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MINUTES

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

Genesee Yearly Meeting

OF FRIENDS

HELD AT

BLOOMFIELD, ONTARIO.

1888.



LONDON, CANADA:

OFFICE OF THE "YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW."

1888.



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MINUTES
—OF—
GENESEE ✧ YEARLY ✧ MEETING
OF FRIENDS.

*At Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Bloomfield, Ont.,
by adjournments, from the 11th of the Sixth Month to the
14th of the same, inclusive, 1838.*

Written reports have been received from all our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, from which it appears that the following named Friends have been appointed representatives to this meeting, viz. :

Farmington.

Charlotte W. Cox,
Eliza H. Cornell,
John M. Davis,

Gurden T. Smith.

Eliza A. Baker,
Isaac Baker,
John J. Cornell,

Scipio.

Hannah H. Marshall,
Sarah W. Hart,
Jane E. Iden,
Caroline Sisson,
William F. Searing,

William Hoxie,
Phebe Hoxie,
John L. Searing,
George Iden,
George Powell.

Canada.

Permelia K. Armitage,
 Sarah W. Hilborn,
 Stephen K. Brown,
 Stewart Brown,

Eliza Pearson,
 Rensalaer Leavens,
 Saba Armitage,
 Mary Christy,

Eliza Brown.

Pelham.

Edgar M. Zavitz,
 Robert Wilson,
 John Minard,
 Daniel W. Page,

Annie L. Cutler,
 Serena A. Minard,
 Elizabeth Brown,
 Catherine Ward.

On calling their names, all were present except two from Farmington, six from Scipio, two from Canada, and five from Pelham. Reasons were given for the absence of one from Scipio, one from Canada and two from Pelham.

A minute of unity was read for Isaac Hicks, a minister from Westbury Monthly Meeting, N.Y.

His company, also the company of those present without minutes from other Yearly Meetings, was acceptable to us.

Epistles have been received from our brethren and sisters of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Indiana, Illinois, and the Womens' Branch of Ohio Yearly Meeting, and those from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore read at this time.

The evidence conveyed by their contents evinces a deep concern for the maintenance and upholding of the principles and testimonies which we as a religious Society hold to be needful to bear before the world which has been encouraging and strengthening to us; and desires have arisen that we abate not our endeavor to faithfully perform our part of the work in the great field of humanitarian labor and the suppression of the many evils existing among mankind.

To essay replies thereto as way may open, also to those not yet presented to the meeting and present to a future sitting, the following Friends were appointed, viz. :

Samuel P. Zavitz,	Serena A. Minard,
Caroline Cutler,	Mary G. Herendeen,
John Minard,	Rebecca Wilson,
Charles Wilson,	William F. Searing,
Alberta Wilson,	Isaac Armitage,
Edgar M. Zavitz.	

To collect, compile and present at a future sitting of this meeting a summary of its exercises, the following Friends are named, viz. :

Edgar M. Zavitz,	Alberta Wilson,
Elmira Wilson,	Freeman Talcott,
Mary Minard.	

To examine and settle the Treasurer's accounts, report what sum (if any) it may be necessary to raise the present year, propose the name of a Friend for Treasurer and report at a future sitting. The following Committee was appointed, viz. :

William Greene,	Mary E. Searing,
Mary G. Herendeen,	William F. Searing,
Gideon V. Christy,	John Minard,
Lydia R. Richards,	Susan W. Zavitz.

The Committee to whom was referred the printing and distributing among our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meeting of 300 copies of the usual minutes of this meeting last year, report the expense to have been as follows, viz. :

Printing and express charges.....	\$ 48 50
Duties on the same	12 95
	<hr/>
Total Expense.....	\$ 61 45

which has been paid by the Treasurer.

The report being satisfactory to the meeting Samuel P. Zavitz and Edgar M. Zavitz are appointed to assist the Clerks in having 800 copies of the minutes of this meeting, together with such other matter as the meeting may direct printed and distributed among our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings. Call on this Meeting's Treasurer for the expense incurred and report.

A proposition was made that a Committee be appointed by this meeting to endeavor to find out the location of its isolated members, the number residing in each locality, to open a correspondence with them also to co-operative with like Committees of other Yearly Meetings, and report to this meeting next year.

The proposition met with a ready response from the meeting, and the following named Friends were appointed to that service viz. :

John J. Cornell,
D. John Stickney,
Jonathan D. Noxon,
Sarah Ann Greene,
Mary S. Herendeen,
Mary T. Freeman,
Isaac Wilson,
Stephen K. Brown,
Phebe Brown,
Stephen W. Armitage,
Sarah B. Spencer,
Clarissa W. Clark,

John L. Searing,
Hannah H. Marshall,
Phebe Hoxie,
George Iden,
Caroline Sisson,
William P. Sisson,
Caroline V. Cutler,
Asa L. Schooley,
Serena A. Minard,
William Cornell,
Susan W. Zavitz,
Samuel P. Zavitz.

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

As the time for which the Representative Committee was appointed will expire the present year, the following named Friends

are appointed a Nominating Committee to propose the names of Friends for that service at a future sitting of this meeting, viz. :

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Isaac Baker, | Daniel Zavitz, |
| Joel Phillips, | J. Webster Talcott, |
| Susan E. Hazard, | Mary E. Searing, |
| Jane Taylor, | Isaac Armitage, |
| Eliza H. Cornell, | Phebe Hoxie, |
| Eliza A. Baker, | William Greene, |
| William H. Widdifield. | |

The representatives are requested to remain at the close of this sitting to consider of, and propose at the opening of our next meeting, the names of Friends for Clerks for the ensuing year.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the 11th hour, tomorrow morning.

Third of the week and twelfth of the month, about the hour adjourned to, the meeting convened.

John J. Cornell on behalf of Representatives reported—"That they had conferred together and were united in proposing Jonathan D. Noxon and Rebecca Wilson for Clerks the ensuing year."

The names proposed being separately considered, were united with, and they appointed to that service for one year.

The Epistles of Indiana, Illinois and Womens' Branch of Ohio Yearly Meeting were now read, awakening responsive echoes in many hearts wherein we have realized that in spirit we are one, prompted by the same principles of Divine love, which ever seeks the best interest, and welfare of humanity and gathers all into the one true fold.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Representative Committee for the past year were now introduced, read, and

approved, and its recommendation that a standing committee be appointed to extend such farther labor towards the abolition of the death penalty in the State of New York and the Dominion of Canada by memorializing their respective legislators, or writing articles for publication by the press, was united with, and the following named Friends were appointed to that service and authorized to call on the Treasurer of this meeting for the expense incurred and report next year, viz. :

John J. Cornell,
 Stephen K. Brown,
 Sunderland P. Gardner,
 Susan W. Zavitz,
 Martha Ferris.

William P. Sisson,
 Isaac Wilson,
 Serena A. Minard,
 Sarah Ann Greene,
 Eliza H. Cornell,

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 are directed to be recorded as descriptive of our present state.

Ans. 1st. Most Friends are diligent in the attendance of all our meetings for worship and discipline, although there is a neglect in the attendance of midweek meetings. One account states that one of its meetings reports that on account of illness no meetings except those for discipline have been held since last Yearly Meeting. The hour nearly observed, and no unbecoming behavior noticed.

Ans. 2d. Love and fellowship appear to be maintained amongst us except one instance in which care has been taken. When differences arise care is taken to end them, tale bearing and detraction avoided and discouraged.

Ans. 3d. We believe Friends are, with an exception from one meeting, clear of the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and have a care to extend a proper influence and encouragement towards total abstinence to those who appear to require

it, and are clear of frequenting taverns or of attending places of diversion of demoralizing tendencies.

Ans. 4th. The circumstances of the poor and those who appear likely to require assistance are duly inspected and relief seasonably afforded them, and they are advised and assisted in such employment as they are capable of, and their children are acquiring an education sufficient to fit them for business.

Ans. 5th. We believe our members maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a free gospel ministry, also bear a faithful testimony against war, oaths and all forms of oppression except one instance in regard to the taking of an oath.

Ans. 6th. We believe Friends are endeavoring to be just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their engagements and to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage, except one instance of giving occasion for fear in consequence of extension of business in which care has been taken, and one of not being punctual in performing promises and paying just debts.

Ans. 7th. We believe care is taken mostly seasonable to deal with delinquents, in the spirit of meekness for their restoration.

Ans. 8th. They are.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock on Fifth-day morning.

Fifth of the week and fourth of the month, about the hour adjourned to, Friends again assembled.

The Committee on Indian Concerns presented a report of its proceedings for the past year, which, being read, was satisfactory to the meeting, and the committee encouraged to continue its labors on behalf of a matron, and the following synopsis of its report is directed to be inserted in the usual printed minutes, viz. :

"The Committee, to whom, was referred the care of Indian Affairs report: That during the past year little has claimed our attention, except in relation to the appointment of a matron at the Santee Agency to instruct the Indian women in the art of housekeeping. A Convention was called to meet in the city of Baltimore, in 3rd month last, to consult regarding the appointment of a proper person to send there for that purpose. The Executive Committee upon consultation concluded that it would be proper for this Yearly Meeting to be represented in that Convention, and accordingly selected Jonathan D. Noxon as our delegate."

"The Convention agreed in the selection of an applicant for the position, provided all the Yearly Meetings agreed to share in the expense, which was estimated at about \$1200, but inasmuch as Philadelphia's Yearly Meeting Committee failed to give the needed assurance the subject has been abandoned for the present."

"We learn that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has recommended an appropriation of \$750 per year be made for each of five Agencies, but whether Congress will make such an appropriation remains to be seen, but we still think that if Congress fails to make such provision that it will be a proper and legitimate field in which Friends may labor, and we therefore recommend that your Committee be empowered to co-operate with the Committees of the other Yearly Meetings in case all of them unite in bearing the expense.

On behalf of the Committee.

JOHN J. CORNELL,
Secretary.

The standing Committee on Temperance made the following report, viz. :

At a meeting of the standing Committee on Temperance, of Genesee Yearly Meeting, held at Bloomfield, Ontario, 12th of 6th month, 1888.

In the absence of the clerks, Charles Wilson and Alberta Webster were appointed for the day.

Reports were received and read from Farmington and Scipio Quarterly and Canada Half Yearly Meeting, each showing an increased interest in the cause, and speaking very encouragingly of the work performed in different localities. They also entertained a strong desire for Friends to press forward with a helping hand in this grand and noble cause.

Farmington Quarter reports three conferences held since last report. They also expressed a pleasure in being able to report a very apparent increase

of interest in the conferences by those interested in the work, so cheerfully responding to the solicitations of the Committee when requested to furnish literary entertainments, which consisted of essays, addresses, recitations and readings, all of which had been listened to with marked interest and profit.

Scipio Quarter had held but one meeting under the care of the Committee, at which very interesting papers were read, and addresses delivered, one of which maintained that protection from the evils of intemperance could only be secured to woman by granting her the ballot.

No other public meeting had been held, but individual members had delivered addresses and distributed tracts and temperance literature, also advising Friends to encourage the *Young Friends' Review*, as a medium of communication between the scattered committees of this Yearly Meeting, and thus exert an influence in spreading the testimonies of our Society on this as well as all other subjects.

Canada Half Yearly Meeting reports no great achievements have been effected by the committee as a body, still a good deal of work has been done by individual members, as they believed with lasting results.

Also informing that they had appointed a delegate to represent our Society at the National Prohibition Temperance Conference, to be held in Montreal, on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of 7th month next. Of which this committee approved. Samuel P. Zavitz regretting that no written report had been forwarded from Pelham, stated that they had not been unmindful of their duty, but had endeavored by their teaching, in First-day Schools and other sources, to educate the youthful mind in the temperance cause.

Rebecca Wilson then gave a recitation entitled "The Angel's Visit."

Also one by Sherman Brown, entitled the "Publican's Net," showing the danger of entering the saloon just for one drop.

Stephen K. Brown gave words of encouragement, that from the reports of our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, only one violation of the discipline on that subject had to be noted.

John J. Cornell and Letitia Youmans then gave very interesting addresses, showing that our duty in the temperance cause seems to be to keep ourselves from the indulgence in anything that encourages an appetite for alcohol, especially in the deceptive cider. To give scientific instruction in our public schools, teaching the children to know what alcohol is, what it does to us, and what it makes us do; to bring into disfavor the evil of treating; to exert an individual influence at every opportunity, and never publicly be an accomplice in legalizing the evil.

William F Searing then gave a few appropriate remarks, after which the Clerks were instructed to compile the reports together with some of the exercises to present to the Yearly Meeting.

Adjourned to meet at Farmington, N. Y., on Third-day afternoon, at four o'clock, of Yearly Meeting week, in 6th mo., 1889.

The report being read was satisfactory to the meeting and directed to be inserted in the usual printed minutes.

The time expiring the present year for which the Temperance Committee was appointed, the meeting concludes to appoint the following named Friends as a standing Committee on Temperance to bestow such care and labor in the promotion of the work as they may deem best for the ensuing three years and to report to the Yearly Meeting annually, viz.:

Eliza A. Baker,
John J. Cornell,
Joseph B. Fritts,
Mary G. Herendeen,
Mary E. Searing,
Phebe Hoxie,
William P. Giles,
Amelia G. Searing,
Stephen K. Brown,
Stephen W. Armitage,
Gideon V. Christy,
Emily Wilson,
Caroline V. Cutler,
Rebecca Schooley,
Amelia Page,
Albert E. Cutler,

Mary T. Freeman,
William G. Justice,
Sarah Ann Greene,
Jonathan D. Noxon,
William F. Searing,
Lillian E. Hoxie,
William P. Sisson,
John L. Searing,
Isaac Wilson,
Ruth C. Wilson,
Phebe Brown,
Eliza Brown,
Edward G. Schooley,
Serena Pound,
Samuel P. Zavitz,
John Minard.

The Committee appointed to collect such of the exercises of the meeting as way may open for produced the following, which being read, were approved, and directed to be inserted in the usual printed minutes of this meeting :

The meetings gathered on First-day under the preparing influence of God—sent silence, wherein each mind was, in a degree, divested of its animal activities, and brought into a condition where it was enabled to appropriate more profitably to its edification the truths that were to be handed forth. And then it pleased God to qualify his servants, to put forth, in a clear, forcible and concise manner, the views of our Society on several practical and vital points. Reasons, logical and convincing, were given for the faith that is in us, and causing us to differ from other churches in many respects in our modes of worship, and even in our very beliefs. We reject the ceremony of the "Lord's Supper," for the spiritual communion with Christ in the soul; the outward baptism, for the emersion of our natures in the purifying element of God's love; music, as a part of worship, as it entices away from the higher and fuller and sweeter harmonies in the spirit world. We are desirous of a salvation from sin in the present world; and if we fall, to seek a restoration to the former state of child-like purity, rather than to look for a redemption through the material blood of an innocent and crucified brother; to look for our Saviour not to any outward man or book, but to the directly revealed will of God, who declares that "beside Me there is no Saviour."

In the early part of the business meeting we were exhorted to dwell near to God, watching closely the intimations of duty that the Power under whose guidance we profess to carry on our deliberations, may require of each one to aid the business as it advances before us. The young were earnestly invited to obey the promptings of divine love that may arise in their breast. It was felt that words of invitation now were far better than words of censure later.

The reading of the epistles from the sister organizations brought us to a sense of thankfulness for this means of communication with each other. The living sense of common duties, and brought the fresh inspirations of the Almighty that breathed throughout, made them far better than those of their childhood times when they seemed to be manufactured in stereotypic exactness and interlarded with

scriptural passages with no application. We were grateful to this ever-renewing power whether the change has been in the epistles themselves or in us. Those commissioned to answer these epistles were invited to go down into the depths of feeling that it might be "like deep calling unto deep."

This Yearly Meeting joins the others in the movement to search out and correspond with its isolated members.

The subject of capital punishment was introduced by the report of the representative committee and it was felt that if proper means were employed, this evil could be banished in a short time. The memorial sent up to the legislature by our Standing Committee during the past year although ably presented, failed in its object because the authorities could not act, as the people had not been sufficiently enlightened on the subject. This was our duty now—to convince the people that capital punishment is unbiblical, unchrist-like, and inhuman—a wrong within our land, and a stain upon our statutes.

The reading and answering of the queries brought forth much deep exercise. It was pointed out that although God teaches His people Himself, and worship may be performed irrespective of place and time, yet there is found in the very nature of man a necessity for mingling with other spirits, kindred in feeling and principle, for social fellowship and divine worship, and a neglect of attending our meetings with all their opportunities for giving and receiving love and sympathy, is a sign of a void in some of the higher and diviner qualities of the soul.

We were exhorted to maintain love and fellowship. The conquering of our own wills is greater than the conquering of cities, yet surprises may come and take our impulsive natures off their guard, and impel them to wrong action. In such cases it is well to remember that to acknowledge our error is at least noble, and is not a helpless disarmament to the mercies of an enemy, but a conquering by the more efficient weapons of love and peace that God has placed in our hands.

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To deal with offenders seasonably, does not mean to do it immediately, but to wait till the all-loving Father invites us to help Him in the work of restoration.

The session on temperance was more interesting than ever before. Our duty in the cause at present seems to be to convince the world, and especially the temperance workers, of the necessity of adopting our own high standard of total abstinence for the individual and prohibition of the traffic. And in the exercise of our suffrage let our motto be "Purity above Party."

The F. D. S. work is growing and deepening in interest throughout our Yearly Meeting. We feel a deep responsibility resting upon us in this enlightenment of the children, as they are the hope of the church. We are to-day shaping its future history in their pliable minds. Let us imbue them with the high and holy principles of our Society, and bring them to love its simple ways, which are altogether lovely. Let us keep them from being entangled in the cobweb theology of the world, by presenting to them simple revelations, entreating them to be ever loyal to their one God, by obeying His divine laws written upon the tablet of their hearts.

And now as we are about to separate we have a foretaste of the smart and the pain that must follow the abrupt snapping asunder of the ties of love and affection that have been drawing us nearer and nearer; yet we rejoice too that we have been enabled to transact the business of the Yearly Meeting in such love, harmony and power.

The Committee on Treasurer's accounts made the following report viz.:

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer submits the following report:
Having examined the Treasurer's accounts we find them as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Amount in hands of former Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting	\$185 82
Interest on the same	7 04
Quotas from the Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings	150 00
Total amount of receipts	<u>\$342 86</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Paid Treasurer of First-day School Association	\$ 6c 00
Printing Yearly Meeting Extracts.....	48 50
Duties on the same.....	12 95
Repairs on Meeting House at Farmington	50 00
Expenses of Committee to Albany.....	14 60
Drafts and Postage.....	2 62
	<hr/>
Total Expenditures.....	\$188 67

Leaving a balance due the meeting, \$154 19.

We recommend the raising of \$150.00 for the use of the Yearly Meeting the ensuing year and propose the name of Asa L. Schooley for Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee,

WILLIAM GREENE.
SUSAN W. ZAVITZ.

Bloomfield, 6th mo., 14th, 1888.

The report being satisfactory to the Meeting, Asa L. Schooley is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year and our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings are requested to raise their respective proportions of the sum named, pay to Asa L. Schooley, treasurer, and report.

A proposition was made that the Yearly Meeting contribute seventy dollars toward defraying the expense incurred in publishing the YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW. The meeting approving of the proposition, the publishers of that periodical are requested to call on this meeting's treasurer for that amount.

The Committee to nominate Friends to constitute the Representative Committee made the following report, viz.:

The Committee to nominate Friends to constitute the Representative Committee all met and conferred together, and were united in proposing the following named Friends for that service, viz.:

Bloomfie

Jonathan D. Noxon,
 Eliza H. Cornell,
 Gurden T. Smith,
 Phebe Jane Noxon,
 Sarah Ann Greene,
 William Greene,
 Susan E. Hazard,
 D. John Stickney,
 John L. Searing,
 William P. Sisson,
 William F. Searing,
 Caroline Sisson,
 Amelia G. Searing,
 George E. Powell,
 John C. Peckham,
 Isaac Wilson,
 Ruth C. Wilson,
 Marion Armitage,
 Amelia M. Hughes,
 Sarah Talcott,
 Clarissa W. Clark,
 Charles Wilson,
 J. Webster Talcott,
 Lydia R. Richards,
 Serena A. Minard,
 Daniel Zavitz,
 Robert Wilson,
 Isaac Zavitz,
 Martha Wilson,
 Daniel W. Page,
 Elizabeth M. Haight,
 Christian Muma,

John J. Cornell,
 Isaac Baker,
 Eliza A. Baker,
 Mary G. Herendeen,
 Martha H. Ferris,
 Mary T. Freeman,
 Willet B. Hazard,
 Joseph B. Fritts,
 Samuel Searing,
 Mary E. Searing,
 Samuel F. Dickenson,
 George Iden,
 Jane E. Iden,
 William P. Giles,
 Sarah W. Hart,
 Elisha W. Talcott,
 William H. Widdifield,
 Elias Armitage,
 Jane Taylor,
 Emily Wilson,
 Alfred Stevens,
 Isabel Armitage,
 Jacob S. Cronk,
 Asa L. Schooley,
 Susan W. Zavitz,
 Samuel P. Zavitz,
 Ida C. Zavitz,
 Caroline V. Cutler,
 Wm. Cornell,
 Sarah E. Zavitz,
 Albert E. Cutler,
 Hugh N. Brown,

On behalf of the Committee,

WM. GREENE,
 SUSAN E. HAZARD.

Bloomfield, 6th mo. 13th, 1888.

The names proposed being satisfactory to the meeting, they are appointed to that service for three years.

The Committee appointed to prepare essays in reply to Epistles received from other Yearly Meetings produced two, which being read were approved by the meeting, and the Clerks are directed to transcribe, sign, and forward them, respectively, to the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond.

A proposition was made that the Yearly Meeting take an enumeration of its members, and for that purpose it was suggested that the Committee on Printing of the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting obtain the necessary blanks for that purpose and forward copies to all our Monthly and Executive Meetings to be filled out with as explicit a statement of their membership as can be obtained, and then forwarded to the Quarterly and Half Yearly, and thence to the Yearly Meeting as a report. The proposition and suggestion being approved by the meeting, the Committee on Printing is requested to procure the necessary blanks and forward them to all our Monthly and Executive Meetings.

The First-day School Association requests that the minutes of its proceedings the past year be printed with the usual minutes of this meeting, and that its secretary be authorized to call on this meeting's treasurer for sufficient funds to defray the necessary expense of the Association. The meeting uniting with the request, the secretary of the Association is empowered to call on the treasurer of this meeting for the necessary expenses incurred.

Having again transacted the business of our annual gathering in harmony and full unity of feeling, grateful aspirations have arisen to the Master of all rightly gathered assemblies, that He has so graciously blessed us by His presence wherein ardent desires were begotten that we might be enabled to return to our homes bearing the sheaves of peace and the robe of the Father's love, and while dwelling under the canopy of His presence we bid each other affectionately farewell, and separate, to meet at Farmington, N. Y. at the usual time next year if the Lord permit.

JONATHAN D. NOXON, } Clerks.
REBECCA WILSON, }

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EPISTLES.

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Philadelphia by adjournments from the Fourteenth day of the Fifth Month to the Eighteenth of the same, inclusive, 1888.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—In again assembling together for the transaction of the weighty affairs of the church, a feeling of thankfulness has spread over us for the evidence furnished that we are still the recipients of Divine Love, filling many hearts with renewed desires to carry on the work of faithfully upholding the righteous testimonies, which we as a people have been called to present to the world.

We esteem the Epistles from our distant brethren, as among the interesting exercises coming before our Yearly Meeting; they were read during the first session and attentively listened to. The spirit of condescension and Christian love that has pervaded the entire deliberations of our large Yearly Meeting, has been a source of encouragement and renewed spiritual strength.

We have been feelingly reminded that brotherly regard, when begotten in the heart of the true servant of Christ, is far deeper and stronger than the friendship of man for man, a trifling difference of opinion or even a misunderstanding may destroy the latter. We were led to rejoice in this appearance of vital Christianity, which as evidenced in the Epistles received, exists among all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond and which also pervades our own borders.

A number of Friends from other Yearly Meetings have been very acceptably in attendance, several of them with minutes of introduction from their respective Monthly Meetings according to the good order observed among us, when travelling in the service of Truth.

The attendance and interest of our youth at the different sessions of our meeting has been gratifying to us.

We were urged to the faithful attendance of all our meetings, and they that meet together near the middle of the week, although their numbers may be few, were encouraged to be steadfast in this important duty, ever remembering that "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

The subject of the guarded care and encouragement of schools among us, has had the faithful attention of a committee for several years, and funds were placed at their disposal so that the work might not be retarded for want of means, and the good results accomplished attest the benefit of the labor bestowed.

We have no complete returns from the First-day schools within our limits; since their official recognition by the Yearly Meeting they have claimed increased attention among us.

The Committee on intoxicating beverages have given active attention to their duties, they were continued and encouraged to pursue their labor, as way opens, in accordance with the operation of Divine Truth in their minds.

The report of the Committee on our isolated members showed that they have given careful and detailed attention to the concern assigned to their care, and that they have procured the names of 369 persons of the class referred to. They reside in 182 different places. There are, however, 21 places in which four or more members are reported, several of them having 8, 9, 10 and 12 each. They mainly reside between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, but some are still more distant. As these are

only our own members and do not include any who are members of the other six Yearly Meetings, it is evident that the above figures would be materially increased if all the Yearly Meetings would appoint similar committees with power to confer together. A number of localities might appear where there would be enough to constitute meetings for religious worship and the establishment of these meetings might be the means of saving many to our fold, and of securing to them and their descendants the inestimable blessings derived from mingling with their fellow professors in spiritual worship.

We feel that the overshadowing presence of Heavenly Love has continued over the several sittings of the meeting, strengthening us in our desire to transact the affairs of the church in harmony, for the honor of the Great Head.

We close in near fellowship, and remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

EMMER ROBERTS. Clerk.

*From the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends,
held in New York, by adjournments from the 28th of Fifth
Month to the 31st of the same, inclusive, 1888.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—The apostolic injunction, "Let brotherly love continue," was impressively revived at the opening of our annual session. Difference of sentiment might be expected upon subjects introduced for consideration viewed from various standpoints. But difference of view should not occasion difference of feeling. When the desire to establish our premises yields in loving condescension to our brother as equally sincere in his presentation, the spirit of forbearance will prevail and the unity be preserved.

The reading of the Epistles occasioned unusual interest. That the seven Yearly Meetings remain in unbroken fellowship was cited with gratitude as not the least of our many blessings.

The insight furnished into the spiritual condition of our Society was valuable, not only in individual self-examination, but also in its application to each portion of the heritage.

In this particular, the loving regard and labor for distant isolated brethren, manifested in one of the Epistles, had the effect of arousing concern for those of our members similarly circumstanced, and a committee was appointed to the service.

We likewise heartily sympathized with the efforts, indicated in the Epistles, to further arbitration among nations as a means of adjustment of differences rather than the resort to war; with the continued interest in the welfare of the Indian, and with the even greater area of labor for the benefit of the colored man, who, though freed from slavery, is the inheritor of vices consequent upon it. The results of a lack of the education and moral uplifting of the freed man have been pictured in language calculated to awaken a sense of serious responsibility.

Temperance also, which was prominently referred to in the Epistles, has had added value, with the evidence of increasing solicitude for its maintenance throughout our religious organization. While our members appear quite free from the traffic in, and use of, intoxicating beverages, there is evident need of a better understanding of the innumerable bearings of this subject upon the individual, the home, the church and the state. The work of educating the people relative to the duties of the Christian citizen and the Christian Church regarding the giant evil of intemperance we believe to be one of the important missions of our religious Society.

The follower of Christ can be no idler. "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Faith will find expression in

works of practical righteousness. For, as testified the blessed Master: "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

The field of service that opens within our borders will not be confined to denominational limits, but, like our Great Exemplar, with the "anointing of the Holy Spirit and with power," we shall likewise "go about doing good, for God will be with us."

The examination of the state of our Society, as indicated by the answers to the queries, brought forth pertinent testimonies. Our testimony in favor of a free Gospel ministry, resting upon Divine qualification alone, will be effectively manifested by the regular attendance of all our meetings. Though our simple dependance upon the operation of the Holy Spirit may find little favor with the professor of creed and dogma, the attentive introverted mind will surely find the "witness for God" dispelling doubt and establishing as a blessed reality the fact that He is the teacher of His people Himself.

Gospel messengers would thus be prepared to bear the glad tidings to other hearts.

The query on the treatment of offenders received touching comment. When the extended arms of love go out to the prodigal again and again, rarely will the need for the exercise of disciplinary separation be required; but through forbearance and long suffering, restoration will be effected.

The concern for the guarded and religious education of the youth has been prominent in our deliberations. While facilities exist, which should receive liberal support, for the acquisition of knowledge, how unavailing the result unless accompanied by moral and spiritual culture so that the whole man may be equipped for the contests of life, and be "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

We have been cheered by the presence and co-operation of the young, who are evincing increased interest in the affairs of our

Society. The First-day Schools receive increased care and attention, and the meetings of the First-day School Association held during this week, with the large number of those in attendance immediately indentified, and of others in sympathy with the work, show unabated zeal in this important movement.

We have been favored with the company of a number of beloved Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose Gospel exercises have largely contributed to our comfort and edification.

“Finally, brethern, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”

Signed by direction of the meeting.

ROBERT S. HAVILAND, Clerk.

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Men's Branch) held by adjournments, from the thirty-first day of the Tenth month, to the fourth of the Eleventh month, inclusive, 1887.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—On reading the Epistles from the Yearly Meetings with which we are in correspondence, we rejoiced in our hearts that Friends of the several Yearly Meetings were bound together so nearly and dearly in the bonds of Christian love, to promote the cause of Truth and Righteousness.

We have been favored with the company of many Friends from other Yearly Meetings, whose counsels of encouragement and Gospel labors, have been strengthening to us. Thankful to the good Father for this renewed evidence of regard, in thus sending His servants to “stir up the pure mind by way of remembrance,” we sincerely hope the good seed sown may not have fallen upon stony ground, but that it may prove fruitful of good results.

A concern arose in the Meeting that our Monthly Meetings should use diligence in ascertaining the residence of such of their members as may have removed beyond their limits, in order that they may still retain an oversight over them, and extend aid to them if way should open therefor.

While engaged in the consideration of the state of society as shown by the answers to the Queries, a vein of Gospel love seemed opened and much salutary counsel was given forth. It appeared that the moral condition of our members has not deteriorated; and as true morality is ever a fruit of spiritual life, we sincerely hope our religion is not barren of good results; but to rest in a false security is ever dangerous. We therefore hope that all our members may continue to "press forward to the mark of the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

We were exhorted to a diligent attendance of all our meetings, and drawing our minds away from material affairs when so gathered for social religious worship, striving for a more deeply devotional feeling, and a more spiritual conception of Divine worship, resting in the peaceable Kingdom of the Heavenly Jerusalem, we should "hear the shout of the King" in our midst, and be reminded of the unequivocal and peculiar blessing promised those gathering in His name; as also of the impressive testimony of this form of worship by one convinced by its power; "when," said Robert Barclay, "I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power that touched my heart, and, as I gave way to it, I found the evil in me weakening and the good rising up."

Our testimony to love was presented as perhaps the most important, being the foundation of all. As we draw near to the inexhaustible fountain of Divine love, man's true Christian relationship and duties are apparent.

It is as a perennial feast whereat he will be strengthened to perform his duty; "first to God, next to his Society, and then to

the world around." And this being so, our Society will be enabled to work aright, and effectually in the direction of the great moral movements of the world in this age.

We are inspired with fresh hope to believe there is at this time, an awakening to a deeper sense of the need there is of working in accord with the spirit of the declaration of the blessed Jesus "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

We are much encouraged to see that many of the principles for which our Society has been striving for years, are at last being recognized and appreciated. Even at this very time there is at our Nation's Capitol, a delegation from across the deep, whose desire and object is to establish a system of Arbitration, that peace between nations may be perpetuated.

It was a cause of much regret that some of our members still continue the sale of spirituous liquors, under the opinion that it is necessary to the success of their business, apparently losing sight of the fact that a wrong of any kind can never prove a permanent success.

More faith in the providence of God, and the promises His annointed servants have made in His name, that when we obey His commandments we shall be provided for, it is believed, would dispel this delusion, and preserve us from the evils so often following such sales, and tend to the good of the community in which we live.

We think our First-day Schools have been productive of good and the afternoon devoted to the younger members of the Society in connection therewith, was both an interesting and instructive occasion.

With a salutation of love, we are your Friends.

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

EDWD. STABLER, Clerk,

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*From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends held, at Richmond, Ind.,
by adjournments from the 26th of 9th Mo. to the 29th of same,
inclusive, 1887.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—Once more we find ourselves gathered as a Yearly Meeting, for the purpose of Divine worship, and for the transaction of such business as may seem necessary for the promotion of the best interests of the Society. The meetings on First-day, both forenoon and after, were well attended, and all present seemed to feel that the spirit of God was indeed with us, and that the meeting was truly a spiritual feast where the hungry souls might come and partake of the heavenly blessings which are freely offered to all who humbly seek for light from above.

Our business meetings have been characterized throughout by a feeling of perfect love and unity which has enabled us to go on in entire harmony, and whenever a difference of opinion existed friends have shown a willingness to kindly submit to whatever seemed to be the prevailing sentiment of the meeting. At the opening of the first session an appeal was made to the young and middle-aged, that they might assist in the work of the meeting, and this appeal has been responded to in a manner that gives great encouragement to those who feel that the labors of the church must ere long be performed by younger hands. It was remarked that the newly appointed members of the representative committee differ in age nearly, if not quite, sixty years.

The reading of the Epistles from other Yearly Meetings afforded much pleasure and profit, and as was remarked by a Friend at the time, this exchange of greeting and interchange of thought, tends to promote harmonious action among Friends in general, as well as to advance the cause of truth, and keep alive the feelings of brotherly love and fellowship among Friends in different parts of our broad land.

The meetings of our First-day School Association have been well attended, and highly interesting and instructive. The interest in the First-day school work seems to be widening and strengthening, and friends are coming to look upon it as a valuable if not an indispensable adjunct of the church. The hour therein spent in the study of the Holy Scriptures and the exchange of thoughts upon their teachings, is felt to be time well spent, and serves more fully to prepare the mind for pure and deep communion with the Divine Spirit when we gather in our meetings for worship. The aged ones are requested to give encouragement to the schools by their presence if nothing more. We are reminded of the great importance of instructing the young in a manner that will make them good and useful citizens, and let them gain such knowledge, and only such, as will be useful to them in after life, as early impressions are most lasting.

Our Yearly Meeting has adopted the plan of annually making an enumeration of its members, so that we may better know the condition of the Society. In connection with the report which came up this year, it was noticed that one Monthly Meeting had received nineteen new members by conviction. It was stated that these accessions were largely due to the kind invitations extended by members to those who were not members, yet who manifested an interest in our meetings and often attended them. And it was recommended that we give more attention to work in this direction. Let all who manifest an interest in our Society, feel that our doors are open and a friendly hand extended to receive them.

We have with us some Friends from other meetings, whose words of counsel and love greatly strengthen us in our work.

It was very gratifying to us to learn of the advanced steps taken by your meeting in the temperance work. While our own borders are almost entirely clear of intemperance, we have had deep concerns expressed in our meetings that Friends become more alive to the necessity of diligent earnest work, not only to

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 our therein boys down to disgrace and ruin.

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In conclusion we breathe an earnest prayer that we may all
 feel such cementing love that our hearts may be joined as one
 heart and that to God. With thanks for your words of love and
 wisdom, we remain your Friends.

On behalf of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

DAVIS FURNAS, Clerk.

*From Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, held by adjournments,
 from the 12th of 9th mo., to the 15th of the same, inclusive, 1887.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

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Dear Friends,—Time, in its onward march, has again
 marked the period for the gathering of our annual assembly, and we
 are here from our widely scattered homes, attending to its important
 duties as best we can. We have felt ourselves aided in our work
 by the kind sympathy and love extended in your valuable epistle,
 in common with those from other Yearly Meetings.

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The power of human sympathy is one of the great levers that
 move the world of mankind to a better condition.

The blessed Master, when about to leave us in the flesh, gave
 what is sometimes called the eleventh commandment, "That ye
 love one another, as I have loved you." This was new in the
 sense, as exemplified in the beatitudes. To love our enemies,

and to do good to those that despitefully use and persecute us, is to be able to come up to a high standard. We hope we are approximating towards it, and do not go mourning on our way in regard to the decline of Friends.

"All that is in danger, is not lost," and there is no doubt that primitive Christianity, as taught by early Friends, and kept alive by their descendants, is more thoroughly disseminated through other religious bodies, and the world at large, than ever before.

If we "Mind the Light," as vouchsafed to us by a loving Father, all will be well; we will go on conquering the besetments that obstruct our pathway by the higher life.

When we look back, the past has its lesson; when we look forward, the future has its promises; let us pause here. The ever living present has its duties that cannot be ignored, and what we are here for is to attend to the duties that come before us, and to have our spiritual strength renewed, for as "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend," and if the present pass unimproved, its opportunities are lost to us forever.

Oh! the possibilities of our future, to gain strength and wisdom by courage and action. May we, with you, keep the eye single to that manifestly divine purpose of Him, who came into the world to bear witness to the truth, and who gave His life as a seal to His ministry.

Our Meeting is smaller than usual, but a good degree of interest has been manifested. We have had two interesting sessions of the First-day School Conference, and an evening meeting for the youth, which was largely attended, also two evening parlor meetings. One in the interest of peace and arbitration, and in opposition to capital punishment, was held by the "Illinois Peace Society," in the Yearly Meeting-house.

In our first business meeting, a proposition was made, to hold our business meetings as one body, which, being referred to a

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joint committee, was reported on favorably, and with but little opposition, was adopted by the Yearly Meeting; so we, as well as yourselves, have discarded the wall of partition to divide the sexes; time, we trust, will show whether it has been in best wisdom.

Our business has all been harmonious, and we hope beneficially transacted, for which all have reason to be thankful. The temperance interests have been carefully considered, and we desire to establish this fact, that we maintain the conviction, that total abstinence for the individual, and prohibition of the traffic in liquor, by legal enactment, is the alone safeguard.

Several memorials were read, reminding us that we are but pilgrims here, that the young may die, and the old *must*, so let us strive for the prize of the "high calling in Christ Jesus," for there is a reward in this life, and a crown of glory in the next, that should animate every soul in the Divine presence, and we feel, as we are about to separate, that we will not all meet again; but we will cherish many blessed memories of those from whom we part, and may the lustre of our lives shine brighter and brighter until the perfect day. "Therefore be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

In the bonds of peace and love, we are your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

ELIZABETH H. COALE, } Clerks.
OLIVER WILSON, }

From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by adjournments from the 14th of the Fifth Month to the 18th of the same, inclusive, 1888.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS:

Dear Friends,—As we have listened to the reading of your epistle, together with those from other Yearly Meetings, the

fountain of grateful feeling has been stirred that the avenue of communication is kept unobstructed, and by this means we speak of our love for one another, of the work in which we are engaged, and of that earnest, devotional feeling which recognizes the presence of the Divine Spirit as the enlivening Power which directs into all good.

A more than usual degree of solemnity seemed to cover our body as we assembled this year, and the absence of departed ones who have faithfully shared the responsibilities of the Society, and have now passed from our earthly presence, seemed to clothe our spirits with a sense of loss ; but the expression was given that if we would draw in quiet thought and prayer toward our Heavenly Father a sweet submission would be experienced, and a feeling of thankfulness would arise with the consciousness that, as they had been a strength and blessing to us in the past, their memory would be an incentive to greater faithfulness and well doing in the future.

We cannot be true Friends unless we examine for ourselves the several requirements which the Society makes upon us. At the foundation is the duty of attending our meetings for worship and discipline. The Father has promised that He will give us that knowledge of Himself that will bring salvation to the soul. Therefore we have no need of any other teacher. True worship is an individual work ; it is the bowing down of the soul, a consecration of our spirits to that of the Divine ; it is the petition of each soul according to its needs.

The future of our Society depends upon the religious training of the children, and mothers have been earnestly pleaded with that they trust not this sacred duty to the keeping of others, but as they themselves draw near to the Fountain of spiritual life they gather their little ones with them. It can never be too early to establish in the heart and mind a love for the Truth. Doctrines may vary, but the Truth is unchangeable. To know the right and

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perform it is what is required of us all, and if even a *child* be faithful in the little, more will be made manifest. Let us also cherish in them that reverence and respect for Christian experience, which refines and elevates the growing mind.

Our hearts are rejoiced that you, too, are working against the prominent evils of intemperance and impurity in their many forms, feeling that our Heavenly Father is calling us to exert our influence in hastening the day when these evils will be forever blotted from the land.

There has been a widespread concern among us that the *principle* of plainness enjoined by our discipline may be understood in its broadest application. *Of* such simplicity of heart there will be a visible evidence in plainness of attire which will enable women to do their work in their families, and in the world, unfettered by a dress which cripples their energies; it will manifest itself in a simplicity of speech which is characterized by absolute sincerity and truthfulness. Freed from many of the hindrances which the care for the outward imposes on women in these days, there is room made for a higher development of all our powers—physical, mental and spiritual—and the testimonies which we feel called upon to bear shall be borne with greater dignity and force.

The presence of Friends from other Yearly Meetings we gratefully acknowledge, and a feeling of thankfulness has covered us that in all our deliberations, amid diversity of opinions, a spirit of cheerful concession and loving harmony has prevailed.

Signed by the direction and on behalf of the meeting by

MARGARETTA WALTON, Clerk.

From New York Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by adjournments from 28th of Fifth Month to the 31st of the same, inclusive, 1888.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—Your epistle of Sixth month, last, was received and read in this meeting to our satisfaction and encouragement

It afforded us an evidence that we still remain united in that love which is the bond of true fellowship.

As we assemble again in our yearly gathering our hearts are touched with sadness, remembering those who are no more to be seen by mortal eye, who have gone to their eternal home to reap the reward of faithfulness. Although saddened, our spirits rejoice that the same Power is operating upon our minds and lives, and the same promise is given us as to those formerly: "Be ye faithful unto death, and ye shall receive a crown of life." There is every hope offered to the willing and obedient. Their lives are brightened by the illuminating influence of the love of God. Charity will abound in all their actions, and there will be no room in their hearts for the disturbing elements of unkind feelings one toward another.

We have with us at this time messengers from different parts of the heritage, bringing with them "tidings of great joy." We are reminded by their presence that the universal love of the Father abounds in the hearts of His children wherever their lot may be cast.

When our minds are brought into condescension to the Divine will, we are made willing to be led by the unerring Guide, and be either sowers or reapers in the great harvest of the Lord. Whatsoever we do, let it be to His honor and glory.

Upon reviewing the state of society the minds of Friends were exercised on account of the deficiency existing among us in the non-attendance of our religious meetings. A renewed interest was felt that the manifestation of weakness may not discourage the livingly concerned of our members, for we have the consoling promise of the Divine Master, that when we are gathered in His name, whether our number be great or small, He is in our midst. How animating is this assurance, and how it should stimulate us to diligence?

The dignity, beauty and satisfying power of silent worship has been brought before us, and we have realized when quietly assembled something of the feeling of him who said : "The Lord is in His holy temple ; let all the earth keep silence before Him." Especially have we been exhorted not to let the silent hour become a mere formality ; but, in the stillness of all flesh, to worship in the spirit and the power.

We have a mission, transmitted to us by our founders, to bear testimony to certain distinctive principles, prominent among which are Immediate Revelation and a Free Gospel Ministry, and if we, as standard bearers of the Society of Friends, would receive the reward of "well done, good and faithful servants," these testimonies must be kept prominently in the foreground, and never in the least degree subservient to other concerns.

Encouraging reports come from those engaged in the First-day School work, and we are made to feel that, as we draw near to the Heavenly Fountain for help and strength, our efforts will be blessed. The philanthropic work of our Society has been entrusted to one large committee, who have divided it, appointing different lines of work to each, and a two days' conference will be held at the close of this Yearly Meeting. Two memorials were issued by that committee—one addressed to the President on the subject of International Arbitration, and one to the President and Congress with regard to the liquor traffic—and three Friends were appointed from each meeting to present these memorials, which, we trust, may tend to secure wiser and more beneficent legislation on the questions involved.

A brother from another part of the vineyard was drawn to meet with our young people. His exercise was deeply impressive, revealing clearly the leadings of the Divine Spirit in his own life. He called them to that field of labor which will make their lives purer and nobler, if followed, and render them a blessing to their race. It was as though all were purity and sweetness around and

within them, sending them out refreshed, and ready to take up their separate tasks with renewed energy, and we trust it reached the hearts of many.

During the several sittings of this Yearly Meeting we have been favored with the overshadowing presence of Divine Love, under the cementing influence of which we have been enabled to transact the business as it has come before us in much harmony and concordance; and under a feeling of thankfulness for the mercy and goodness thus extended, we remain your friends in the bonds of Christian fellowship.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

AMANDA K. MILLER, Clerk.

*From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Women's Branch)
held at Baltimore by adjournments from the 31st of 10th mo., to
4th of 11th mo., inclusive, 1887.*

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS:

Dear Friends,—What a beautiful order is “dwelling together in unity,” and in that unity of spirit—the cementing bond of a common sisterhood—have we again come together, in this thoughtful season of gathering fruitage and decay, to fill our measure of appointments individually and collectively, to do some little good it may be our noblest work, both as sowers and reapers, fitting us for the many avenues of usefulness that loom up before us.

Your offering of loving sympathy, with others from sister meetings, awakened in our hearts a full response to the noble Christian work of your united body, and may we with you unitedly labor to advance the Master's work everywhere. Bear ye one another's burthens thus fulfilling the law of Christ, and as burthen bearers, let us consecrate our energies to redressing the wrongs of common humanity. Turn westward, and our unprejudiced sympathies will

be enlisted in behalf of the Indians, to whom your epistle feelingly alluded, and to whose appeals for help during this period of transition, the christianizing influences of our Society should be directed ; assisting to place them in a condition to do for themselves.

Turn southward and another field invites us, as a society, to combine our forces to carry on the noble work philanthropy.

“Awake, O ! soul that sleepeth ” and with unselfish devotion, and an un failing trust in the all-sufficiency of God’s grace to strengthen our purposes, let us work with hand, heart, and brain, as the pointings of duty direct.

We are glad to see our younger sisters coming forward in the support of our ancient testimonies of peace and temperance ; but whatever field of work may open, may they never lose sight of the foundation principles of our Society, the Divine in man, which will enable them to stand for the right, with dignity and firmness, that will do honor to our profession.

We were recommended by one of our sisters, to be “ faithful in every little service required of us by our Heavenly Father ; for every service is a Divine service, and if we are faithful we shall know the ministry of angels as surely as did He who was faithful in all things.”

We have been truly favored to have with us in this annual gathering so many dear Friends from other folds of the Master’s heritage, bringing unto us and sharing with us, of what God has given to them. The messages of inspiration, have been as bread to the hungry and as drink to the thirsting soul, saying, as it were, “Ho ! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters of life, and buy freely without money and without price.” (55th Isaiah 1st verse).

The subject of preparing and adopting a testimonial favoring peace among men, and arbitration between nations, to be forwarded to the peace commission, was introduced and weightily considered.

A committee was appointed to express the unity and sympathy of this Yearly Meeting in its behalf as an endorsement to their labors in the interest of peace.

In the consideration of the the state of society, much earnest testimony was borne against poisoning the mind with the corrupt literature that is scattered broadcast throughout the country; also the importance of mothers realizing more and more, day by day, the true family relationship, the need of greater filial confidence, which is the drawing chord that unites fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters, into one common sympathizing fellowship; and to this end there should be true dedication of heart, a waiting at the fountain of Divine wisdom for strength to direct.

The subject of temperance elicited much expression, and the contemplation of the work yet before us, in the restoration of fallen humanity—souls, created in the image and likeness of God, pure as the loveliest childhood, may be lost by drink to the purposes of their creation, and become so hardened in crime, that even the warm sunshine of love is powerless to reclaim.

This awakened a feeling that we should individually renew our efforts to remove the causes which produce such fearful results.

“Freely ye receive, freely give;” and as we have asked and received at the bountiful harvest of the Lord, let us freely dispense the good seed here and there, as we resume our places, and work in our varied spheres of life’s duties. Let us not separate ourselves from the blessings that come to us at our little meetings, but may the chords of Divine love be drawn so closely that we shall not be satisfied without availing ourselves of every opportunity to keep the book of remembrance full.

With feelings of cordial unity we remain your sisters.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

ANNA F. MATTHEWS, Clerk.

From Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Salem, Ohio, from the 29th of Eighth Month to the 1st of Ninth Month, inclusive, 1887.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—As we have again met to transact the business of Society we have recognized that Presence which fulfills the promise “that where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Your kind message, with those from others in the same bond of sisterhood, has brought renewedly before us the importance of dwelling near the Fountain, from which alone is received the strength we need, individually, to meet the trials all must encounter, and to fulfil the law of Christ in bearing one another’s burdens. It is stimulating to have evidence that others are reaching towards the same standard with ourselves. May we continue in that love and harmony that makes this interchange of thought and feeling practicable.

As we see year after year our members gathered to transact the business coming before us, a secret cry goes up for fresh awakening to our souls’ needs and for that communion with the Father which establishes that revelation upon which Christ said “I will build my church.” No unusual deficiencies are reported in review of the state of society. Although the answers to our queries are not in all points as full as we desire, we yet feel cause for rejoicing that so many of our principles have been maintained. An anxiety that we may comprehend the full meaning of our excellent queries was apparent, and that in accordance with their spirit each may live a life of love and simplicity. Though no set form may be essential to spiritual growth, desires have been expressed that Friends observe true plainness in dress; that we carefully guard the dear children in this direction, considering both health and that simplicity which most truly adorns youth, and that we give to our intercourse the dignity and charm of truthful, explicit and guarded expression. The importance of being provided with

literature suitable for spreading more widely our distinguishing principles has been feelingly brought before us. A clear, forcible expression, in brief form, may prove to be the word fitly spoken.

We are striving that individual influence may ever tend to the suppression of intemperance, and that in this effort we be consistent in all our words and actions. We learn with satisfaction, through our Temperance Committee, that instructive literature guarding from the inroads of alcohol has been distributed in several neighborhoods. With mind and heart adequately stirred by the sorrows growing out of depraved appetite, none will wish to realize regrets from neglected opportunities, but rather to remember: "These ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone."

We have a diversity of gifts. It is incumbent on each to use wisely that which is given to her care, as well as to extend the helping hand to those engaged in other fields.

Interest continues in the First-day School cause. Though we have but few schools, there are devoted workers and earnest solicitude for such maintainance of the schools as shall tend to the advancement of all.

Although we are not great in numbers, and at this time but few from without our limits have been with us, we feel that the favor of transacting the business before us in harmony, with an accompanying evidence of thoughtful consideration of affairs claiming judgment, should strengthen all to hold fast to the privilege of assembling in this capacity. To neglect the beautiful order of being "with one accord in one place" tends to weakness and loss.

In the bond of Christian love we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

JANE EDGERTON, Clerk.

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From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Richmond from the 26th of Ninth Month to the 29th of the same, inclusive, 1837.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends—Once again in our annual assembly our hearts have been tendered and made to rejoice upon the reading of your loving epistle, with those of other Yearly Meetings, and there has been made manifest a cementing influence of our Father's love, they are comparable to the refreshing draughts that we sometimes find by the wayside, kindling anew our energies and encouraging us in what ever work may be given us to do, and the great need of holding fast to that strong Arm that can carry us all, even through the "dark valley of the shadow of death."

In entering upon the various exercises of the Yearly Meeting the prayer of our hearts has arisen to our Heavenly Father, that Giver of every good and perfect gift, that our minds might be clothed in the spirit of true humility, willing to wait for His divine guidance and not trust our own strength, nor loose sight of that inshining Light, which, we believe, if faithfully followed, will lead us into perfect day. We have a number of ministering friends with us, and we are grateful for this kind remembrance. Much excellent counsel has been handed forth, and mothers, sisters and daughters have been tenderly entreated to make the best of all their circumstances, and a blessing would arise from faithfulness to all known duties that would fill their minds with that peace which is beyond all earthly joy, and their hearts with that love that passeth all understanding.

We have been encouraged to a more reverent reading of the holy Scriptures as leading to a better understanding of their spiritual meaning, for "God is a spirit, and is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth."

The importance of the right training of the little children was feelingly dwelt upon, and mothers, and all those who have this

care, might train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. "Feed my lambs" is capable of more than one interpretation, and these precious ones intrusted to our care are to be fed by that which will nourish their spiritual lives.

It is cause for thankfulness that our younger members are awakening to an increased interest in the support of our beloved principles and testimonies, giving hope that there is yet a remnant left in Israel that have not bowed the knee to Baal, and that God, out of His divine love and with His own exceeding mighty power, will continue to raise up faithful laborers and send them forth to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

The several subjects which we claim to be of great importance and essential to the whole human family have claimed our earnest attention, prominent among these is the subject of intemperance, which has furnished a field of arduous labor for all to put their shoulder to the wheel with ready hearts and willing minds; and oh! how our hearts rejoice to see those of our younger members coming forward into usefulness, evincing an interest in various works of charity and mercy and a willingness to devote a part of their time in this great and noble cause.

Dear Friends, while we realize a necessity for labor among ourselves, let us also extend the helping hand to those around us, endeavoring to strengthen the feeble knees and weak hands that hang down, for there are the weak and tempted everywhere to be sought out, and it may be saved.

The First-day School work is recognized as very important, and much has been said, and well said, and much earnest labor expended in this direction; not, we trust, without its beneficent fruit, for "by their fruits ye shall know them" were the words of the blessed Master, and fathers and mothers are made to rejoice in the deep interest manifested for their children in all that pertains to a life consistent with Divine guidance; and although

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Friends may have taken up this work later than others, yet the injunction seems applicable to us: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand."

We rejoice to see so great an interest manifested in the philanthropic work so widely spread before us. The condition of some of our prisons calls for this awakening of public sentiment and for the more efficient protection of our young girls, and to this work we believe women are especially called. All heavenly powers conspire to aid those who lead pure and righteous lives, designate them by what names we will—Grace, Light, Truth, the inspeaking Word, or the still small Voice of God in the soul—and the more frequently we bring our thoughts into the sunlight of these, the more sure we are of an entrance into His heavenly kingdom. In the drop of water, in the opening bud, in the blade of grass, in the thought of our heart, God teaches us the immensity of little things. Every incitation to purity of thought and true nobility of character has its place in the world's great work; hence the necessities of the age call for individual effort, and let us not withhold our mite because it seemeth small, but let us remember it is God that giveth the increase.

Our meetings have been very interesting, and while its several sessions have been conducted in harmony and sisterly love, we may adopt the language: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thee give glory."

And now, dear Friends, with greetings of love and patient trust and a faith that is strong and true, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of Indiana Yearly Meeting by

MARY W. COOK, Clerk,

Waynsville, Ohio.

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MINUTES
—OF—
FIRST-DAY • SCHOOL • ASSOCIATION

At Genesee First-day School Association, held in Bloomfield, Ont., the 11th of Sixth month, 1888.

The time for which the clerks were appointed having expired, Samuel P. Zavitz and Alberta Wilson were proposed, considered separately, and united with, and appointed to the service for one year.

Written reports were read from Yarmouth, Lobo, Pickering and East Hamburg Schools. An oral report was given of the school at Bloomfield, and mention was made of schools at Arkona and Pelham, and a Bible class in Buffalo, and after-meeting readings in Rochester, also of a union school near Yonge Street Meeting, in which Friends take part.

Epistles from Baltimore, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois Associations were read, bearing with them the fragrance of Divine love, and conveying to us proofs of the benefit of the work in distant parts.

To essay an answer to these, Webster Talcott, Alberta Wilson, Edgar M. Zavitz, Alice Kester, Eliza H. Cornell, Alberta Webster and Samuel P. Zavitz were appointed.

After a full expression by our Association on the subject of "Lesson Leaves," it seems to be the unanimous feeling of Friends

that we will be much more benefited by following the International Series of Lessons, and wish this to go to the General Conference as the judgment of this Association.

The following Friends were appointed our delegates to attend the General Conference, to be held in Yarmouth, Ont., in Eighth month next, viz.: Charles Wilson, Alberta Webster, Josephine Stickney, Isaac Wilson, Mary Christie, Alice Kester, Serena Minard, Asa L. Schooley, Edgar M. Zavitz, John J. Cornell, Samuel P. Zavitz, Joseph Brown and Caroline V. Cutler.

With the feeling that we have been blest in our mingling, and that Divine favor has rested upon our work, we now adjourn to meet at Farmington, N. Y., at 4 o'clock on Second-day afternoon of Yearly Meeting week, 1889.

REPORT OF YARMOUTH FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

To Genesee Yearly Meeting First-day School Association held at Bloomfield, Ont.

After sending our report a year ago we continued the School until the 30th of 10th mo., 1887, with 62 names on the roll and an average attendance of 30 persons.

First-day, the 6th of 5th mo., of this year, we again gathered together to resume the work of our First-day School with apparently renewed energy and for five weeks up to date have 63 names on the roll with an average attendance of 50, larger than we have had in former years, the number of small children have increased, and their animation in going through their exercises gives strength and life to the older ones. We have four teachers and use the lesson leaves with some other helps. The lesson leaves appear to be appreciated, it is a pleasing thought that a lesson on the same subject is taught in all the different Schools.

We have not kept up a library owing somewhat to the irregularity of returning books, in the place of it have adopted the plan of

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distributing weekly papers among the scholars, and think it will prove more satisfactory, also the "Scattered Seeds" once a month, supplying the children with good reading at a small cost.

ASA L. SCHOOLEY, Superintendent.

REPORT OF LOBO'S FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

In sending our ninth report to the Association we do so with feelings of thankfulness and encouragement. Although we are not able to report any increase in numbers since our last, yet we feel that there is no abatement of interest in the work nor in our School.

We are using Friends "Lesson Leaves" and find them helpful in our work. We are emphatically in favor of following the "International" series of lessons; believing as we do that they help us in our work with those outside of our Society.

We have 8 classes, 8 teachers, a total enrollment of 75, and a daily average of $53\frac{1}{2}$. Have 167 books in library with some money collected to add thereto.

We are distributing "Band of Hope Review," "Angel of Peace" and "Scattered Seeds." These are all much appreciated by all.

Our School is held as formerly 7 mos. of the year—beginning with the 4th and ending with the 10th mo. A Bible Class is held each mo. during the summer, and every two weeks during the winter season. The School is and has been from the beginning, held under the care of a Committee appointed by the Preparative meeting. The Committee appoints superintendent and other officers, and the teachers, and has full management of the work. We are fully convinced that the First-day School has brought blessings with it, and is a necessary part of our religious work if we expect growth and advancement in our Society, and we hope the day is not far distant when our Society will recognize the work even more fully that it yet has.

Sixth mo., 6th, 1888.

SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ, Supt.

REPORT OF PICKERING FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

To Friends First-day School Association, held at Bloomfield, Sixth Month, 1888:

As usual we are pleased to add our mite to the abundance that we may assist in our small measure to further the work in this useful field of labor. There has been some excellent work done in our school the past season. All that generally attend appear willing to assist, which is encouraging to concerned minds.

Our teachers make use of the lessons as published by Friends, which we think proves beneficial, as they help to draw out the better qualities. We also distribute ten copies of "Scattered Seeds." Our average attendance is sixteen. We have three classes, which make the classes small, but it seems almost necessary to divide the children according to age and years of understanding.

We closed our school five weeks in midsummer, the first time since its organization. Two schools omitted Half Yearly Meeting time, and two on account of inclemency of weather.

The good Master seems to favor a continued work year by year. There is just as much need of real, earnest workers now as in the past. The Christian work gets no less—"the fields are already white unto harvest, and the laborers are few." We need an increase of laborers. God will furnish the work if we are willing to be guided by His leading hand—the Light within. He will direct us from evil to that which is good.

ALBERTA WEBSTER, Secretary.

Sixth mo., 3rd, 1888.

REPORT OF EAST HAMBURG FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

To Genesee First-day School Association.

In submitting this, our sixth annual report to the F. D. S. Association, we cannot boast of any triumphal achievement or marked progress in our work.

While we have not omitted one F. D. School during the whole year since giving our last report,—we have been made sensible that from unavoidable changes that has taken place, our school has been undergoing a “transition season,” which to the casual observer may not be apparent—but to the pioneers of the work (who laid the foundation of the organization) comes a sinking sensation that produces the almost despairing cry—Help Lord! or we perish.

Out of 63 names enrolled there is only an average attendance of about one half that number.

The “Scattered Seeds” are taken by the younger scholars, while the older ones enjoy the perusal of them with equal interest.

The past year at roll call most answer to their name with a verse from the Bible. Cards are distributed among the younger scholars. The first, or Bible class have omitted them, and as we have been in the practice of taking up “penny collection” to defray expenses, by frugal management we have saved over twenty dollars, which has this spring been expended for library books.

We shall soon be equipped with a circulating library of nearly forty volumes, forming a nucleus, to which we hope time and Friends will greatly augment.

There are but a small number of Friends or Friends’ children in our school, it being composed largely of others whose home influence is not in sympathy with ours or any religious organization in particular; hence an apathy or indifference lies at the root of the matter, many of the parents feeling that if the children are dressed up and sent to “Sunday School”—no matter where to one, or more, to which they have access—their part of the mission has been accomplished.

That much good will be and has been derived from the efforts made in thus sustaining the school is no myth. Although the clouds of discouragement hover over us at times, and we do not

see the immediate results of our labors, yet we feel assured that somewhere, sometime, the good seed sown has fallen in good soil, and at the right season will yield a plenteous harvest.

One of the important features of our work has been the monthly temperance meetings, held the last First-day in every month at 3 p.m. They had their origin in and are mainly conducted by the school. The officers consist of president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and a committee of four or five to prepare programme for each ensuing meeting.

During the past year we have had, beside recitations, selections, etc., by the school, several lectures, and very able papers prepared and read by prominent teachers and citizens.

The effort has not been made in vain, for many outside, both in the neighborhood and surrounding locality, have come to our aid and greatly enlarged the sphere of our temperance work, which is slowly but surely gaining ground.

Hoping this simple and unpretentious recital of what we are doing may prove a stimulous to others who may feel their littleness and weakness in the great work of "needed reform" to persevere, and, having "taken hold of the handle of the plow, to look not back," but forward, remembering "that he who gives a cup of cold water to the thirsty ones in the name of a disciple shall receive a disciple's reward."

MARY T. FREEMAN, Supt.

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EPISTLES.

TO GENESEE FIRST DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—As we meet again after another season of work in the First-day School cause, we feel deeply grateful for the blessings of the past and hopeful for the opportunities of the future, and with a full human measure of the boundless Divine love and sympathy we send you greeting.

On such an occasion as this, when so many earnest spirits are gathered together in friendly communion, the prevailing feeling is one of encouragement, and we trust that you, our co-laborers, may also have abundant reason for the same feeling. Yet we recognize the fact that this should not induce us to relax our efforts for the furtherance of our chosen cause. Our course must be ever onward. These meetings are as halting places in the journey, where we may look around to see where we stand, and look forward over the ground to discover the best means of reaching the summits, only to be obtained by high endeavor. Acting on this idea, our Executive Committee has given special attention to the question of how to make our Association meetings more interesting and practical in their help to teachers. Essays and discussions have been invited on such topics as the "Object and right use of Lesson Leaves, the "Proper qualification of a teacher," and the "Duties of a superintendent." Many of our Unions also have Executive Committees which are endeavoring to do the same work for them. The best opportunity is thus afforded for an interchange of views and a comparison of methods by those who have had practical experience, and we trust that much good will result therefrom.

Believing in the Fatherhood of God, His omnipresence and His immediate teaching of His children, we sometimes ask: "Why should there be need for us to labor in the First-day School?" A partial answer may be, that although children are impressed by the leadings of the Light within, they are very susceptible to the influence of those around them. We find that someone shapes the religious characters of our children, and it should be our care and work that this shaping be what we consider conducive to their highest welfare. It should be our province as teachers to lead rather than to teach; to be a support and a guide to the faltering footsteps of the tender spirit; to bring it into full faith in the Father's loving kindness, and to help it to a fuller knowledge of the Divine Truth which shall make it free.

In this way we may also be able to secure the interest of the children in the great temperance movement which is sweeping over our country. They should become fully acquainted with all the moral and physical aspects of the question, for we must look to them to be the standard-bearers of the future. They should be prepared to come forward as the worthy representatives of a higher development—physical, as well as intellectual and spiritual. Full spiritual development, that perfection which has been set up for us as the goal of our spiritual life, can scarcely be attained in an imperfect body. What nobler work can the Church engage in than that of securing for posterity bodies that are healthy, vigorous and undefiled, a fit abiding place for an immortal soul?

As we look back over the past year of our First-day School work there come before us many pleasant memories and associations in connection therewith. But, withal, the work seems but begun, and the lessons we have endeavored to inculcate seem but the preface to the chapters that are to follow. There is no completeness to our work. It must keep pace with the ever widening circles of moral and spiritual progress. The more we try to impress the importance of living out the principles and testimonies of our Society, the more clearly do we see therein the elements of

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a true religion. Know thyself; and as we come to do so we shall be enabled to become our true selves, as the Master intended that we should be. For what higher religion can there be than that which teaches the need of living so close to the Father that His will manifest in us may be obeyed? Then, as we come more and more into harmony with Him and with the great laws of our being, we shall move onward and upward, nearer to the fulfillment of our destiny.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Association for the promotion of First-day Schools within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

RAYMOND ROBERTS, } Clerks.
CLARA B. MILLER, }

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—As a token of our sympathy with you in your labors in the First-day School cause and as a means of conveying to you in some degree our sense of the importance and necessity of the work in which we are mutually engaged, and with a feeling of thankfulness that we think we see, through the First-day School, indications of the dawning of a brighter day for our Society, we at this time address you.

At any time within the past thirty years we have heard unceasingly of the decline of the Society of Friends. The admitted fact has caused much and real lamentation. Explanations of the fact have been many, and mostly unsatisfactory. Of remedies proposed none have as yet proved effectual to reach the result of resuscitation, although we believe the influence of First-day School effort has proved sufficient to arrest the downward tendency.

It is, of course, saddening to us attached to the Society through association, through traditional, or through conviction of its principles, that the state of things existing does exist. It is

not pleasant to think that while the growth of other denominations has kept pace with the growth of our country, and multiplied churches and ministers and teachers and membership many fold, the Society of Friends, almost alone among religious organizations, has barely held its own. Nor does it help the case to attribute all this result to the lack of individual faithfulness, for then the question at once recurs: Why the lack of individual faithfulness? A remedy for the one might be, probably would be, a remedy for the other. Where is the remedy, and who shall help us to find it? No one, probably, to whom these words may come, will admit that for this lack of growth our principles are responsible. We are all ready to say in fact that they are not. Is the error, then, in organization? Is it possible that, as a body, we have been omitting duties or neglecting agencies in promulgating our principles that have in other societies been found fruitful of good? Can it be that we have slept while others were out in the vineyard? Can it be that with all our gettings we have failed to get wisdom?

Let us face the facts like men without flinching. With earnestness of purpose and directness of aim, with courage born of the Truth, and confidence in our faith and reliance upon God, let us, if we can, find the remedy and apply it. Other societies, recognizing long ago the need, the usefulness and the wisdom of training and informing their youth, entered upon the task as a duty, gathered their children into Sunday Schools and conducted these schools with system, zeal and ability. Their best minds wrote books for the young, published papers for the young, prepared lessons for the young, and are still doing so. Those in their ranks gifted by nature or by culture, many of wide and extensive learning, shared with the ministers the task and responsibility of instruction. As one example of the general appreciation by others of the importance of the work, think of the highest legal functionary of England, Lord High Chancellor, varying his judicial duties with the routine cares of a Sunday School.

Thus, then, have other denominations fostered and promoted the gathering and instruction of their youth. The schools have in turn become the nurseries of the church, and the church has grown.

Our Society till recently has neglected the gathering or the systematic instruction of its children. It has not grown.

Is there, or is there not, a relation between these facts? Is there or not an important lesson to us from their statement? We think there can be but one answer, and in the answer is the remedy.

Whoso would repair the waste places in our Zion must begin with the youth and be willing to work and to wait. Not in one decade, nor perhaps in one generation, can the work of restoration be accomplished. Neither is it to be accomplished except through intelligence, zeal and enthusiasm, and not even with these alone. Merely formal teaching will be powerless. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Teaching addressed merely to the minds of our children will fail; but teaching which appeals to the heart, which quickens the moral sensibilities, which uplifts their souls, never fails and never is forgotten.

And how may we secure such teaching—earnest, intelligent, zealous in the cause of Truth, reaching not only the minds, but the hearts also, of our children? Only in one way; and we earnestly plead with every teacher that in all his efforts he constantly seek the Divine guidance, which teaches as never man taught. Mental gifts are useful, concerted effort wise, but absorption into the soul of the teacher of the thought that his mission is of God, and for God, and for the eternal good of His children will alone make the teacher's work vital and fruitful.

When we can secure this teaching we shall probably have no reason longer to mourn over the decline of our Society, whose principles are to us the embodiment of truth; but, better than

that, we shall be leading our youth into paths of righteousness and into a walk with God. To this end let us all labor.

We have had at this annual gathering of our Association the acceptable company of co-workers from other Yearly Meetings whose presence has been encouraging and inspiring, while the kindly messages of love and sympathy from our sister associations have been most welcome and gratifying. The series of meetings held by us have been large and enthusiastic, betokening increased interest in the work ; and we bring our proceedings to a close with a feeling of hope and confidence which we have never before so strongly felt.

With salutations of love we remain your friends.

Signed by direction of the First-day School Association of New York Yearly Meeting.

JOSEPH A. BOGARDUS, } Clerks.
CAROLINE J. TITUS, }

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—Although we were not favored with a communication from you at our last annual gathering, yet we feel that we cannot let the opportunity of your assembling in the capacity of a First-day School Association pass without sending you an evidence of the love that fills our hearts and overflows toward all our fellow-workers.

It is with feelings of renewed thankfulness and praise to the dear Father, who, we believe, has led and sustained us in this work, that we thus address you. We feel to rejoice in being able to say that since our schools have been taken under the fostering care of the Yearly Meeting they have increased in numbers as well as in interest, there now being schools established in all our Monthly Meetings.

The appointment of committees by the Monthly Meetings to have an oversight of the individual schools has also had a cementing effect which, we believe, has been beneficial to both meeting and school by bringing the older and younger members more closely together ; and the teachers are strengthened and encouraged by having the committee share the responsibility of the work with them.

We feel that we should not let any opportunity pass of doing what we can to aid parents in teaching the children that come under our care what we as a Society give forth as our fundamental principles, which, if closely adhered to, will cause a deepening and broadening of spiritual growth. We believe our membership would grow larger if our young people more clearly understood the principles of the Society, so that they might always be prepared to give an intelligent reason for the faith which we hold. Let us not stand still, for we have not yet reached the greatest spiritual heights. We believe there are greater truths to be attained if we will do even as the scientist does, patiently seek and watch and wait for the Father's inspiration, which He will reveal to each one as he is willing and prepared to receive it.

From reports sent up from our various schools we find that the Lesson Leaves are very generally used, and many teachers have expressed the great help they have found from them in making preparation for their classes.

Great care is taken to exclude all unprofitable or sensational literature from our libraries that the minds of the children may not be led away from that which is pure and substantial in its character.

In some of our schools meetings of the superintendent and teachers are held periodically. At these meetings reports, either verbal or written, are made by the teachers, giving an account of their month's work, thus all get the benefit to some extent of what the others are doing. The Youths' Meeting, held on First-day

afternoon of our Yearly Meeting, was felt by those present to be a season of refreshment.

The children responding to the roll-call with sentiments and recitations showed their earnestness and appreciation of the work in which we are engaged, thus showing that if the soil is fitly prepared the seed sown in the Father's name will take root and grow.

Hoping that your approaching gathering may be rich in blessing from our Father's hand, we are your friends.

By direction and on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting Central Committee on First-day Schools.

ELI M. LAMB, Chairman.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—As our thoughts have turned towards our sister associations and essayed to respond to the communications with which we have been favored at our annual meeting, the heart queries: What new thing can be said, what word sent that has not already been expressed through this epistolary avenue? But the old is ever new. While life goes on mind acts upon mind, and we yearn for expressed sympathy and the stimulant of the spoken or written word. The healthy mind never reaches the point to say: "Life has no new lesson; I am best without intercourse with my fellows." The testimony that accords with conviction comforts and inspires. A word fitly spoken may send a life thrill through wearied brain and languishing purpose.

The cause of the First-day School while passing through its first epoch had added to the conviction that the church essentially needed its aid, a stimulant in the distrust and, in some cases, the opposition, with which it was met. At the present stage, if not

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fully recognized by the yearly and subordinate meetings, the schools are at least tacitly accepted. The siren of prosperity has displaced the spur of opposition. Whether they can adjust to the new phase and adequately meet the opportunity is indeed vital. The opportunity lies before us ; we are on trial. Each must bear a share of the test. Individual qualification and faithfulness alone can make an aggregate of success. Shall any hold the responsibility lightly? It is human to shrink and ask if any are equal to this thing. But is it not written that even the wayfaring shall not err in following Divine pointings? The work is not irksome if head and heart are properly convinced. A few hours given each week to religious thought cannot be burdensome if the soul is so enlisted as to properly take a place as helper in a school. Neither can the serious consideration of those distinguishing views and testimonies, which give the Society of Friends an excuse for claiming denominational place, be irksome if these be so engrafted in conviction as to give a right to claim the name of Friend. If the teachers in our schools are rooted and grounded in that love which Paul describes as leading to the fulness of God, they can truly extend to the children the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If they have found the golden thought from which our several testimonies spring, they will jealously guard these from reflections that tend to lessen respect ; but rather, by the opportune word, impress upon the youth the value of these testimonies when intelligently understood and applied to the affairs of men.

The problem of the future of the schools, and through them of the Society, is largely balancing upon the quality of those having charge of the schools. If these have appropriated the kernel of religious thought and apprehended the privilege of being in full sense Friends, the result need not be feared.

Dear friends and fellow-teachers, it is for us individually to meet our share of this responsibility by knowing whereof we speak, by testifying only of that Word which our own hands have handled. Let us scrupulously guard speech and actions that we

do violence neither to those who have reached a more full stature of religious experience than is yet ours; to those groping for light while yet in the outer courts; nor those who, in the bonds of prejudice, seem indeed as stumbling blocks to those around them.

With acknowledgment of your acceptable epistle, and desires that in our labors may be confirmed the figure of old—"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace"—we are your friends.

Signed by direction of the Ohio First-day School Association at its session, held Eighth month, 30th, 1887.

MERCY J. GRIFFITH, } Clerks.
LEONA M. WHINERY, }

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—Our hearts are drawn to greet you in epistolary correspondence in that true fraternal spirit so plainly manifested in your letter to us.

Being co-workers in the promotion of the First-day School cause, we trust all may feel that if we expect our labor to bear the rich fruit so earnestly desired we must know and realize in a marked degree the necessity of tarrying at Jerusalem until the spirit of the Master bears witness with our spirits that we have in deed and in truth been called to the work.

In just the degree that we are fed and partake of the rich crumbs that fall from the Master's table will our work be blest in the dispensing of that knowledge to others.

It is with much pleasure that we can inform you of the increased interest our Yearly Meeting has taken in the encouragement and promotion of the First-day School work within its limits.

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This may be more fully appreciated when you are informed that it gave the time of one of its afternoon sessions exclusively to that work.

This renewed interest is not confined now, as in former years, to the young and middle aged, but includes almost the entire Body. The Yearly Meeting now recommends that the First-day Schools be established by the different Monthly Meetings composing it where it is practicable to do so, and that they report their condition to their respective Quarterly Meetings, and they to the Yearly Meeting.

The reading of your excellent epistle, as did those from our other correspondents, bringing to us the gratifying intelligence that our beloved Society throughout our entire borders had become awakened to the importance of the First-day School work, and we believe that through their agency not only the younger members, but many of those who are more advanced in years, will become more familiar with the writings and teachings of the holy Scriptures.

Let it be our earnest desire that the performance of every duty connected with the work be guided and directed by His wisdom to the end that a succession of standard-bearers may be coming forward, whose duty it may be to keep alive and perpetuate the fundamental principles of our Society.

The different sessions of the Association have been harmonious and instructive, and the deep interest taken by the younger members in all that tends to the elevation and best interest of the cause has indeed been very comforting to the pioneers in the work, for in this they see that their early efforts have already borne good fruit.

May the good Shepherd, who is ever watchful of our flock, be the Master of all our assemblies.

With feelings of love we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Indiana First-day School Association.

EMILY P. YEO,
BERTHA HALLOWELL, } Clerks.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—It is with heartfelt sympathy and a desire to co-operate with you in good fellowship in First-day School work that we are led to address you, for our experience and that of other associations has been that it promotes greater unity among the old and young, more interest in society, and a better attendance of our meetings, which good points are sufficient to incite to future effort. Yet we long for a greater spiritual awakening, a lifting, as it were, to a higher plane of thought and purpose, so much needed in all societies of the present day.

You do not speak of your methods or the means by which you obtain the best results. We feel that the diligent perusal of the Scriptures and an intimate acquaintance with their contents is more and more necessary, as aside from their high spiritual lessons they are called in question in this age of the world ; and it is very important that we become familiar with their contents so as to accord them their true value, for no diviner truths or more beautiful lessons, we think, are found in any literature than those contained in the parables and sermon on the mount ; and if committed to memory when young, when impressions are deeper and more lasting, are apt to go with us through life, and in a measure leave their impress upon our character. And another advantage we derive from a closer acquaintance is that we have a more clearly defined view of texts and passages, and their mutual relation to each other, and their bearing on the great duties of life, and are thus better able to communicate these truths and the lessons they

convey to others, and especially to the young, for we should ever bear in mind that training ourselves for the divine mission of life we are better prepared to train and discipline the precious little ones committed to our care ; not only to lives of usefulness during the short period they remain here, but we will be better able to train and fit them for that existance that endureth forever.

We lately met with one who is devoting much time to First-day School work, and she stated that her custom, before a class of two hundred children, was to repeat a text of Scripture until they could repeat it after her, and then tell them to go home and live it out. We must let those we try to teach see that we at least try to live out ourselves what we teach to others.

Signed on behalf of Illinois Association for promotion of First-day Schools, held 13th of Tenth month, 1887.

MARY G. SMITH, }
GRIFFITH E. COALE, } Clerks.

