

Dupe

MINUTES
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
GENESEE
YEARLY MEETING
OF
FRIENDS
HELD AT
BLOOMFIELD, ONTARIO,
8TH MONTH, 1900.

P1111
BX
7600
566
1900



STRATHROY, ONT.
EVANS BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS.
1900



Public Archives
Canada

Archives publiques
Canada

TH
C
YEAR

BLO

MINUTES
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
GENESEE
YEARLY MEETING
OF
FRIENDS
HELD AT
BLOOMFIELD, ONTARIO,
6TH MONTH, 1900.



STRATHROY, ONT.
EVANS BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS.
1900

GEN

*At Gen
of F
m*

O
appoin

F
terly
the f
Repre

MINUTES
OF
GENESEE YEARLY MEETING
OF
FRIENDS.

*At Genesee Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends, held at Bloomfield, Ont., by adjourn-
ments from the 11th of 6th Month to the
14th of the same, inclusive, 1900.*

One of the Clerks being absent, Rebecca Zavitz is appointed in her place for the day.

From the written reports received from the Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings, we are informed that the following named Friends have been appointed Representatives to this meeting, viz.:

From Farmington.

Maria B. Fritts,	Mary T. Freeman,
Phoebe Jane Noxon,	Jonathan D. Noxon,
William Greene,	Tristram Russell.

From Scipio.

Jane E. Iden,	Mary E. Searing,
Dorinda L. Hoxie.	

From Canada.

James Webster Talcott,	Maria Noxon,
Lydia R. Richards,	Marian Armitage,
Nellie Phillips,	Samuel Noxon,
Phebe E. Brown,	Joseph J. Brown,
James Pearson.	

From Pelham.

Amanda Willson,	James Zavitz,
Michael K. Muma,	Emily A. Muma,
Elston E. Willson,	Richard W. Brown,
Hugh N. Brown,	Mariette Willson,
Sarah V. Zavitz.	

On calling their names all were present except three from Farmington, two from Scipio, and nine from Pelham.

Reasons were given for the absence of three from Farmington and two from Pelham.

Minutes of unity were read as follows:—One for Abel Mills, a Minister, and his wife, Elizabeth, an Elder, from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Illinois, dated 5th Month, 5th, 1900, and endorsed by Blue River Quarterly Meeting, held 5th Month, 26th.

One for David Wilson, a Minister, signed by direction, by the Clerk of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held 6th Month, 3, 1900.

Their company is acceptable to us.

To
other Y
followin

Ma
Jon

To
Meeting
future s

Eli
Fre
Eth

Ep
Meeting
New Yo

The
expressi
from ea
brethren
labor be
that wo
whole, a
our own

Our
they ha
money c
paid as c

To essay replies to the Epistles received from the other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond the following Friends are appointed, viz.:

Mary T. Freeman,	W. G. Brown,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	Minnie E. Brown,
Ruth C. Wilson.	

To collect and compile such of the exercises of this Meeting as way may open for and present them to a future session, the following Friends were named :

Eliza Brown,	Phebe E. Brown,
Fred C. Brown,	Phebe J. Noxon,
Ethel Brown,	Charlotte C. Talcott.

Epistles have been received from all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, and those from New York, Illinois and Philadelphia read at this time.

The reading of these Epistles brought forth much expression. Much that is practical and helpful comes from each of these letters of love from our distant brethren. We were encouraged by the broad field of labor being occupied, and the earnest spirit in which that work is being prosecuted by the Society as a whole, and are thus stimulated to greater action within our own borders.

Our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings report they have raised their respective proportions of the money called for by the Yearly Meeting last year, and paid as directed.

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

Jane E. Iden,	J. Webster Talcott,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	Rebecca Zavitz.

Farmington Quarterly informs this meeting that they are united in changing from a Quarterly to a Half-Yearly Meeting, and to hold its meetings on the first 4th day in 5th month each year at East Hamburg, N.Y., and at Farmington and Mendon alternately on the first 4th day in 10th month ; at Farmington in 1900, and Mendon 1901.

The time expiring this year for which the Representative Committee was appointed, the following Friends are appointed a Committee to propose the names of Friends to constitute the Representative Committee for the ensuing three years, viz.:—

Phœbe J. Noxon,	Emiley Powell,
Jane E. Iden,	Lydia Richards,
Isaac Armitage,	Rebecca Zavitz,
Samuel P. Zavitz.	

The Committee to have 800 copies of the proceedings of this meeting last year, together with the Epistles received from other Yearly Meetings, the minutes of the First-day School Association printed and distributed among our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meet-

ings, reports the expense to have been as follows: \$36.05 for printing and express charges in their distribution, which has been paid by the Treasurer. The report was approved by the meeting.

The Literature Committee appointed for the purpose of selecting for printing and distributing appropriate literature for the elevation and ennobling human character and the dissemination of our principles and testimonies, make the following report, viz.:—

The Committee has, as a committee, done but little the past year, the meeting, however, united in continuing the committee another year with the addition of the names of Eliza Cooper, Nelson Chapman, and Thomas J. Powell.

Mary T. Freeman,	Jonathan D. Noxon,
Jane E. Iden,	Samuel Noxon,
Isaac Armitage,	Samuel P. Zavitz,
Rebecca Zavitz,	

are appointed to confer together in regard to the place of holding our Yearly Meeting next year and to report their decision at the session on 5th day.

The following letter addressed to our younger sisters from our absent member, Charlotte W. Cox, was presented at this time.

6th Month, 1900.

To my young Sisters of our Yearly Meeting, now sitting :

Since the time has passed for going to our Yearly Meeting my mind seems to be with you in spirit, and words come to me to express in loving kindness to you, my dear sisters. Being fully acquainted with the weakness of the flesh, and that it is by relying on divine power that we can do any good thing, and by being obedient to every little intimation of duty, however small it may seem in our own eyes, it may be of more service in some respects to further the object of our spiritual work than, at the present time, we may be permitted to realize. It is by being willing, dear young sisters, to mind the light made manifest in the secret of your hearts that you can witness a progression in this all-important work.

I find a continual watchfulness is needed in whatever age or station in life we may find ourselves placed, the same loving and scrutinizing eye finds its way into the depths of our hearts, and there, as with a lighted candle of the Lord, all things are laid bare. Then, dear ones, be encouraged to put your trust and confidence in this Power, which is a true abiding place. The time is coming when you will realize there is a work for you to do and you cannot shift it off on *others*, for every individual will find the need of remaining at his post if we maintain the purity of our profession, acknowledging

the effi
the he
beckon
ination
of the
young

and in
we hav
who tr
someti
in my
essentia
underst
essentia
perpetu

On
to you i
day of v
He that
My soul
everlast
although
truth, "
laden an
which is

the efficacy of the inspeaking word of life from God in the heart which does away with non-essentials and beckons you to look higher and steadier to that illumination which will grow brighter and holier as the eye of the mind is steadfast and wavereth not. Then, dear young sisters,

“ Trust Him for His grace,
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face,”

and in due season you shall have cause to rejoice for we have the promise, “He will never forsake those who trust, love and serve Him.” Not often, but sometimes, quotations come to me as little aids or helps in my expressions, and here is one:—“All that is essential in our idea of God we get, not from the understanding, but from the heart, and all that is essential to it is secured to us through the heart’s perpetual need.”

Once more, dear young sisters, I wish to appeal to you in tender love and sympathy, do not put off the day of visitation but close in with renewed hope, and He that calleth you will go before and lead the way. My soul yearns to be with you, but He that is your everlasting Friend is with you in every emergency and, although you may not know it, it still remains to be a truth, “come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest,” that rest and peace which is His alone to give. Be faithful, be diligent in

serving the Lord and He will give you a crown of righteousness.

CHARLOTTE W. COX.

The Representatives are requested to remain at the close of this meeting to consider the names of Friends for Clerks and to propose such at the opening of our next session.

Then adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Third of the week and Twelfth of the Month.

At about the hour adjourned to Friends assembled.

Samuel Noxon, on behalf of the Representatives, reported they had conferred together and were united in proposing Samuel P. Zavitz and Rebecca Zavitz for Clerks for the ensuing year.

The report being united with they are appointed to the service for one year.

Encouraging Epistles from Baltimore and Indiana were presented at this time and their contents, together with the expressions they inspired, baptized us in feelings of tenderness and love and of the one spirit.

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the state of society as presented 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 condition :

Ans. 1.—Most Friends are careful to attend our meetings for worship and discipline. One report says : “On account of ill health and inclement weather a few meetings were omitted during the winter.” One report says, “One Preparative meeting reports meetings held but once a month during the winter.” And another report states, “that although business meetings have been attended, no meetings for worship have been held during the year. The hour nearly observed.

Ans. 2.—Friends maintain love and unity as becomes our Christian profession, and tale bearing and detraction are discouraged. except that one report states “Love and unity is not as fully maintained as is desired, and tale-bearing and detraction not altogether avoided, in which care was taken.” When differences arise care is taken to end them.

Ans. 3.—We believe Friends are clear of the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, except in one instance. They use their influence towards total abstinence and avoid frequenting taverns and attending places of a demoralizing tendency.

Ans. 4.—Assistance has been rendered when required. All our children are acquiring an education to fit them for business.

Ans. 5.—Almost without exception Friends maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a free gospel ministry, resting upon Divine qualification alone, and bear a faithful testimony against war, oaths, and all forms of oppression.

Ans. 6.—Friends appear careful to be just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their engagements, and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage as becomes our Christian profession, except in one instance.

Ans. 7.—Care is taken to labor with delinquents, in the spirit of meekness, for their restoration, as way opens for.

Ans. 8.—We believe they are.

The reading of the Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting appropriately occupied the later moments of our most interesting and, we think, profitable session.

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

Fifth day morning, 6th month, 14th.

Pursuant to adjournment, the meeting convened.

The report of the Philanthropic Committee was read, and the following synopsis was directed to be printed with the Yearly Meeting minutes:

Proc

G. B.
so ap

Comm

Demo

of th

follow

public

deman

were

mind.

with a

gestion

other c

to writ

Th

much

“Plebis

hibition

support

sized,

Proceedings of the Session of the Committee for Philanthropic Work at Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Bloomfield, Ont., Sixth Month, 12th, 1900.

The Chairman and Secretary being absent, Wm. G. Brown and Charlotte C. Talcott were respectively so appointed, pro tem.

The names of the members of the Philanthropic Committee were called, and 13 responded.

The report in the Department of Purity and Demoralizing Publications was read by the Chairman of that Department. Discussion on various points followed. The thought was suggested by one that the publications of narrations of crime tends to create a demand rather than to meet a demand. Dime novels were noted as especially dangerous to the youthful mind. The matter was left with the Committee to deal with as it thinks best, and any member having suggestions to make, either in this department or any other department of philanthropic work, is requested to write to the Yearly Meeting Chairman or Secretary.

The temperance question was dwelt upon with much earnestness. One member, referring to the "Plebiscite vote," hoped that Friends would give prohibition, when the opportunity comes, their hearty support. The value of a prohibitory law was emphasized, while others thought that the "education of

public sentiment" should chiefly concern us at the present time.

No work has been done by Genesee Y. M. in behalf of the Indians. The M. M. at Orchard Park gave \$10.00 for the colored people, and Macedon had sent clothing. \$20.00 was sent to the Doukhobors.

William G. Brown thought that a vigorous letter sent to the clergy of the various churches in regard to Gambling Lotteries and kindred vices might bring satisfactory results and he was accordingly authorized to take in hand the matter of communicating with the religious press.

On Peace and Arbitration, the Chairman read the following report :

No organized effort by the Society during the past year is there to report. Doubtless, individual influence was in harmony with the best traditions of our Society. The past year, or three years in fact, have been exceptional in opportunities to test the peace spirit among Friends.

Three years ago we petitioned the Canadian Government to discourage military appropriations and to promote that kind of Anglo-Saxon unity and justice, the moral force of which alone would be strong to maintain the world in peace. We have witnessed much unity, but it has been accompanied by a growth of the spirit we wished to lessen. The Hague Peace Confer-

ence in
nation
yet s
Two y
titude
deplor
with o

It
difficul
been f
of adv
on ear

F
of war
Society
little o
ilities
good m
repeat.
convin
manen
be, pro
Saxon
the wo
justice

Th
powerf
must d

ence is truly a great mile stone on the road to international arbitration, but the public conscience is not yet sufficiently stirred to support peaceful methods. Two years ago we noted the disappointment in the attitude of the great American Republic. To-day we deplore, no matter the cause, the war in connection with our own great Empire.

It is worth while to consider how much of these difficulties would have been avoided had this Society been faithfully alive to the privilege and responsibility of advocating all over the world its great ideal of "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

Friends after the declaration and commencement of war have raised here and there a feeble voice as a Society, and when of the least possible avail. We heard little of it in the times of difficulty leading up to hostilities. Out of all misfortune and trouble, however, good may arise. Our own neglect we may not wish to repeat. These wars themselves in Christian nations are convincing arguments and of telling influence for permanent peace. Sacrifices, deplorable though they may be, produce sympathy and unity. Great British and Saxon unity will be brought to bear on the affairs of the world in such manner eventually as shall maintain justice and liberty with peace.

There are many educational influences and forces powerfully existent to-day, however, against which we must direct our testimony. The youth of this age

are in some respects born into an unhappy time, a time when daring boldness and pluck, in fact when those indomitable and grand qualities of the Anglo Saxon, making him an irresistible force in the fields of commerce and industrial pursuits, are associated with the glitter and glamor of war and human butchery.

The spirit is being fed by our educational system, and even by sections of the Christian church, cloaked by the hollow mockery of religion, the highest and lowest ideals of man's relationships are brought together as if in harmony in Boys' Brigades and Military processions to church. No better office may Friends perform than by precept and example, calling mankind to a sense of the horrors and immorality of war and to its false glory. There is great work yet to be done in teaching and cultivating absolute honesty, sincerity and the Divine measure of justice, those common stalwart virtues which lie at the very foundation of individual and national peace and enlightened progress. The Society of Friends is needed at this moment in connection with an educational campaign against the dangerous growth and power of the military spirit. Happily this need is felt by more than Friends. Both the religious and secular press of Canada is largely available. Neither the Genesee Yearly Meeting nor its Literature Committee lacks for something to do.

I conclude this report by recommending that literature in various forms be prepared and every member

of th
activ

to th
Mont

S
I
I
M
J
R
M
A

with p

Th
noon of

Th
1899 to
year's p

of the Society of Friends, especially the younger, be an active missionary in the cause.

WM. G. BROWN,
Chairman.

The following persons were appointed delegates to the conference to be held at Chautauqua in Eighth Month :—

Samuel Noxon,	Phœbe J. Noxon,
Lydia Richards,	Freeman Talcott,
Isaac Wilson,	Rebecca Zavitz,
Mary T. Freeman,	Emily Powell,
J. D. Noxon,	J. W. Talcott,
Ruth Wilson,	Charlotte C. Talcott,
Minnie E. Brown,	Edgar M. Zavitz,
Alzina Zavitz,	William G. Brown,
	Dorinda Hoxie,

with power to add to their members.

The meeting adjourned to meet. Third-day afternoon of Yearly Meeting week in 1901.

WM. G. BROWN,
Chairman pro tem.
CHARLOTTE C. TALCOTT,
Secretary pro tem.

The officers appointed after Yearly Meeting in 1899 to serve for three years, not appearing in last year's printed extract are placed here for reference.

General Chairman of the Committee,—Edgar M. Zavitz.

Secretary,—Ethel M. Cutler.

Sub-Chairmen: For the Department of Purity and Demoralizing Publications,—Charlotte C. Talcott.

Of Temperance and Tobacco.—Samuel P. Zavitz.

Of Indian Affairs and Work for Colored People,—William Green.

Of Gambling Lotteries and Kindred Vices,—Gussie Schooley.

Of Prison Reform and Capital Punishment,—Michael K. Muma.

Of Peace and Arbitration,—William G. Brown.

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

We, the Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, met and examined his accounts and accompanying vouchers and find a balance in his hands due the Meeting of \$250.31. We recommend the raising of \$100.00 for the Yearly Meeting's use for the ensuing year, and propose the name of Samuel Noxon for Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. W. TALCOTT,

Bloomfield, Sixth Month, 14th.

The
request
devote
sufferer
call on
same.

Sar
suing ye

Ou
rected to
to Samu
port to

The
the Rep
viz.:

We
to consti
the follow

Mar
Josp
Wm
Jona
Sara
Levi
Sam
Jane
Wm

The report on being read was approved except, as requested by a member, that we raise \$150.00 and devote at once \$50, now in the treasury, towards the sufferers by famine in India. The Clerk is directed to call on the Treasurer for said amount and forward the same.

Samuel Noxon is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings are directed to raise their proportion of \$150, pay the same to Samuel Noxon, Treasurer, Wellington, Ont., and report to the meeting next year.

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

We, the Committte to propose names of Friends to constitute the Representative Committee, present the following, viz.:—

Maria B. Fritts,	Granville Haight,
Josph Fritts,	Agnes Haight,
Wm. Greene,	Caleb Noxon,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	Phœbe E. Brown,
Sarah A. Greene,	Sarah E. Brown,
Levi P. Arnold,	Charity A. Stcver,
Samuel Searing,	Elston Willson,
Jane E. Iden,	Edgar M. Zavitz,
Wm. F. Searing,	Amelia R. Page,

J. Webster Talcott,	Richard W. Brown,
Joseph J. Brown,	Amanda Willson,
Ruth C. Wilson,	Eliza Brown,
Eliza D. Cronk,	Samuel P. Zavitz,
Sylvanus Austin,	Eli Armitage,
Minnie E. Brown,	Isaac P. Armitage,
Charlotte W. Cox,	Marian Armitage,
Mary T. Freeman,	Emma Wilson,
Mary P. Blaker,	Wm. G. Brown,
Phœbe J. Noxon,	George H. Phillips,
Wm. W. Cox,	Clarissa Clark,
Amelia G. Searing,	Amelia Hughes,
Dorinda Hoxie,	Elis Hughes,
Mary E. Searing,	Catharine Brown,
Freeman Talcott,	James Armitage,
Isaac Wilson,	Annie S. Cutler,
Lydia R. Richards,	Anna L. C. Brown,
Carrie Austin,	Rebecca Webster,
Alberta Webster,	Henry Schooley,
Mary E. Hoxie,	Henry Greene,
Nelson Chapman,	James Zavitz,
Minnie E. Brown,	Thomas J. Powell,
	Maria Noxon.

On behalf of Committee.

PHŒBE J. NOXON,
ISAAC ARMITAGE.

The report being united with they are appointed our Representative Committee for the ensuing three years.

The
tion the
not seem
which is

The
other Ye
read wen
transcrib
Yearly M

The
such of th
produced
approved,
of this me

Our
house, and
came with

We v
who gave
apparently

We v
with a con
Higher Po
worship so

We fe
those minis
the variou

The Committee, appointed to take into consideration the place of meeting next year, reported that it did not seem prudent to make any change at this time, which is approved by the meeting.

The Committee to essay an Epistle to send to the other Yearly Meetings produced two, which, on being read were approved, and the Clerks are directed to transcribe, sign, and forward one copy to each of the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond.

The Committee appointed to collect and present such of the exercises of the Meeting as way opened for produced the following, which, on being read, was approved, and directed to be printed with the minutes of this meeting :

Our meeting opened on First-day with a well-filled house, and we believe that many not of our Society came with a desire to find something helpful.

We were favored with the attendance of ministers who gave forth words of counsel and instruction that apparently were well received.

We were reminded that humanity is provided with a consciousness that compels a recognition of a Higher Power. All nations, all peoples, recognize and worship something believed to be Divine.

We felt favored to receive loving messages from those ministers from other Yearly Meetings ; both, in the various sessions, spoke impressively and we think

to the edification and profit of everyone. We had much to remind us of the need for greater diligence and faithfulness on the part of all who profess the name of Friend, and the necessity of greater effort for the furtherance of our principles.

The Epistles from kindred Yearly Meetings were read and aroused a general discussion that evidenced much life and interest. We were especially pleased and edified with the Epistle from one Yearly Meeting, (though not losing sight of the merits of others) that seemed to contain all the suggestions needful if we but give them our attention.

While considering the state of the Society our attention was called to the query in reference to attending places of diversion, and some advice was given.

The First-day School held two sessions, in one of which the children furnished an interesting programme; a paper was read on the "Purpose and Value of a First-day School Convention," that was received with approbation.

The Philanthropic meeting was one of great interest. The Temperance question received much consideration. The discussions showed that Friends are alive to its importance and we look for greater effort in this branch of work. We are indeed "our brother's keeper."

“ Heaven’s gates are shut to him who comes alone,
Save thou a soul, and it will save thy own.”

Edgar M. Zavitz and Ida H. Zavitz, are appointed to assist the Clerks in having 800 copies of the proceedings of this meeting, together with Epistles received from the other Yearly Meetings and the minutes and other matter of the First-day School Association, printed and distributed among our Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings, call on the Treasurer for the expenses of the same, and report.

We have again felt the Divine influence of the Heavenly Father’s love, wherein we have been enabled to transact the business that has engaged our attention at this time, in love and harmony. We have been strengthened together and new life has been instilled into our being by the inspiration which faithfulness brings.

We now adjourn to meet at Farmington, N.Y., at the usual time next year if so permitted.

SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ,
REBECCA ZAVITZ,

Clerks.

EPISTLES.

From Philadelphia.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—Gathered again in our annual assembly, our thoughts have turned to those of our faith in the other Yearly Meetings, who, widely separated from us in the body, have been brought livingly before us in spirit by the reading of their annual epistles. These have been to us a source of encouragement. The interchange of greeting, the manifested spirit of loving helpfulness, are strengthening to the spiritual nature. As we endeavor thus to help and support one another a blessing comes to us, and the helper is helped. So, even though it be that we cannot ever be favored to all meet in one assembly, we can still, by the aid of the written word, share with one another the spiritual gifts with which we will always be blessed when we meet under the Divine overshadowing.

It has been impressed upon us that small though our numbers relatively are, the need of the testimonies held by Friends from the foundation of the Society has never been greater than at the present time. Since

we las
the Er
begun,
of life,
uniform
Into c
rible c
we can
war on
year o
tants i
look as
That t
the hop
it shou
into w
from w
courag
the cor
the hu
courag
erently
dence,
good, a
the sur

T
sions o
degree
ually a

we last met together one of the greatest wars in which the English speaking race has ever engaged has been begun, and its progress is attended with deplorable loss of life, and with all the destruction and suffering that uniformly result from the barbarous practice of war. Into controversy as to the causes which led to this terrible conflict we cannot enter, but as testimony bearers we cannot but be deeply exercised in spirit to find that war on such a gigantic scale is possible in the closing year of the 19th century, and that one of the combatants is a nation to whom we have been accustomed to look as a leader in civilization and the arts of peace. That this unhappy event should have followed close upon the hopeful promise of the Hague Conference, and that it should accompany those other deplorable conditions into which our own country entered two years ago, and from which it has not yet emerged, may seem a discouragement to those who had hopefully believed that the complete reign of the Christ spirit in the hearts of the human family was near at hand. Yet, though discouraged, may we not be cast down. May we not reverently trust that in the overruling of Divine Providence, the powers of evil may be confounded by the good, and that which seems darkness may give way to the sunlight of a more perfect day.

There have been many expressions during the sessions of our meeting upon the vital need of a greater degree of spirituality. Concerns have arisen, individually and collectively, that we may come to understand

the real value of silence, and its direct application to all the affairs of daily life. We have renewedly had impressed upon us the efficacy of silent worship. Our meetings, even though they be without the spoken word, may yet be full of life and power. Every rightly exercised mind who humbly turns within shall be taught of the Lord. Let us ascend to his mountains, "and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths." While we may not expect the world to accept in fulness the simple testimonies of the Society of Friends,—our worship "on the basis of silence," our simplicity in the essentials of life,—yet we may hopefully believe that the principles of truth, which these represent, have influenced other religious bodies than our own, and will yet leaven the life of the world.

The language of one of the epistles that our gentle inward influences are among the forces which mould character touched responsive chords in our hearts, and the desire has been felt that as parents we may know a deeper spiritual communion with our Father, and be thus daily brought under his governing power. Then shall our unconscious giving be so freighted with heavenly love that we shall gain and hold our children in that close confidence that will strengthen them in the hour of temptation.

The desire was expressed that we do not overlook ways through which our young people may be brought into the service of our society. God's purpose for them

is revealed in their hearts, as surely as is his message in the souls of men and women of middle age and the years beyond. In the early history of our Society it was often the young men and women who were inspired by the Father to bear his message to the world, and such was their fidelity to his service that when fathers and mothers were in prison for conscience's sake, the children gathered, in their love for the faith, and maintained the meetings which their parents had established.

We have held this year, for the first time, a half-hour morning meeting for Divine worship. These meetings have been attended by serious and earnest gatherings of old and young.

The reports of our committees have evidenced an earnest and faithful attention to the duties they have in hand. Our First-day Schools appear to be well maintained, and we realize how much the Society would have lost, if the work they represent had not been begun in the day and time it was. Satisfaction was expressed with the report of our committee on education. A growing desire is manifested among us for broader culture. We have been enabled, in a measure, to meet this condition, through the receipt of generous gifts. But with the growth of opportunities thus to extend our sphere of usefulness, there is felt a deepening sense of our responsibility not only to give our youth and others who come under our care, a thorough intellectual

preparation, but to throw about them such guarded influences as shall tend to develop character, and impress upon their youthful minds the beauty and truth of our religious principles and testimonies.

Our Committee on Philanthropic Labor has given attention, in the measure of its ability, to the several concerns which it has in charge. Its report has mentioned particularly, this year, the Mission School in Philadelphia, which has been put upon a substantial basis, and embraces a line of practical work helpful to the struggling poor of the neighborhood. They report having offered one of their rooms to the Board of Education for a free Kindergarten, thereby wisely endeavoring to co-operate with strong agencies already existing. The subjects of the Colored People, Indians, and improper publications, have claimed their usual consideration, and individual work along the line of purity is encouraging. The work in regard to temperance and tobacco we feel to be of the greatest importance, and though presenting many discouragements and difficulties, we are urged "to be not weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

The yearly meeting has felt it right to memorialize the Government upon the demoralizing effects of the "Canteen System, and asking for the passage of a law to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in the army and to prohibit the manufacture and sale of such

liquors in foreign territories under the control of the United States.

We bid you farewell in the bonds of fellowship that reach out not only through the written word but will continue in loving thought.

Signed on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia by adjournments from the 14th of the 5th month to the 18th of the same inclusive, 1900, by

EMMOR ROBERTS, } Clerks.
SARAH GRISCOM, }

From New York.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS:

Dear Friends,—Assembled in annual session the closing year of the Nineteenth century, we acknowledge a rebaptism of the spirit and a reconsecration to the service of the Master in behalf of human betterment.

We were favored with the presence of an unusual number of visiting Friends, both with and without minutes. Their ministrations in our meetings, and their social mingling with us, have been helpful, and are among the pleasant memories of the Yearly Meeting of 1900.

Your Epistle and those from Friends in the other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, gave us marked pleasure, and brought us added appreciation of the value of that bond of fellowship which prevails in our Society. It rejoiced our hearts that so many of our correspondents wrote in such a hopeful temper. Reports of growing interest and increased activity were most encouraging. These communications inspire us with the belief that a steady, healthy and certain upward tendency now characterizes our Society throughout our entire heritage.

The report of our Philanthropic Committee showed, in the main, increased interest and extended labor. We have worked either independently or in co-operation with special organizations in the line of all the helpful activities for which our Society is concerned. Wronged and neglected women and children have commanded our interest and received our help. Purity of life in the social relation, lying at the base of social and family virtue and the public weal, has had a share of our concern and labor. Recognizing the importance of the race problem, a legacy of the evil of slavery, Friends have contributed to the solution of the problem by assisting in the wise and helpful education of the colored people in the South. We are thus forcibly reminded of the costly cumulative character of tolerated iniquity. For this reason we are concerned for the speedy overthrow of the licensed and state-sanctioned

liquor
tion t
public
which
the fa
dom,
monie
secur
men,
which
sentat
abolit
in our
effort

Princ
comp
in ou
locali
creas
princ
holy
tion
of th
and c
encou

were

liquor traffic. We hope for such an increased disposition to cast out its evil spirit that our personal and public life may be relieved from the wreck and ruin which it causes. We have tried to advance peace in the face of the war practice of Anglo-Saxon Christendom, by a consistent upholding of our historic testimonies. True peace, however, can only be assured and secured by removing the war spirit from the hearts of men, and putting in its place that spirit of Christ, which is first pure and then peaceable. Our Representative Committee labored as way opened for the abolition of the inhuman infliction of the death penalty in our state. Though not successful, we believe our effort had educational value present and prospective.

The Committee for the Advancement of Friends' Principles, appointed at last year's meeting, made a comprehensive report. It showed growth and interest in our meetings and in our vital principles in many localities. Evidence was also given of a need for increased zeal and interest in the extension of our principles and our influence, that the inspiration to holy living which follows the acceptance and application of these principles may enlarge and bless the lives of the people. The report elicited unusual interest and discussion, and the Committee was continued and encouraged to future labor.

Two sessions of the First-day School Association were held, and the deliberations showed that the

Schools afford an opportunity for good work in behalf of truth and righteousness not excelled by any of our activities. The crying need in the large cities is for more laborers that more submerged child-lives may be inspired with higher ideals and to nobler living.

In the meeting of the Young Friends' Association the call to larger service was uttered with no uncertain sound. It was vigorously stated that to-day our Society must reach out in interested helpfulness to the outside world, that our light may shine in dark places, and the day-dawn of truth be brought to the indifferent and the sinful.

The exercises of the various sessions of our Yearly Meeting, the deliverances of our ministry, the labor of the year in all departments of activity, the memory of our beloved and consecrated leaders who have gone before, the manifest need of larger service for the truth in all of our borders, invite a consideration of the practical and applied Christianity, which is the recognized, and ought to be the actual working genius of our Society.

We are recognizing as never before that the goods and graces, moral and spiritual, which are the inheritance and accumulation of more than two centuries of our history, are intended for more than home consumption. The light which we have must be shed abroad as a universal spiritual illuminant for the whole family of man. The function of *light-holders* demands the added

servi
beco
whic

jecte
phy p
decla
ignor
barre
the M
of ins
make

C
and p
plann
purse
gospel
of him
plann
guidan
force i
forwar
from a
our fa

T
the ag
that th

service of *light-bearers*, in order that our fellows may become *light-beholders*, and partakers of that liberty which prevails where the spirit of God is.

Such was the concern of those who originally projected and propagated our faith. The platonic philosophy proclaimed four centuries before our era, which declared that "the intelligent have a right over the ignorant, namely, the right of instructing them," was barren of results until wedded to the spirit that was in the Master. It takes that spirit to perform the task of instruction with the gentleness and sympathy which makes such efforts void of offence.

George Fox and his coadjutors recognized this fact and philosophy, and brought a wise zeal and a well-planned method to the promulgation of the truth. The purse of Margaret Fell was as consecrated to the gospel's advancement as was the person and purpose of him who became her husband. It was such a well-planned and well-applied method, under the Divine guidance, which made the Society of Friends a mighty force in seventeenth century Christendom. As we go forward into the new twentieth century may we profit from and improve upon the methods of the founders of our faith.

The nineteenth century has been the marvel of the ages in material development. May we not hope that the twentieth may be equally marked as the era

of moral and spiritual progress? Our part as a religious body in the realization of such a hope and the fulfillment of such a prophecy should be proportioned to the light we have received and the talent for energy and service which has been committed to our care. In our time it is indeed as true as in the days of the earlier prophets and apostles:—"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Wishing you the largest measure of that blessing which accompanies the Spirit of Truth in the hearts of men, and the satisfaction which follows the service of the Master, we are your friends.

Signed by direction of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in New York City, from the 28th to the 31st of Fifth Month, inclusive, 1900.

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

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Baltimore, from the Thirtieth of the Tenth month to the Second of the Eleventh month, inclusive, 1899.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS:

Dear Friends,—Gathered once more in our annual meeting, our thought and sympathy have been brought

closely in touch with you, our distant friends, by your loving epistle, which bears evidence of earnest Christian work, and of a heartfelt desire for the promotion of the moral and spiritual welfare of the world.

It is with pleasure that we note a large attendance at our Yearly Meeting, particularly of our younger members, who are, we feel, being prepared to share in the responsibilities of our Society, when these have grown too heavy for more aged toilers. Reports of increased work show that their youthful enthusiasm serves as a stimulus along all our lines of philanthropy.

A Conference was held under the auspices of our Committee on Philanthropic Labor on Third day evening, at which Friends were urged to be ever broadening their field of thought, that they may not confine themselves to traditional lines of action. Domestic service, the relation of labor and capital, and of the different races to each other, were suggested as subjects calling for special study, if Friends are to maintain their place as leaders in progressive reforms.

The report of the Committee on the Purification of the Press was of great interest, showing faithful work on the part of the Committee and hearty co-operation from editors and readers of newspapers and periodicals all over the country.

Notwithstanding the deplorable wars in which our country and Great Britain are now engaged, we rejoice

in the hope of future peace, inspired by the late International Conference at the Hague; while we, on the other hand, with all friends of temperance in this country, deeply regret the official decision which nullified the Anti-canteen Law as enacted by Congress.

Our Committee on Indian Affairs reported as part of its work during the past year, an earnest and most laudable effort to retain for the Mission Indians of California the reservation, to which they have an indisputable right and a good legal title. Yet we feel that people of our own race have devised means to obtain from the Courts of California verdicts, which, if not reversed, will deprive them of their landed possessions. Such a decision would turn them out upon the mercy and charity of the world, to become outcasts and wanderers on the face of the earth. However, by the efforts of our Committee and others, an appeal has been obtained, and the Supreme Court of the United States will, we believe, thwart the avarice and greed of these claimants and guarantee to the Indians their legal title to their homes. If ever success crowns our efforts, all will feel well repaid for the trouble and expense incurred, in the satisfaction of knowing that we have, indeed, been a help to the weak and a friend to the needy.

We have given to the First-day Schools, during the past year, their full share of time and consideration, hoping thereby to effect an increase in their power and usefulness.

One feature of our proceedings, which we feel to have been especially helpful, is the half hour of devotional meeting each morning before the business session ; it qualifies the mind for the day's duties, and we have thought how helpful it would be in our families, if we could set aside even a few minutes each day for united or individual communion with our Heavenly Father.

While enjoying the religious and social opportunities of the Yearly Meeting, we have not forgotten our isolated members, and we have taken steps to co-operate with other Yearly Meetings in an effort to establish new meetings for their benefit.

Neither have we been unmindful of our abandoned or little used places of worship, which, owing to the drifting of population, or the conservative attitude of Friends towards proselytizing, have fallen into disuse.

The report of the Committee on Education shows that we have not been idle along that line, as Park Avenue Friends' Elementary and High School, under the care of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, has been established during the past year, in the handsome and convenient new building adjoining the meeting house. It opened with the present school year under exceptionally favorable auspices.

Perhaps the most striking feature of our Yearly Meeting has been the holding, for the first time, of some of our business meetings in joint session, and

many have been the public expressions of gratification upon the success of the new plan, so far. Our satisfaction with the arrangement is witnessed by our decision to make the change permanent; hereafter convening and holding all of our sessions jointly.

Not only our own members, but visitors from other meetings, whom we have gladly welcomed, have spoken of the serious, dignified, and earnest spirit of the assembly and of the gain in power by the united deliberations of men and women.

Many beautiful and encouraging words have been spoken during the days of our annual gathering, and we have deeply appreciated them, whether the speakers came with minutes from their own meeting or not, for all have borne the stamp of the highest authority.

It is with deep gratitude for the many blessings vouchsafed to us that we would say to you in farewell, "The Lord bless you, and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting,

EDWARD STABLER, JR., } Clerks.
ELIZABETH M. KOSER, }

From Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Salem, Ohio, by adjournments from the 26th of Eighth Month to the 31st, inclusive, 1899.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING :

Dear Friends,—With a feeling sense of our inability to do anything of ourselves we convened in a Yearly Meeting capacity, waiting for Divine direction to make any advancement in the line of work which holds us in harmony and which characterizes us as a church organization.

In the meetings for worship which preceded this we have had convincing evidence of the Over-ruling Power, not only in His outward creation but in moving perceptibly the hearts of His people, breaking the barrier of dividing lines and bringing us more nearly together, showing that the former days were not better than these; that the world of mankind, with its advancement in temporal achievements, is also alive to that of our social, moral, and spiritual welfare.

The Epistles from other Yearly Meetings, including yours, inspire us with a kinship with each other and a desire to become more truly the children of one common Father. A second letter from Indiana Yearly Meeting at its recent session at Pendleton, seemed to bring with it a freshness comparable to an "Olive Branch of Peace."

As your membership reaches over a wide extent of territory, we trust that your influence for good is as far-reaching in its results.

We have been cheered by the company of ministering Friends from other Yearly Meetings, who have been favored to declare to us many gospel truths as opened to their understanding. We have been reminded of our responsibility in making the best use of our talents. A small pitcher can be as full as a large one, so the one or the two talents, if improved, will be as acceptable in the sight of God as the five or more.

The command, "Go work in My vineyard," was also feelingly brought before us with its reasonable demands, and the accompanying promise that whatsoever is right I will give you." and was testified to from a living experience, that if we follow our Heavenly Father in His requirings, we will find that He is no hard Master, and all were entreated to obey the command.

Modern research is throwing light upon many seemingly obscure passages of scripture that bring their true application to our understanding. For example, where one of the disciples deferred following Jesus to go and bury his father, He replied, "Follow Me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." The requirement seems reasonable when we find that whom we call the sexton was termed by them "the dead man." He desired no hindering things to stand in the

way
reve

hear
pray
that

work
of w
being

vario
Leagu

vation
friend

S

To GE

D
we are
the fe

way, though to the human mind it seemed an act of reverence or filial duty.

The state of society brought to view in its usual heart-searching manner some deficiencies, and our prayer is that we may individually feel in a true sense that we are our brother's keepers.

One session was devoted to the First day School work, and one to the Young Friends' Association, both of which were instructive meetings, a lively interest being manifested.

The Philanthropic Committee reported work in its various lines, that in connection with the Anti-Saloon League shows a helpful tendency.

With love and an earnest desire for your preservation and growth in the Divine life, we are your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting.

JOSEPH S. HARTLEY, }
SARAH C. FOX, } CLERKS.

From Indiana.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—Through the cycle of the seasons we are again brought to our Yearly Meeting. Here the feeling of unity and love prevails, and in each

heart is a child's portion of the spirit of the Divine Father.

In our meetings for worship we are more and more impressed with the duty we owe mankind as brothers and our obedience to God the Father.

This brotherhood we note with grateful hearts in your glad letter of love, and trust that obedience to the highest impulse makes all hearts glad. Many friends from other Meetings are with us, and their loving counsel and expressions of truth are, we feel, seed sown in good ground where it will spring up and bear fruit for us and those to follow.

The words and messages of comfort and good cheer which we have received during the week have come like the manna, and have surely been a feast to the soul.

The life manifest in the First-day School work is evidence that the children, as well as those of maturer years, are seeking for the ways of right living through the instrumentality of the sacred word. In the life of Him who was once a child and spoke and lived as a child, we find the guidance suitable for a child mind. In that same life, when He had reached young manhood, and had taken up in obedience to Divine direction the duty assigned Him, we find the strength that sustaineth men.

The activity of the young people in responding to the call of the Young Friends' Association, held on

Fourth-
the Soci
beyond
the essen
Society
are obed
pared fo

Tha
ing and
the publi
they may
ceive on
be taken
with lett
of the mi

We
membran
time was
testimoni

Una
ance mov
Anti-salo
in this St

We
all record
meetings
as can rea

Fourth-day evening, was living evidence of progress in the Society. A great out-pouring of feeling showed beyond doubt that the young hearts are possessed of the essence of true religion and that the future of the Society will be safe in their hands and that, as they are obedient to the Divine light, they will be fully prepared for the duties that may devolve upon them.

That Friends living at a distance from any meeting and those nearer who do not attend, may not forget the sublime unity which binds us together, and that they may be re-assured of the welcome they would receive on their return, it was urged that more interest be taken and more work done toward reaching them with letters, and more care exercised in the distribution of the minutes of this and succeeding Yearly Meetings.

We were brought under a feeling of grateful remembrance of our dear friend, Aaron M. Powell. Some time was devoted to his memory and many love-fraught testimonies of his inestimable worth were given.

Unabated interest has been taken in the temperance movement, and it is hoped through the efforts of Anti-saloon League, important results will be achieved in this State.

We have a Committee engaged in cataloguing all records of Indiana Yearly Meeting itself, and of meetings that are or have been subordinate to it, so far as can reasonably be done. This, we consider, a very

important action, for in the records of the Society of Friends great interest will always be felt, and their value will increase with age.

With a feeling of Divine love which has prevailed through this meeting, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Fall Creek Meeting House, near Pendleton, Indiana, by adjournments from the 21st to the 24th of Eighth month, inclusive, 1899.

GEORGE R. THORPE,
Clerk.

From Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends to that of Genesee :

Dear Friends,—In the salutation of that love which binds together as children of the same household of faith, we salute you.

We have been cheered by the reading of your excellent epistle and those from other Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, realizing that this mutual correspondence is uplifting and edifying, as it serves to bring us in touch with one another and with the higher life, according to the degree of spiritual baptism under which we have been exercised. We feel that we have been highly favored in this our twenty-fifth annual gathering, with an overshadowing of heavenly good-

ness ce
perform
also, we
spoken
given e

Th
on form
member
yet we
visiting
ion. V
loving a

W
excellen
to so us
gatherin
record.
is not a
erful, b
three g
have be
our scat
themsel
few in r

A
sentativ
our Soc
the imp

ness cementing our affections, and qualifying us to perform our different labors. This overshadowing has also, we trust, prepared us for the reception of the spoken word, which we feel has in an especial manner given evidence of Divine qualification.

Though the attendance has not been so large as on former occasions, both in respect to that of our own members and that of those from other Yearly Meetings, yet we have been greatly cheered by the presence of a visiting ministering Friend and her travelling companion. We have listened to her tender counsel and loving admonition with deep interest and profit.

While considering the Queries, we received most excellent instruction and advice. We were entreated to so use our lives and opportunities that future annual gatherings of this kind might place fuller answers on record. We have been made to feel that the victory is not alone or necessarily through the great and powerful, but by His Spirit, which meets with the "two or three gathered together in His Name." Hence we have been drawn to send out pleading invitations to our scattered members to neglect not the assembling of themselves together for Divine worship, though but few in numbers.

A concern expressed in the meeting of the representative committee that the individual members of our Society might become more thoroughly aroused to the importance of its life and growth, resulted in the

appointment of a committee to consider the matter and proceed as best wisdom in the work might direct.

A living concern was given utterance that our members should not look too much to being taught and entertained by a vocal ministry alone, but that each should strive to centre down into the deep recesses of the heart, where the Master teaches His children Himself.

We have been encouraged by the promptness with which our young Friends are taking hold of the First-day School work and the other labor of our beloved Society, to entertain a brighter hope for the future. May the Father bless and broaden their lives and labor that they may be enabled to take their places in the ranks of the noble men and women who are passing on, and we miss their presence in this sphere of action.

The subject of temperance was brought prominently before the meeting and we were counselled to be more faithful along this line of work. A petition presented by the Philanthropic Committee addressed to the President of the United States, appealing from the decision of the Attorney-General, and asking to have the laws, as passed, enforced, was united with by the meeting, and the Chairman directed to sign and forward the same. The other subjects claiming the attention of the Philanthropic Committee were presented, showing that much good work had been done along the several lines that are of interest to Friends.

Feeling that this has been to us a season of baptism of the Holy Spirit, we desire to commend you, with ourselves, to the care of the all-loving Father, realizing that to dwell with Him is perfect safety and peace.

Signed by direction of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Clear Creek, Illinois, Ninth Month, 11th to 14th, inclusive, 1899.

CLARENCE MILLS,
Clerk.

MINUTES
OF
FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSO-
CIATION.

*At a Meeting of Genesee First day School Association
held at Bloomfield, Ont., 6th month, 9th, 1900.*

One of the Clerks being absent Rebecca Zavitz was appointed to act for the day.

Written reports were read from Schools at Yarmouth, Bloomfield and Coldstream, and mention made of schools at Yonge Street, Arkona, Pickering, and Pelham, in some of which much interest and former numbers are reported though a lack of interest seems apparent in others.

Eliza Brown, Mary T. Freeman and Charlotte C. Talcott were appointed to essay an epistle to forward to the kindred associations with which we correspond, and present it to a future session of this meeting.

Very helpful epistles from Illinois and Baltimore Associations were read at this time. These called forth expressions of sympathy in the work and a hope was expressed for a greater consecration in the good cause.

Freeman Talcott and Minnie E. Brown were appointed to act as Clerks for the coming year.

Then adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock on second day afternoon.

At about the time adjourned to the Association met.

Very encouraging epistles from Indiana, New York and Ohio Associations were read at this time, calling forth expressions of appreciation and gratitude for these evidences of the continuance of the work in other fields, and we were encouraged to engage in this good work with more earnestness ourselves.

A short programme, consisting of selections in reading and recitations, rendered by the young people and children of the local First-day School at this time was much appreciated and enjoyed.

Also a paper, entitled "The Sabbath School Convention, its Purpose and Value," was read by Charlotte C. Talcott.

The committee appointed to prepare an epistle to forward to the Associations, with which we correspond, produced one which on being read was approved, and the clerks were directed to transcribe, sign and forward one to each of the said associations.

Eliza D. Cronk, Ruth C. Wilson, Wm. G. Brown, Charlotte C. Talcott, Isaac Wilson, Samuel P. Zavitz,

Lydia R. Richards, Mary T. Freeman and Fred. C. Brown were appointed as our delegates to the Friends' First-day School General Conference to be held at Chautauqua, N.Y., in 8th mo. next, they to have power to add to their numbers.

To arrange a programme for the special session on seventh day, preceding the Yearly Meeting next year, the following committee was appointed, viz.: Minnie E. Brown, Helena Barker, Eliza Pearson, Ella Zavitz and Ida Zavitz.

Feeling that we have been strengthened by this mingling together in love and unity in the work, and with hope that we will carry with us to our home school the leaven we have here received, that the whole may become leavened, we now adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock on seventh day afternoon preceding Yearly Meeting week, at such place as the Yearly Meeting may be held.

FREEMAN TALCOTT,
MINNIE E. BROWN,
Clerks.

EPISTLES.

To the First-day School Association of Genesee Yearly Meeting from that of Philadelphia :

Dear Friends,—Whilst fully realizing the pressure of material in our annual gatherings, and the importance of having time for due consideration and live discussion of current topics and methods pertaining to First-day School work, we still feel that the helpfulness is not yet past of a brief interchange of thoughts (through the customary epistles) among First-day School workers in the sister Yearly Meetings.

As we send our annual greeting, we are drawn into closer sympathy with you in the common cause, and are encouraged by the belief that you, with ourselves, are concerned to labor along the lines of best developed Friendly thought.

While it is true that in some parts of our large Yearly Meeting this work does not seem to foster an awakened interest in our religious gatherings, yet we would not dwell discouragingly upon this feature ; for, in other localities weak meetings have been strengthened by the establishment of First-day Schools, and we

believe that the seed sown by earnest, faithful teachers will, in after years, produce good results.

The different series of lesson leaves are found to be of great service in connection with Bible study, in which there is a reverent and growing interest, and for which the time is ripe in this day of searching the Scriptures; but may it ever be remembered that "there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Only as our acquired knowledge is brought under His inspiring power can those truths be imparted that will stand the test of ages.

With others, we realize the difficulty of holding the interest of classes composed of young men and women or of the older boys and girls, and the cultivation of the social feature in such classes impresses us as being of importance. At this stage in their lives, young people are primarily social beings; let us work with nature and offer all possible wholesome opportunities in this direction; for we claim that the faith which we strive to inculcate, is simple, natural and in accord with the beautifully gradual development which our Heavenly Father's laws everywhere exhibit. We have known flagging classes built up on a solid foundation by the earnest fostering, on the part of live and sympathetic teachers, of the spirit of comradeship and helpfulness (which should not be limited to the class, but should stand ready to serve the school) and by the

teacher's consecrated effort with the young people, to apply to the stress of present-day living, the eternal yet practical principles taught by Jesus Christ.

We would note also that, in our observation, such concerned teachers make careful preparation for their First-day classes, and are ready to meet them with spiritual food suited to their needs. For the older minds let us have the facing of the deeper problems, and the earnest search for their solution, and, for the little ones, the dedicated teacher, who, realizing the importance of her opportunity, will find that all God's beautiful world will minister to her, in affording illustrations of patient, striving upward, of industry, persistence and faithfulness.

And thus we come back to the old truth that the strength of an organization and its power of usefulness are exactly measured by that of its individual faithfulness. Let us each afresh remind himself what a power for good, in ever growing measure, is even one dedicated worker, and let us strive to "love and serve."

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

JOHN L. CARVER, } Clerks,
MARY H. FORMAN, }

From New York.

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

Dear Friends,—The annual meeting of the New York First-day School Association has given renewed evidence of the power which First-day Schools have to draw together the old and the young of our Society in sympathetic work.

We have taken great interest in the discussion of the responses given by the various schools to questions sent to them relative to methods and results of First-day School work, and its usefulness to the Society and the community. Suggestions have been made concerning the use of Friends' papers, books and lesson leaves, and the teaching of Friends' principles and testimonies. It has been felt that the best way to instill Friends' principles is not so much by defining and explaining doctrinal terms as it is by endeavoring to develop in the child a love of truth and righteousness which may upbuild in him that character which constitutes the Friend in fact.

We have had presented to us striking instances of the growth of First-day Schools under loving, intelligent effort in localities apparently barren, and we have been led to believe that the unabating interest shown is evidence of a new dawn of the light of truth in our Society.

cia
tha
ual
wor
gre
of t
feel
sho

at
serv

The

Ne

From

D
and fel
ing, ho
same ca
ing the

Epistles have been received from the various associations with which we correspond. Although we feel that the chief benefit of our meeting is in the individual spiritual activities aroused by the discussion of the work before the Association, yet we value these epistles greatly, believing that there is true worth in the unity of thought and labor to which they testify, and in the feeling they give of nearness to each other, which all should have who bear the name of Friend.

Hoping that the Conference in next Eighth month at Chautauqua will be a season of helpfulness, and serve to draw us still nearer together in love, we are

Your Friends,

The First-day School Association of the New York
Yearly Meeting,

CHAS. F. UNDERHILL, } Clerks.
AMY J. MILLER, }

New York, 5th Mo., 30th, 1900.

*From the First-day School Association of Ohio Yearly
Meeting to that of Genesee:*

Dear Friends,—With an evidence of existing love and fellowship, we, as an association, send you greeting, holding dear the same faith, being workers in the same cause with the same object in view, that of teaching the youth and children the way of truth, as exem-

plified in the teachings and life of Jesus. As teachers we must follow closely "In His Steps" in our words and deeds if we would see good results follow our efforts.

Do we put enough of the spirit into our teaching? Instilling into the hearts of the children the love and nearness of the Heavenly Father to each child, that He watches over all and is ever ready to reach out a tender loving hand to help them over the hard places, and to strengthen them to resist the many temptations found in their pathway.

Another important lesson to impress upon their receptive minds is, that His ear is ever open to receive the lowest whispered word, even the unexpressed cravings of the heart are known to Him and form a more acceptable prayer than forms and ceremonies.

" For if it is ever denied thee
 In solitude to pray,
 Should holy thoughts come o'er thee
 When friends are round thy way,
 Even then, the silent breathings
 Of thy spirit raised above,
 Will reach His throne of glory
 Who is mercy, truth, and love."

The century nearing its close has witnessed great advancement in the religious liberty of the world. The freedom to use all the powers given to mankind by a wise Ruler, behooves us to inspire the children who

wi
 bea
 arr
 pri
 so t
 of

 earn
 wor
 and
 by t
 will

 to wi
 grow

 in spi
 S
 Schoo
 Salem

 From
 of
 D
 ience t

will be the men and women, the workers, the burden bearers of the twentieth century, to buckle on the armor of faith in the goodness of God, to have the principles of right living firmly implanted in their hearts so that peace and harmony will be the ruling motives of their lives.

In our scattered membership we trust there are earnest and consecrated hearts in the First-day School work, striving to do their little in brightening lives and sowing seeds that are being watched and watered by the great Husbandman, so that in the harvest He will gather His sheaves.

The General Conferences are being looked forward to with interest, trusting it will be an opportunity for growing stronger in the truth.

With love and desires for your continued growth in spiritual life, we are your friends

Signed by direction and on behalf of the First-day School Association of Ohio Yearly Meeting, held at Salem the 28th of 8th month, 1899.

ESTHER J. FOX,
MARIETTA HARTLEY, } Clerks.

From the First-day School Association of Illinois to that of Genesee :

Dear Friends,—Under an inspiring sense of obedience to the good Father's will, representatives from

our scattered schools have assembled in close communion of striving hearts and enquiring minds. And during two helpful sessions, we have labored, we believe, under His divine guidance, and also under the expressed blessing of our six sister associations, whose words of cheer have strengthened our zeal to advance hand in hand with you, even with that one which reports a recent increase in her number of schools.

The concern of one of our sessions was for the little children. Two typical object lessons were presented by experienced primary teachers. One of these explained the text: "By their fruits ye shall know them," and the other illustrated lessons from "the parable of the Sower." Both bore quiet, yet impressive testimony to the value of intelligent method. Illinois is awakening to a fuller appreciation of object lessons, Color and outline, which attract the eye, when under the softening influence of loving interpretation become transmuted into lineaments of character: the adornment of paper and board become the adornment of spirit.

At the second session our attention was happily invited to a skilful interpretation of "The Legal Oath." Opposition against the taking of which is one of the tenets, it may be said, incident to our belief. And this opposition—persistent with our fathers—was an expressed conviction relative to man's relation to God. Was this opposition sane or otherwise? Is the form

in v
Frie
to-da
in w
matt

unde
as it
legal
Spiri
of the
Yet v
still
consci
cident
our r
lesson

V
anticip
friends

Si
ciation

in which this matter has presented itself to many Friends, of this great questioning age, and ought to-day still to bear testimony against oaths? is the form in which devotion to correct living, has presented this matter in the court of personal judgment and duty.

We whose individual convictions are continually under the corrupting influence of legal custom, strange as it may seem, still quite generally decide against the legal oath, because it is not, from our point of view the Spirit's way of efficient obligation, and all voice outside of that way is as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. Yet we are not congratulating ourselves that we are still strong "in the faith," we are the rather keenly conscious that to perpetuate our faith, those tenets incident thereto should be held in mind when teachers of our reasoning youth select the subject matter for lessons.

With abiding love which prompts us already to anticipate with pleasure your next letter, we are your friends.

Signed on behalf of Illinois First-day School Association held 9th mo., 12th, 1899.

JOSEPHINE T. HOLLINGSWORTH,
D. REEVES SHINN,

Clerks.

*From the First-day School Association of Baltimore
to that of Genesee :*

Dear Friends,—We have met once more in the capacity of a First-day School Association to review the work of the past year, and to consider ways of increased usefulness for the future.

It was with pleasure and interest that we listened to the message received from your Yearly Meeting. The epistles, generally, show an increased determination to find out why Friends' First-day Schools do not attract to them a larger percentage of our bright young Friends, who are so active in outside charitable work and who are so capable if their interest were once obtained, to give new life, zeal, and spiritual vigor to our Society. From all quarters we hear that there is difficulty in holding the interest of the older children. In seeking a remedy for this condition, we have had some practical suggestions offered in the addresses and discussions of our several sessions.

While the interest of the young cannot be aroused unless regular attendance is insisted upon by the parents, the force that keeps the child in the school should be a *pulling* force, arising from the interesting nature of the invigorating exercises of the school, rather than the *pushing* force exerted by the parents. Our best day schools aim to stir the minds of youth to lively action and noble accomplishment.

you
are
of c
exte
mad
som
teac
to r
upon
day
scho
tion,
meth
of fu

teach
trave
by th
to hi
histo
direc
resea
the m
the d
s
ness c
compr

How many Friends arouse the interest of the young mind? Unfortunately, many of our teachers are not trained in the use of more modern methods of carrying on this work. This may be corrected by extensive reading of the writings of those who have made First day School their *life* work, and by imbibing some of their enthusiasm by personal contact with such teachers. To day, teaching ability—none are quicker to recognize it than the young—rests fundamentally upon wider accurate knowledge. Does not the First-day School teacher suffer in comparison with day school teachers in lack of enthusiasm, general information, resourcefulness, mastery of the subject, and method of procedure? Such deficiency shows the need of further training.

One of our speakers said that the First day School teacher must have a definite aim, comparable to a traveller journeying to a definite place. He may stop by the wayside to gather anything that may be of use to him, from the study of oriental life, from art, from history or literature, he may even turn aside from the direct road awhile into the field of Biblical or scientific research, but not for long lest he fail to reach the goal, the main idea of which is the building of character and the development of the highest spiritual life.

Seek early to awaken in the child the consciousness of his dual nature. Even very little children can comprehend what it means to entertain a guest. The

preparation necessary in the home for the coming of some loved and honored friend is a familiar experience. The house must be swept and garnished and much loving thought expended for his comfort. How easily from such experiences can the thought be developed that each one of us is to entertain a kingly guest for whom our rooms must be pure and spotless. We must be genuine or the guest will not remain.

Our Travelling Libraries now consist of three hundred volumes and have been much appreciated by our country schools, where there has been a marked increase in attendance due partly to these libraries.

With a feeling of encouragement that there has been increased interest during the year, and with the hope that we may all be more earnest in our work for the coming year, we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of our First-day School Association of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

ELI M. LAMB,
SARAH R MATTHEWS,

Secretary.

From Indiana Yearly Meeting First-day School Association to the Association of Genesee Yearly Meeting:

Dear Friends,—We acknowledge the receipt of your epistle with pleasure, and it was listened to in our Association with much interest.

As we are holding our Yearly Meeting in a different place this year, the surroundings seem to have imbued us with renewed energy.

The large number of young people we have with us, is a source of great pleasure and encouragement.

We are often—as are many other Associations—at a loss to know how to interest the older children of the school. Experience has taught us that beyond a certain point their minds will not travel, yet often a story read to them works marvels, because it gives in a simple way the ideas and truths which we wish to convey.

We do not desire to present dry facts alone, but to inter-mingle with them something which alike interests girls and boys, and something which attracts without seeming to force.

We believe that we should interest our young people in Friends' Schools and Colleges, for there they will find kindred spirits, and will, in time, learn to love

the principles of Friends there inculcated, and look upon their Alma Mater almost as a home, and in later years, when grown to man and womanhood, they will look back upon these happy times with reverence, thankful for the lessons learned and for the beautiful truths instilled; truths that denomination can not compass, and which, in the life beyond, will be still undimmed.

“Sow truth, if thou the truth would'st reap,
Who sows the false must reap the vain,
Erect and sound thy conscience keep,
From idle words and deeds refrain.

“Sow peace, and taste its fruitage pure,
Sow love, and reap the harvest bright,
Sow sunshine on the rock and moor
And find a harvest home of light.”

Signed by direction of Indiana First-day Association.

ABRAHAM SHOEMAKER,
LEWELLA BRANSON,
Clerks.