closer organization. This year a beginning was made by arranging a union programme on First-day afternoon, the exercises of which were participated in by most of the Schools belonging to the Association. A large attendance attested a general interest in the movement, and the varied exercises of individuals and classes were pleasant and profitable. We trust the success of this first effort will put the matter of union exercises beyond the realm of experiment.

Our faithful and efficient Clerk has been called upon to lay down his many activities and join the silent majority Beyond. We feel very keenly our loss, and it is hard to realize that the death of one in the full strength of years *can* be other than a sacrifice; but, if we measure life by *deeds*, not years, we know that the life of Jos. A. Bogardus was well rounded and complete, and the call unto his Father's house did not come until he could bear with him rich sheaves of loving service.

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With an earnest desire that the coming year may witness with us all the improvement of such opportunities as open to us, or we can cause to open, we remain, your friends,

On behalf of the Association,

EDWARD B. RAWSON, } Clerks.  
AMY J. MILLER, }

New York, 5th month, 27th day, 1896.

*From Ohio.*

TO THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF GENESEE YEARLY MEETING :

Dear Friends : Once again we are brought to that period of time for holding our annual meeting, whereby we are encouraged and strengthened by the reading of the Epistles from our fellow-workers in the various and distant fields of labor. The reports from our schools are encouraging. One school has been re-organized, and much interest manifested, with profit to those engaged in the work.

Progress in our First-day School work may be slow or it may be rapid ; it may come to others and not to us ; it will not come to us if we do not strive to deserve it. In some of our schools a number of the interested pupils are not members of our Society. Such pupils, we believe, deserve the most careful attention, and should be supported by the love of their associates. If there are those who manifest little or no love for our Heavenly Father, let us remember the words of our Saviour, "Other sheep I have,



which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one Shepherd." We pray that their faces may be set like flint to say, I will believe, and I know I shall not be confounded. We are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our faith steadfast to the end. In order to grow in grace the heart must be planted in Divine love, enveloped of it, steeped in it.

In listening to the Epistles from other Associations, a concern is apparent for the proper instruction of the young, for the future of our Society depends upon these, and we take the subject into consideration each year, saying, "What shall we do to interest the youth in the work for which the First-day School has been established?" What young people can do depends upon the standard they have set before them. Should they be satisfied with the lowest, or even with the medium?

We are in the service of One who can do infinitely more than we can ask or think. The sparrow nature simply flits from stake to stake, while the eagle soars sunward. The young people of to day have the privilege of cultivating the eagle's strength for the sunward flight by raising a high ideal and pressing towards its attainment.

By the purity of their lives and spiritual fervency of their hearts, with the fear of God ever before their lives, they will be clothed with an earnestness and a moral power that few are able to resist, for the love of Christ constraineth us to whatever is good and ennobling. God has fulfilled His part and waits for us, His agents, to help complete His

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work. If, instead of considering our own fearfulness, which is only a phase of self, we remember that our sufficiency is of God, we shall be more able to do His work. It will take God's time and our brave doing of the next duty to perform anything.

Let us then, every one of us, pray day and night, "Lord keep us from sinning and make us living witnesses of Thy mighty power to save to the uttermost."

Let us not be satisfied until we are so pliable in His hands and have so learned to trust Him that He will make us perfect in every good word and work.

Trusting you will have a profitable season, and that the love of our Father may be your portion, we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of Ohio First-day School Association,  
held at Salem, 26th and 27th of 8th month, 1895.

ESTHER J. FOX,  
MARIETTA HARTLEY, } Clerks.

*From the Annual Association of Indiana, held in adjourned sessions, 9th mo., 30th, and 10th mo., 2nd, 1895, held at Richmond, Indiana.*

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends : We have again come together for our annual meeting, and one of the most valued privileges of the occasion is the opportunity to listen to the reading

of the words of greeting and sympathy that come from the other Associations.

The spirit that breathes through them all is clear evidence of a constant and abiding interest in the work of the First-day School on the part of very many members of our Society in all the Yearly Meetings.

We are encouraged by reports of the lively interest manifested in all the Schools within our borders; of the reopening of one that had been temporarily closed, and the establishment of another, with flattering prospects of future growth in numbers and usefulness. In connection with this, it may be said that a few of the more conservative members, though filled with an earnest desire for the preservation of the young people and the growth of the Society, yet seem to lose sight of the changed conditions that surround the children of the present day, and look on the First-day School as an unnecessary innovation and a departure from the accepted order. Friends, as a rule, however, have come to a realization of the fact, that a steady decrease in the membership of our Society and its ultimate extinction as a separate religious body can be arrested in no way more effectively and speedily than by interesting the young people of the Society in the work of the First-day School, and, through them, reaching out to their associates, who may have, as yet, no religious affiliations.

Statistics show a gratifying addition to the membership of the Society, due to the influence of the First-day School.

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duced to attend the School. They have become thoroughly imbued with the earnest spirit manifested there and have carried it with them into the meeting.

We gather from the reports that the feeling among superintendents and teachers is, that while the Scriptures have the first place as the source from which emanates the good that may be found in the "Lesson Leaves," this auxiliary is almost indispensable in the work of the Schools.

The phraseology of the Scriptures should not be a stumbling block in the way of any earnest student, yet we may gladly avail ourselves of this aid to present the same truths, clothed in language that is plain and pleasing, in order that we may gain the attention of those who may require such help. If the teachers are consecrated to the work and inspired by the desire to be true helpers to those who are looking to them for guidance, their comments and their answers to such queries as may be suggested by the lesson, are not likely to be misleading or to fail in their purpose of doing good.

Some among us have been exercised as to the propriety of omitting sessions of the School during the season when, on account of inclement weather, or from whatever cause, the attendance is reduced to a low figure. It is urged that those who are so situated as to be able to attend should not be deprived of the privilege.

We have been admonished that superintendents should discourage a disposition on the part of teachers and scholars to engage in controversy on doctrinal points, to the neglect



of the lessons of practical morality and righteousness that are to benefit teachers and scholars alike.

Many children are quick to divine motives, and a disposition, real or seeming, on the part of a teacher, to display his learning, is not likely to add to his usefulness.

We are all children in the great school of life, and the teacher who adds to his other qualifications an humble sense of his own deficiencies, will be the one to impress upon his class the full and true meaning of the lessons.

The need to keep always before us that the most important part of the work is to strengthen the impressions made by the Holy Spirit, "stirring up the pure mind by way of remembrance"; giving encouragement to weak wills; inciting to nobler purpose and higher aspirations.

In a word, if we would do the Master's work, we, too, must have the Spirit of the Lord resting upon us, the "Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might," which shall make us "quick of understanding in the fear of the Lord, so that we shall not "judge after the sight of our eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of our ears; but with righteousness shall we judge."

The object of our labor shall be as was his, that we may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Some of our Young Friends' Associations have adopted a course of study which is ably supplementing the work of the School, and must yield a rich harvest of knowledge on

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which the soul may erect for itself "more stately mansions as the seasons roll."

With earnest desire that the blessing of God may continue to be with us, and keep us a united body, though widely separated, and returning thanks for this priceless boon, we bid you farewell, and remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the annual First-day School Association of Indiana.

BENJAMIN ROGERS, Clerk,  
Purdleton, Ind.  
MARTHA A. BATTIN,  
Assistant Clerk.

*From the First-day School Association of Illinois.*

TO THE GENESSE-FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

With feelings of tender sympathy, fostered by the unity of our purpose, we again address to you our annual message of love.

The knowledge that we must soon leave the welfare of our Religious Society to the care of the children makes us anxious that they be trained wisely to see and understand the distinctive doctrines and faith of our organization, and in no way can it be better done, it seems to us, than in the First-day School, provided conscientious teachers, who are themselves convinced that the dear Father will give all necessary wisdom, are placed in charge of the children.



It was feelingly urged upon parents that the religious training of their children be not left entirely to the First-day School; but that at stated times the family be gathered together and the parents unitedly impart religious instruction to those under their care.

It was also suggested that our efforts should be to sow the seed of righteousness and truth and let the growth and development be formed by surrounding conditions, for human needs are constantly changing.

We should ever seek earnestly and prayerfully to ascertain the best methods for conducting our schools, and strive to make each and every member feel that he has some part in the work and that the success of the School depends upon his faithfulness.

We would encourage the attendance of the parents, as it is always easier for children to follow the example rather than the advice of those who are older.

We find much to increase our spiritual growth by all gathering together in the study of the Scriptures, drawing from them many practical lessons which strengthen us to live more and more in accord with Jesus and His teachings. Let us be ever watchful that all under our care, especially the children, should be shielded from the many temptations that surround them. It is not the young alone who are benefited by the First-day School, for very often, through the simple words of an innocent child, those older in experience are taught.

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All our Schools use the Friends' lessons which call out interesting questions and interchange of sentiment upon the subjects presented.

One School has been established in Nebraska, not in the vicinity of a meeting, where a number of scattered Friends find mutual help in thus mingling.

There is a noted increase in the attendance of meetings for worship and discipline, through the influence of the First-day School.

As a message from an absent friend brings before our minds the pleasing thought, that, although our time seems so fully occupied with the busy round of daily toil, and each returning day brings new duties and new responsibilities, yet there are those who are thinking of us, and are interested in our welfare ; so the reading of your loving Epistle has had a similar effect upon the members of our Association, and in return we send you our warmest greetings, hoping that we may all be endowed with a spirit of love and zeal in this grand work, putting all in His care who alone can guide us in the paths of light and life.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Illinois First-day School Association, by

LILLIAN E. MILLS,  
Clerk.