


MINUTES
—OF—
CANADA
YEARLY MEETING
—OF—
WOMEN FRIENDS,
—1886.—

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PICTON :
PRINTED AT "THE GAZETTE" STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
1885.

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—OF—

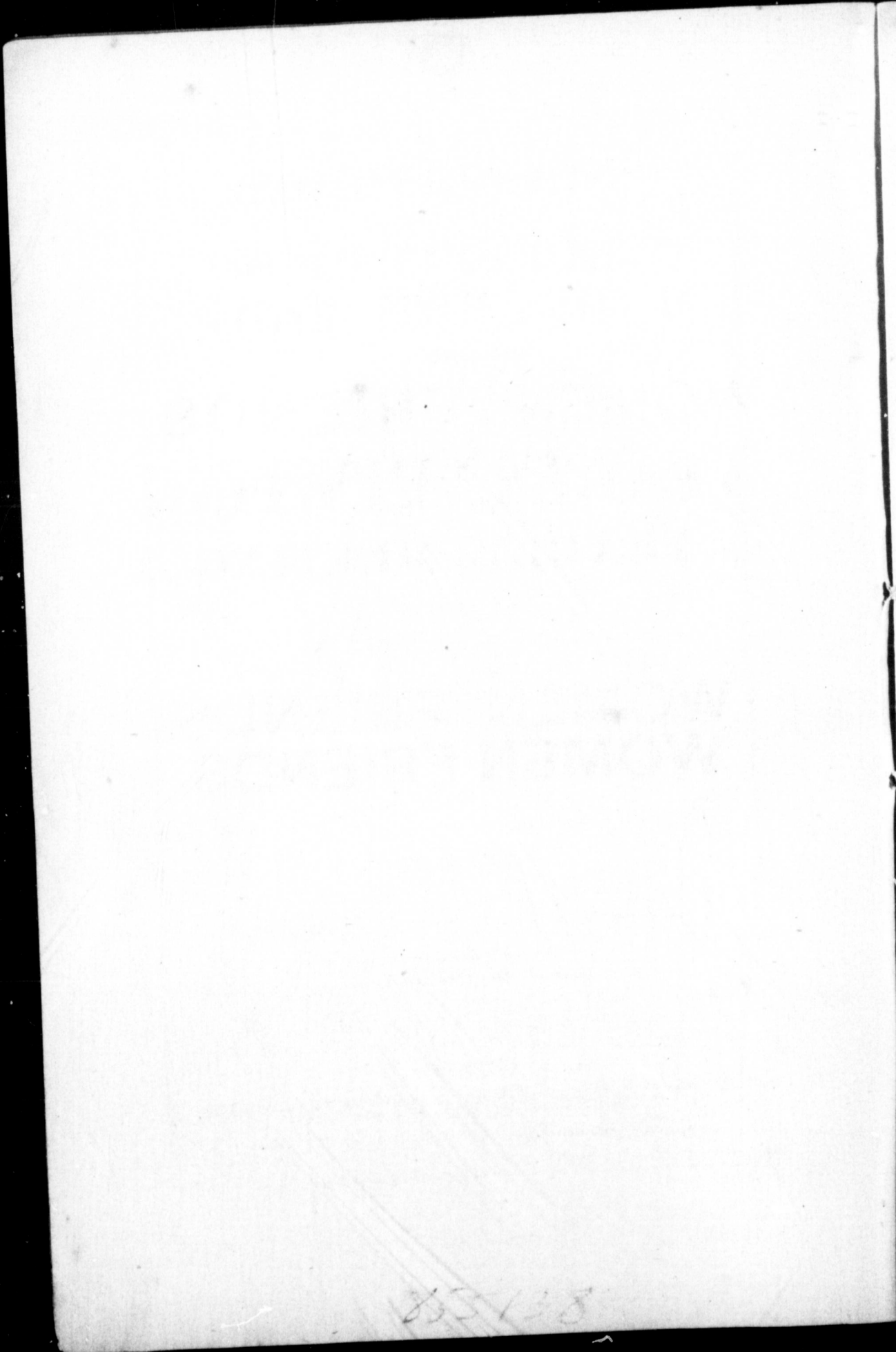
WOMEN FRIENDS,

—1885.—



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83/28

AT CANADA YEARLY MEETING
—OF—
WOMEN FRIENDS,
Held at Pickering, Ontario, from the 19th of
6th Mo., to the 24th of the same,
inclusive, 1885.

The Representatives from the different Quarterly Meetings
being called, they are—

FROM PELHAM :

LYDIA P. STOVER,	MARY ANN WILSON,
ANNA H. MOORE, and	JANET HENDERSON.

FROM YONGE STREET :

RACHEL W. HAIGHT,	MARY C. STOVER,
ESTHER DOANE,	MARY WOODRUFF,
MARY ROGERS, and	PHEBE B. ELLIS.

FROM WEST LAKE :

MATILDA BRANSCOMBE,	LYDIA M. HAIGHT,
MARGARET J. JONES,	SARAH WILTSIE,
JANE CRONK,	MARY BOWERMAN,
LAVINA MERRILS, and	ABIGAIL GARRATT,

Who are present except four ; no reason assigned for their
absence.

The Caretakers appointed by the Quarterly Meetings are—
For Pelham : Anna H. Moore and Mary Pollard. From
Yonge Street : Sarah C. Richardson and Eliza Haight.—
From West Lake : Abigail Garratt, Sarah Garratt and Ase-
nath Robinson, being called are present except two ; no rea-
son and sigesfor their absence.

The Epistles from Western and Kansas Yearly Meetings,
have been received and read at this time, to the comfort and
encouragement of many hearts.

We appoint Isabella Henderson, Rachael W. Haight, Anna Crawford, Sarah Leavens, Sarah Haight, Mary Robinson, Mary Storr, Rebecca Haight, Louisa Richardson, Abigail Garratt, Lydia M. Haight and Lydia P. Stover, as our Committee to prepare Essays of Epistles and produce at a future meeting.

The request from Leray Monthly Meeting to become a component part of West Lake Quarterly Meeting, being brought before this Meeting for our consideration and concurrence therein, and men friends having informed us they have united with the request, we are also united therein, and from this time forth they will report to West Lake four Months' Meeting, and thereby become members thereof.

The Queries, with their answers, have been read at this time as far as the fourth Query.

The meeting adjourns to meet to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

—o—

Seventh Day Morning, 6th Mo., 20th, 1885.

Friends met near the hour adjourned to.

Matilda Branscombe, on behalf of the Representatives, report they have conferred together and are united in proposing Eliza H. Varney for Clerk ; and Margaret Jane Jones for Assistant ; with which this meeting unites, and they are appointed to that service for one year.

Finished reading the Queries, with their answers, as they came up from the different Quarterly Meetings, a summary whereof is as follows :—

SUMMARY ANSWERS.

1st Ans.—Most Friends are careful to attend all our Meetings for religious Worship and Discipline. One report from one small meeting says two First Day Meetings not attended on account of sickness and death. The hour is nearly observed ; no unbecoming behavior to remark.

2nd Ans.—We believe Friends are preserved in love one towards another. No differences known amongst us. Tale-bearing and detraction discouraged and mostly avoided.

3rd Ans.—Most Friends do endeavor to train up their children in the principles of the Christian religion as pro-

fessed by us in the plainness and simplicity of dress and deportment it enjoins, though deviations are apparent. Friends are mostly good examples in these respects themselves.

We believe they do endeavor to guard their children and others, under their care against corrupt conversation and the reading of pernicious books.

4th Ans.—We believe most Friends are diligent in reading the Holy Scriptures in their families, collectively.

5th Ans.—Friends do avoid the use of all intoxicating drinks, except for purposes strictly medicinal, and are clear of attending places of diversion as far as we know.

6th Ans.—The circumstances of the poor have been inspected and relief seasonably afforded them.

We believe all children under our care are in a way to be properly educated for the ordinary duties of life.

7th Ans.—All our meetings are reported clear of complying with Military requisitions or of paying any fine or tax instead thereof.

8th Ans.—We trust Friends are just in their dealings and punctual in fulfilling their engagements, and we believe they are careful to conduct their business as becomes our religious profession. We know of none who have given fear on these accounts.

9th Ans.—Care is mostly taken to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness, and agreeably to our discipline.

During the reading and answering of the queries much excellent counsel was handed forth, and Mothers were encouraged to greater faithfulness, and daughters counselled to yield to God's grace in the heart so that they might be enabled to say with the Apostle Paul, "By the grace of God I am what I am." They were also advised to hold these things in an even balance, and not lay too much stress on any one thing, and not enough on another or even to the exclusion of another, but to be watchful over our own spirits, and to be ensamples to the flock, watching unto prayer, that our children may see we are following the meek and lowly Jesus, and and that we see to it that we discharge every duty in the fear of the Lord, leaving all in the hands of Him "who doeth all things well." Setting a watch over our lips that our words

may be seasoned with grace, remembering that "the tongue can no man tame, that it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poisons." It is written, "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life."

Mothers were counselled to bear the cross before their children, and by watchfulness unto prayer receive strength from our Heavenly Father, who will hear and answer their petitions, and children will be brought into the fold of Christ.

Friends are admonished to read the Holy Scriptures in a prayerful manner, and have the mind gathered inward to the Light of Christ in the soul, and be faithful to the intimations of duty made manifest by the Holy Spirit in the heart.— There are a diversity of gifts and a diversity of administration. May each one abide faithful to their gift, and let obedience keep pace with knowledge.

The younger sisters were admonished to cherish the precious feeling that at times cover them, and to come out and follow Him who endured the Cross and despised the Shame that they may be partakers of that "River, the streams whereof shall make glad the City of God—the *holy place* of the tabernacle of the Most High."

We appoint Lydia M. Haight, Matilda Branscombe and Sarah Leavens to audit the Treasurer's Accounts and report to our next meeting.

We appoint Margaret Jane Jones and Jane Cronk to see to the printing of 600 copies of Women's Minutes, and forward to their respective meetings, and report next year.

We feel to acknowledge that a precious covering has rested over this meeting, and that we have been owned by the Master, and unto Him would we ascribe all the praise.

This meeting adjourns to meet on Second-day morning, at 10 o'clock.

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Second-day Morning, 6th Mo., 22nd, 1885.

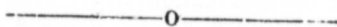
Friends convened pursuant to adjournment.

This meeting directs that each monthly meeting of Women Friends shall appoint two or more Friends to solicit funds to not only defray expenses of printing, but also to defray the expenses of some who may come to our Yearly Meeting who are unable to meet the whole of the expense themselves.—

We appoint a committee of Women Friends to enquire if any need assistance, and to extend such help and assistance as our own members, and others who are in fellowship with us, may require: For Pelham, Anna H. Moore; for Yonge Street, Rachael W. Haight; for West Lake, Margaret J. Jones; who are to report at a future sitting.

This meeting being brought under exercise, as to whether our First-day Schools come under the care of the Yearly Meeting, which being prayerfully considered this meeting has decided for each Monthly Meeting to appoint some Friends to have the oversight thereof and see that they are conducted in an orderly manner, and report to the Quarterly Meetings and through them to this meeting: Number of scholars? How many are members that attend them? How far they are conducted strictly according to Friends' Principles? Which Men Friends have united with the meetings are directed to act in accordance therewith.

This Meeting adjourns to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.



Third-day morning, 6 Mo., 23rd, 1885.

Friends met near the hour adjourned to.

We resumed the reading of the Essays and Epistles at this time. The Epistle committee having produced one for Kansas and Iowa, which have been read and adopted, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them to their respective meetings.

The Friends appointed to Audit the Treasurer's Account report that they have examined it and find it as follows:

The Treasurer had received from committee appointed by the different Monthly Meetings the sum of . . . \$28.17
 Paid for Printing, \$12.00
 Expenses of Mailing,65 — 12.65

Balance on hand, \$15.52

Signed on behalf of committee,
 MATILDA BRANSCOMBE.

The Minutes of the Representative Meeting have been read at this time. The Friends appointed to collect funds for the

Yearly Meeting's use, re they have collected some funds for that purpose and will further attention thereto.

During the several sittings of this Meeting we have been owned and blest of the Lord, and now that the time has come to separate we can but acknowledge the goodness and mercy of our God, who has permitted us to meet and mingle together in that love that binds together the children of the Lord, and while we have been permitted to transact the business of this meeting in love, harmony and condescension, esteeming one another better than ourselves. We desire to commend each other to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in the heart, and to the care of the unslumbering "Shepherd of Israel." We now conclude this meeting, purposing to meet here again next year if the Lord permit.

Signed on behalf of the meeting aforesaid,

ELIZA H. VARNEY,
Clerk.

EPISTLES

—ADDRESSED TO—

Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends,
1885.

KANSAS.

Dear Sisters :—

Being again permitted, through Divine goodness and mercy, to meet together to transact the weighty affairs of the church in this, our annual assembly, we have felt that the arm of Ancient Goodness has been extended to our comfort and encouragement, in that He has been pleased to send amongst us His anointed servants to the encouragement of the babes in Christ, and a strength to the upright in heart.

We have also been strengthened in the reading of your sisterly epistle at this time, and desire that that love which is the bond of fellowship may more and more abound, to the upbuilding of our Zion—that we may become a people valiant for the Lord, and strong in His might.

May the principles of our beloved society, which at times has been more near than our natural lives, be uplifted in their ancient purity, which we believe can only be done by and through that help which He alone can give. We feel to encourage you with us, dear sisters, to an individual faithfulness, a daily watch, and a drawing near unto the Father of all our sure mercies, that our lives may be so ordered that the dear children, seeing may believe, and be enabled to take hold of the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are aware that your trials have been great, that you have fought valiantly for the truth, that our principles might be maintained, and have no doubt felt the Omnipotent arm underneath to uphold you. Our desire is for you, dear sisters, that there may never be a falling away from that protecting power, for trials are continually awaiting us in our progress Zion-ward.

“Oh ! that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to us-ward, For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”

We have, at this time, received Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings with whom we are in correspondence, the reading of which has been a strength and satisfaction to us.

With a salutation of love ; farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

MARTHA L. PICKETT,
Clerk.

WESTERN.

Dear Sisters :—

Under a grateful sense of our Heavenly Father's love and mercy in permitting us once more to mingle in our annual gathering, (though we are few in numbers,) and to feel His over-shadowing presence, we are led to exclaim, “What shall we render unto thee, O Lord, for all thy benefits ?”

We have been brought into deep sympathy with our absent

Friends, by the reading of your excellent Epistle, with other sisterly greetings from the different branches of the Church, who, with ourselves, have experienced the same scattering and dark clouds to pass over that you have, and when we lift up our eyes and behold the desolation, our harps are hung upon the willows, and we weep when we remember Zion; but in all ages of the world victory has been granted to the faithful few. Then may none give back in the day of battle, but remember that the Morning Star will be given to those who overcome and keep his works unto the end.

We are glad you are endeavoring to provide suitable reading in place of objectionable literature, so abundant in our land, and we desire that our own hands may not slacken in the advancement of this good work.

By reports from the Quarterly Meetings we find that deficiencies are still apparent, which have been the cause of deep exercise to the rightly concerned minds among us. Excellent counsel has been given directing us to the only source from whence all good cometh, that by a life of close watchfulness unto prayer we might more richly adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour in all things, and the invitation was given to come and partake of that living stream which makes glad the whole heritage of God.

Words of comfort have been spoken to the aged, who have borne the burdens for many years; those in the middle walks of life exhorted not to shrink from known duties; sympathy expressed for young mothers whose tender charge requires their constant care and watchfulness; may this class, with you and us, look to Jesus for wisdom and ability to train their precious jewels for Heaven. The presence and orderly deportment of our dear young sisters is comforting, and if they are willing to submit to the preparing hand of the Lord the mantle of the mothers—who are one by one being called from work to rewards—will rest upon the daughters.

We commend you, dear sisters, with ourselves to the gracious protection of the Shepherd of Israel, desiring that indeed we may be the sheep of his pasture, and that in the end we may be all safely gathered into the Heavenly fold.

We are, with love, your affectionate sisters.

Signed by direction of the Meeting.

SARAH ANN JOHNSON,
Clerk.