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OF THE
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OF
GENESEE
YEARLY MEETING
OF
FRIENDS
HELD AT
SPARTA, ONTARIO,
6TH MONTH, 1899.



STRATHROY, ONT.
EVANS BROTHERS PUBLISHERS.

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MINUTES
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*At Genesee Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends, held at Sparta, Ontario, by adjournments
from the 12th of the 6th Month to the 15th
of the same inclusive, 1899.*

By the written reports received from the Quarterly
and Half-Yearly Meetings, it appears that the follow-
ing named Friends have been appointed Representa-
tives to this meeting, viz. :

From Farmington.

Sarah K. Sheldon,	Phoebe Jane Noxon,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	Charlotte W. Cox,
Sarah Ann Greene,	Mary P. Blaker,
Benjamin C. Blaker,	Henry Greene.

From Scipio.

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

From Canada.

Maria Noxon,	Ruth C. Wilson,
Phœbe Noxon,	John Christie,
Samuel Noxon.	

From Pelham.

Ethel Cutler,	Edgar M. Zavitz,
Tamer A. Vail,	Cynthia Marsh,
Robert Graham,	Isaac Hamacher.

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

Satisfactory reasons were given for the absence of one from Farmington and one from Canada.

A Minute of Unity was read for Margaret P. Howard, a Minister from the Monthly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia.

Her company is very acceptable to us.

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

Bessie Haight,	Edgar M. Zavitz,
Howard Zavitz,	Ethel Cutler,
Maria Haight.	

To collect and compile such of the exercises of this meeting as way may open for, and present at a future sitting, the following Friends were named, viz. :

Samuel P. Zavitz,	Mary E. Hoxie,
Estella P. Hay,	Beulah Muma,
Agnes Haight,	Ernest Cutler,
Edgar Haight.	

Epistles have been received from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Ohio and Indiana Yearly Meetings, and those from Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York read at this time.

The reading of the practical and helpful suggestions contained in these Epistolary greetings has renewed the desire within us that we too may be found laboring in the broad fields of humanitarian effort in mitigating and emancipating our fellow beings from the many evils afflicting them.

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 :

Jonathan D. Noxon,	Phoebe Jane Noxon,
Mary E. Hoxie,	Jane E. Iden,
Samuel Noxon,	Phoebe Noxon,
Granvilla Haight,	Amanda Wilson.

The time expiring this year for which the Committee on Philanthropic labor was appointed, the meeting appoints the following named Friends a Nominating Committee to consider of and propose the names of Friends, to a future sitting, to constitute the Philanthropic Committee :

Charity Stover,	Sarah K. Sheldon,
Michael K. Muma,	Jonah D. Zavitz,
Maria Noxon,	Jane E. Iden,
Samuel Noxon.	

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

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 Meetings, report the expense to have been as follows, viz. :—\$34.25 for printing and express charges in their distribution, which amount has been paid by the Treasurer. The report was satisfactory to the meeting.

Two of the Quarterly Meetings have requested that the quotas of money to be raised for the Yearly Meeting's use by the Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings, be revised or readjusted.

The meeting taking the subject into consideration, concludes to refer the subject to the following named Committee for consideration, they to report to a future sitting :

Mary E. Hoxie,	Samuel Noxon,
Jane E. Iden,	Phoebe Noxon,
Sarah K. Sheldon,	Samuel P. Zavitz,
Jonathan D. Noxon,	Anne S. Cutler.

Farmington Quarterly Meeting forwards a suggestion that a less number of the proceedings of this meeting be printed for distribution among the subordinate meetings. After a free and full discussion of the subject it was concluded that by a proper distribution there were none too many printed.

The Literature Committee appointed last year having for its purpose the selection and distribution of appropriate literature for elevating and ennobling human character and the dissemination of our principles and testimonies, made the following report, viz. :

To Genesee Yearly Meeting :

We, the Committee appointed one year ago and known as the Literature Committee, submit the following report, viz. :

We have thus far done nothing as a Committee, but have not been unmindful of the appointment, and see clearly important work along that line to be done in the near future.

On behalf of the Committee.

PHOEBE JANE NOXON,
SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ.

Sparta, 6th month, 12th, 1899.

The report being read they are encouraged to greater diligence in the prosecution of the work the ensuing year, and the meeting approves of the addition

of the names of Isaac Wilson and Ida H. Zavitz to the said Committee.

The importance of putting proper safe guards around the records of all our meetings for their preservation from fire or loss by being left in the possession of individuals who subsequently become isolated from Society, claimed the weighty consideration of the meeting. Our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings are requested to endeavor to place all unused records of their meeting in as secure a place as practicable.

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

The Philanthropic Committee of Canada Half-Yearly Meeting forward a proposition that the Yearly Meeting petition the Government of Canada to enact some more restrictive measure in regard to intoxicating liquors.

The meeting approving of the proposition, appoints the following named Friends to draft a suitable memorial and present the same to a future sitting :

Edgar M. Zavitz,	Granville Haight,
Florence Bailey,	Maria Haight,
Anne S. Cutler,	Michael K. Muma.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the 11th hour to-morrow morning.

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Third of the Week and Thirteenth of the Month.

About the hour adjourned to the meeting convened.

Samuel Noxon, on behalf of the representatives, reported that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the names of Samuel P. Zavitz and Agnes Haight for Clerks for the ensuing year.

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

The Epistles from Ohio and Indiana Yearly Meetings were introduced and read.

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

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the state of society as discovered 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 all our meetings for worship and discipline, the hour nearly observed. One meeting reports "no meeting for

worship held since our last report," and one says "meetings were held during the summer."

Ans. 2.—Friends appear to maintain love and fellowship as becomes our Christian profession, except in one instance. When differences arise care is taken to end them ; tale bearing and detraction are avoided and discouraged.

Ans. 3.—Friends are clear of the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, except in a few instances. They endeavor to extend their influence towards total abstinence in their neighborhoods, and give help and encouragement to the intemperate for their restoration. They avoid frequenting taverns, and attending places of diversion of a demoralizing tendency.

Ans. 4.—The poor have been cared for, and relief afforded them ; advice and assistance has been rendered when needful. No deficiencies known in regard to education.

Ans. 5.—With a few exceptions, noted in two reports, Friends maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a Free Gospel ministry. They maintain a faithful testimony against war, oaths and all forms of oppression.

Ans. 6.—Friends are careful to be just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their engagements, except a few in one Preparative, who are not as punctual as is desirable. They live within the bounds of their circumstances, and avoid involving

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themselves in business beyond their ability to manage, with one exception. When any give occasion for fear in these respects, they are admonished and advised, we trust, for their preservation.

Ans. 7.—Care is taken in season to deal with delinquents in the spirit of meekness for their restoration.

Ans. 8.—They are.

The minutes of the Representative Committee were now introduced and read, and were approved by the meeting.

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

Fifth day morning, 6th month, 15th.

Pursuant to adjournment the meeting convened.

The Report of the Philanthropic Committee was read and approved, and it was directed to be printed with the Yearly Meeting's minutes :

At a meeting of the Philanthropic Committee of Genesee Yearly Meeting, held at Sparta, Ontario, the 13th of Sixth Month, 1899.

One of the Clerks being absent, Ethel M. Cutler was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The minutes of our last meeting were read and approved.

Written and verbal reports from most of the Chairmen of the various departments into which the philanthropic work is divided, were received at this time, together with added information offered as the subjects passed under consideration ; and many important suggestions were made, which, if acted upon, must tend to deepen and broaden the good work in the future.

Charlotte C. Talcott, Chairman of the department on Purity and Demoralizing Literature, expressed fear that we as a people are very indifferent in the matter. She thinks that the most injurious and demoralizing publications that meet us to-day are the sensational newspaper reports concerning divorces and certain crimes wherein minute details of indecent conduct and criminality are reported, and urges us to lend our activities and personal influence in this direction.

One person thought that the subject of social purity, the work in which our late and esteemed friend, Aaron M. Powell, was especially concerned, should not be overlooked. That while we were endeavoring to elevate humanity around us, we should preserve ourselves in purity in thought and soul.

Under the head of work for Indians and the Colored people, William Greene, Chairman of the Committee, reports that :

East Hamburg M. M., sent three barrels of clothing and \$10.00.

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Farmington Executive, two barrels of clothing and \$19.20.

Rochester Executive, one barrel of clothing and \$15.00.

Making a total of six barrels and one box of clothing, and \$44.20 in cash.

The situation of the two Schools for Colored Children in S. C., was vividly placed before us and our sympathies thereby deepened. The teachers gave their services freely from a missionary spirit, their salaries being much lower than they could draw elsewhere, and payment after many months in arrears. We were urged to be more prompt and more generous in the worthy cause.

In connection with this report it was stated that \$11.00 had been collected in Pelham H. Y. M., and sent to the Doukhobors in Canada.

The Chairman on Tobacco and Temperance, Samuel P. Zavitz, opened the subject before the meeting with a verbal report. The rapid strides this reform is making is indeed encouraging. From the recent Plebiscite vote we see that the prohibition sentiment preponderates in the Dominion, a result all temperance people should rejoice in, yet there is perhaps as much or more necessity for vigilance and determined work as ever, in order to maintain our present position and ensure our future progress, until, by the joint

powers of enlightened conscience and statutory laws, the evil is swept out of existence.

No concerted action has been made to lessen the evils of Lotteries, Gambling and Betting, but individuals have been faithful to opportunities for discouraging the practice of betting.

Some work has been done in the department of Prison Reform and Capital Punishment. The result of the Annual Meeting on these subjects by the Friends at Coldstream was a memorial sent to our local papers and to our County Sheriff at London, reminding them of our testimony against the rightfulness, moral and divine, of Capital Punishment, asking the papers not to publish details in regard to the hanging of Marion Brown, who had been convicted of murder and was about to suffer the penalty of death, also commending the Sheriff in his decision to exclude all from the scene of execution excepting those designated by the law to attend. The memorial had its desired effect in strengthening his hands, and also in gaining public sentiment in favor of the course.

The subjects of Peace and Arbitration claimed our earnest thought. We are looking with anxious anticipation to the result of the unique gathering of the representatives of the various nations now assembled at the Hague, at the summons of the Czar of Russia, and at the invitation of Empress Wilhelmina of Holland, deliberating and devising plans to lift from the nations the heavy burdens attendant on their arma-

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ments and war equipment. The prayer arises that they may yield their minds to the wise overruling of divine and universal love and devise methods acceptable to all the powers and adequate for the great and exalted object in view. We are thankful for the great object-lesson in peace presented by the Doukhobors before the world. Persecuted and tortured under Russian tyranny, they patiently and unresistingly suffered until released chiefly through the sympathy and aid of Friends, and transported to free homes in a land of liberty.

The Clerks are requested to ask the Yearly Meeting to defray our proportion of expenses of the General Conferences called for by their executive.

After a very interesting session of the Philanthropic work wherein much zeal was manifested in the various branches of humanitarian work among our more unfortunate brothers in the world under a sense of the Spirit working in our minds and hearts with its vivifying influences, we adjourn to meet at Bloomfield, Ont., at three o'clock, on Third-day of Yearly Meeting week in 1900.

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

We, the Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, report that we have attended to the duties of our appointment and find his accounts, when compared with the accompanying vouchers, correct, with a

Balance in his hands due the meeting of	\$114 98
From Scipio Quarterly.....	21 00
Canada Half-Yearly	40 50

Making a total of..... \$176 48

We would recommend the raising of \$150 the ensuing year, and propose the name of Samuel Noxon for Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee.

G. H. HAIGHT.

Sparta, 6th month, 12th, 1899.

The report on being read was approved by the meeting, and Samuel Noxon was accordingly appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings are directed to raise their proportions of \$150.00, pay the same to Samuel Noxon, Treasurer, Wellington, Ont., and report to our next Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer of this meeting is authorized to pay our proportion of the expenses of the General Conference on receipt of an order for the same from one of the Clerks of the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the revision of Quotas, submitted the following report :

The Committee to revise the Quotas of the Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings, met and conferred

together and are united in proposing that hereafter when money is raised for the Yearly Meeting's use,

Farmington pay.....	25	per cent.
Scipio "	10	"
Canada "	30	"
Pelham "	35	"

On behalf of the Committee.

SAMUEL NOXON.

JANE E. IDEN.

Sparta, 6th month, 14th, 1899.

Which, after due deliberation, was united with, and our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings are requested to raise their proportions as thus revised.

The Committee to prepare a copy of Memorial to be presented to the Dominion Parliament, produced the following :

We, the Committee appointed to draft a Memorial in the cause of prohibition to be sent to our Dominion Government submit the following :

To the Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Premier of Canada :

ESTEEMED FRIEND,—In view of the preponderance of sentiment in favor of the prohibition of the sale and traffic in alcoholic liquors as expressed by the plebiscite vote recently taken, we, the membership of our branch of the Society of Friends in Canada earnestly urge upon thee the desirability of enacting laws

to that end. We acknowledge the majority to have been smaller than we desire, yet considering the various and counter forces active in the taking of the vote, we are firm in the conviction that even that majority deserves and demands a recognition.

Were it not for the adverse vote in Quebec the government would undoubtedly feel itself duty and promise-bound to enact prohibitory laws to cover the whole Dominion.

As the vote in the Province of Ontario, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances under which it was taken, was ample to insure the enactment and enforcement of prohibition, we respectfully ask of the Dominion Government privilege, which you have the power to grant, of enacting prohibitive laws for the Province of Ontario in accordance with its emphatic wish as expressed by the result of the plebiscite vote.

While looking steadily towards, and working unremittingly for, total prohibition of sale and traffic, we welcome, in the meantime, every honorable means employed and opportunity given to curtail this evil in our land.

On behalf of the Committee.

EDGAR M. ZAVITZ.

ANNIE S. CUTLER.

Which, after consideration, was adopted, and the Clerks were instructed to sign and forward a copy of

the same to the proper authorities through some interested Member of Parliament.

The Committee to nominate Friends to constitute the Philanthropic Committee, propose the following, which was approved and they appointed to the service for three years :

We, the Committee to nominate Friends to constitute the Philanthropic Committee, propose the following, viz. :—

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Frank Schooley, | Eliza Cronk, |
| ✓ Agnes Haight, | James W. Talcott, |
| ✓ Bessie Haight, | Freeman Talcott, |
| Augusta Schooley, | Samuel Noxon, |
| John Allen Oille, | ✓ Maria Noxon, |
| Charity Stover. | Joseph J. Brown, |
| ✓ Maria Haight, | Eliza Cooper, |
| ✓ Ella Zavitz, | Mary E. Brown, |
| ✓ Michael K. Muma, | Alberta Webster, |
| William A. Cutler, | Adelia Brown, |
| ✓ Edgar M. Zavitz, | Charles Willson, |
| Mabel Zavitz, | Anna Armitage, |
| ✓ Beulah Muma, | Elma A. Mastin, |
| Jonah D. Zavitz, | Phœbe A. Noxon, |
| Isaac Wilson, | Sarah K. Sheldon, |
| ✓ William G. Brown, | Mary T. Freeman, |
| ✓ William Greene, | Joseph T. Freeman, |
| Henry Greene, | Amos Willson, |
| ✓ Willson Brown, | Johnathan D. Noxon, |
| Eliza Hampton, | Joseph Fritts, |

Sarah Ann Greene,	Phoebe J. Noxon,
Mary E. Bycraft,	Charlotte W. Cox,
Emily C. Zavitz,	William W. Cox,
Ethel Cutler,	Mary E. Hoxie,
Annie L. C. Brown,	Dorinda L. Hoxie,
Annie S. Cutler,	Lillian E. King,
Samuel P. Brown,	William F. Searing,
Amanda Willson,	Mary E. Searing,
William H. Willson,	Amelia G. Searing,
Amelia R. Page,	Mercy E. Fritts,
Edgar F. Willson,	Mabel Willson.
Charlotte C. Talcott,	

Signed on behalf of Committee.

MICHAEL K. MUMA.

The concern coming from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, through its Epistle, desiring our co-operation in regard to isolated members, was willingly taken up at this time, and we are united in appointing the following Committee to co-operate with them and other Yearly Meetings as way may open for and report, viz. :

Charlotte W. Cox,	Jane E. Iden,
Edgar Haight,	Charlotte C. Talcott.

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

The Committee to collect such of the exercises of the meeting as seemed best, produced the following, which, on being approved, are directed to be printed with the minutes of this meeting :

The morning meeting on First-day was very large. The meeting house, capable of seating 800, was not large enough to hold all. Close attention was paid to the spoken word. We were reminded that God is everywhere, and may be worshipped everywhere, but that we, his children, owed a duty one to another, and can strengthen and help each other, hence the necessity of thus assembling for Divine worship to realize the power in this union of purpose.

A long and impressive sermon from the text, "Be slow to anger," seemed to meet and satisfy the hunger of the soul. The speaker declared that God was unchangeable, but man's conceptions of Him had very much changed and enlarged since bygone days. All things created by Almighty Power was declared good, but man needs continually the Divine presence to keep all his faculties in subjection. Am I slow to anger? Do I exercise a perfect check-rein of control over my passions? Can I withhold that profane word under provocation? Do I seek to overcome that evil habit that so besets me? He that controls himself is greater than he who takes a city.

We have the very helpful and endearing presence of Friends from other yearly meetings, whose gospel ministry and loving sympathy have encouraged us to

higher endeavors under the guidance of the Divine Spirit.

The business of the meetings have been transacted in harmony and love.

Our condition, as shown in the answers to the Queries, awakened thoughtful consideration, some of the answers showing a necessity for greater watchfulness, and we were entreated to an individual care in these respects.

The Epistles received came laden with practical suggestions and helpful words of cheer in the work of the world's needs. They inspired words of encouragement and hope. The harmony of purpose manifested in the work of the several Yearly Meetings showed, one speaker thought, the leadings in all of the same Divine Spirit.

Considerable interest was shown in the First-day School work, and we were spurred on to more earnest prosecution of the cause.

An increasing interest was shown in Philanthropic labor, and considerable work has been done in some of its branches, which received the approval of Friends generally. Gratification was expressed in the help extended to the Doukhobors and to the Southern Colored Schools, as well as the efforts towards better temperance laws.

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Probably no feature of our Yearly Meeting was more helpful than the active interest shown by our young people. The young life was quickened into greater earnestness and deeper thought, at a very impressive meeting of the Young Friends' Association.

We were repeatedly reminded of our loss by the departure to the higher life of some whose presence and help had been as pillars of strength at former times. The young were encouraged to so come under the Divine influence as to fill the ranks and to carry to even higher heights God's work.

We were told that the moral life comes first. That without the moral there was no spiritual life. Faithfulness to the moral life laid the foundation for the spiritual. Living the moral life creates a hunger for something higher—the Spiritual life. Faithfulness to the Mosaical law prepared people for the spiritual law as taught by Jesus.

Ida H. Zavitz, Granville H. Haight and Edgar M. Zavitz, are appointed to assist the Clerks in having 800 copies of the proceedings of this meeting, together with Epistles received from other Yearly Meetings, 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.

With hearts overflowing with gratitude to the Divine One for the manifestation of His presence

amongst us during the several sessions of this meeting, covering us with His love as with a mantle and in preserving us in harmony in the transaction of the business of our Society, we say farewell and adjourn to meet at Bloomfield, Ont., at the usual time next year, if so permitted.

SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ, } Clerks.
AGNES HAIGHT }

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EPISTLES.

From New York Yearly Meeting of Friends.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—The 204th session of our Yearly Meeting, in its deliberations, in the review of the labor of the past months, and the stirring words of the epistles of our Friends in other meetings, renewedly impressed us with a sense of our responsibility as a Society.

Rejoicing in our inspiring history and our glorious heritage, we see that the standard of our performance cannot honestly, in the sight of men or of God who trieth our hearts, be lower than the measure of our possession. To live on the accumulated spiritual and moral wealth of our fathers, does not guarantee our own growth in the higher life—the demand being that in our own time and persons we shall be fruitful. If we have the clearer vision of the truth the larger duty rests upon us to propagate it and dispense it as the bread of life to the hungry souls about us

We could not if we would, and would not if we could, alter the fact that we are living in the most

forceful and resourceful age in the history of the world. Ours is a time of wonderful activity, tremendous energy, and great achievements. But these things of themselves are as potent for evil as for good. Believing that progress in the domain of the moral and spiritual should keep pace with the material and the mercenary, we are impressed that the need of our time is the vitalizing power of the Divine Spirit imminent, but not always dominant, in the lives of men. In the toil and strife of daily struggle and competition, like Jacob at Bethel, we need a clearer vision to see that indeed the Lord is in our hearts, but we know it not. A thorough recognition of this fact would remove many of the disagreeable phases of our civilization, and work a revolution of righteousness in life, both public and private.

The rational and practical character of the genius of Quakerism makes it peculiarly adapted to the need of our new time, and forces the conclusion that in order to meet the demands of our time religion must be more sociological than theological; that all life, and not an occasional life, must be animated by the Divine Spirit; that institutions and systems must be brought into correspondence with the demands of the highest. To this end expediency must give way to truth, and the demands of human need overshadow the allurements of personal popularity and comfort, and the ends of private gain.

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It is helpful to consider that Jesus labored to improve the conditions of the common life of his time, declaring the end of his mission to give men life, and that life more abundantly. Paul preached the pure gospel of a spiritual worship at Ephesus, even though it threatened to ruin the business of all the silversmiths whose gain came from making shrines to Diana. The apostle tells us, "Therefore leaving the principles of the *doctrine* of Christ, let us go on unto perfection." This involves the encouragement of all those forces which tend to the perfect life, and the discouragement of all which tend to enslave our bodies, or interfere with the free course of our spirits.

The standard of our service is not imitation but inspiration; not to attempt to reproduce the things that are past, but to see that our lives follow the line of divine perfection. For these reasons we have read with gladness and the encouragement that strengthens, of the increased activity in other Yearly Meetings, showing that Friends are living witnesses to the truth.

Within the bounds of our own meeting increased interest and activity are noted. In no department, however, has our labor been up to the measure of our ability or opportunity; still we have done good work for many causes. Our educational interests show improvement; we have been able in a degree to promote better conditions in prisons and jails; we have advanced the temperance cause; our efforts have gone out to the submerged in the great city, and especially

its womanhood and childhood; and colored people in the South have received our attention; and our Young Friends show a growing consecration to the spiritual life, which is simply the life of service led by the Divine Spirit, and in them we see the promise of the present and the hope of the future. We gladly responded to a concern coming from the General Conference, and from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to look after isolated members, and to get them in touch with their brethren, and if possible with each other, and have appointed a Committee to co-operate with similar Committees of other Yearly Meetings for that purpose.

We have maintained a positive testimony for peace, as the direct way to oppose war. We are glad to recognize in the Peace Conference at The Hague an occurrence of good omen, and a possible prophecy of the speedy coming of the time of universal peace; and to see in the aroused public sentiment in opposition to the sale of liquor in the army canteens an increased activity which we hope will continue until the state stops the sanction of the liquor traffic, no matter what revenue it can be made to yield.

Our losses by death during the past year have been unusual. Four members of our representative Committee have finished their earthly labors and gone hence. They were John L. Griffin, Daniel Underhill, Jane E. Capron, and Aaron M. Powell. During the week a meeting was held under the auspices of the Philanthropic Committee to testify to the life and work

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of our beloved Friend Aaron M. Powell. Members of our Society, and prominent men and women not of our household of faith, bore feeling testimony to the beauty of his life and the consecrated character of his services. It was a most impressive occasion, inspiring to the living as it was a worthy tribute to the dead. Our hearts are tender, but we feel that the memory of the just is an incentive to better service in our day and generation.

The cordial reception by our Meeting of a minister of a branch of Friends not in correspondence with our body, appeared a striking illustration of the tolerant temper of our time showing that there may be a unity of the spirit in spite of divergence of doctrine or dissimilarity of expression. As searchers for the truth we may sow beside all waters, and examine the testimony of all honest, earnest hearts.

A religious body without a creed, with our hearts open to receive and follow the promptings of the spirit; with our insistence upon the direct inspiration of the Almighty as the only source for the development of the right life; teaching that all men may be equal recipients of this inspiration, we could go to the great world with a helpful message for the world's uplifting. But to do this our light must not rest under even a denominational bushel, but be borne aloft in the field of activity. That means the energizing of our own body first. That process seems to be going on among us now, as the forerunner of the proper missionary

effort for the world at large. Not the multiplication of our membership or the magnifying of our Zion is our end or aim but simply a reverent appreciation of our responsibility as light bearers, and the obligation which follows to let our light shine.

The reading of the first query, and the answers thereto, from our several Quarterly Meetings, was followed by a deep concern for the building up of our Subordinate Meetings, and a revival of interest in neighborhoods where the principles of our Society still exist, though with no organized means for their sustenance or advancement. Under this concern, which came almost like an outpouring of the spirit, a special committee was appointed to employ definite means and methods for the advancement of this high purpose, the labors of which we trust will be blessed to the upbuilding of the truth in every part of our vineyard.

The attendance of our Yearly Meeting was unusually large. Its business sessions, considering as they did large interests, were conducted with the dignity and harmony which becomes our religious profession; the meetings for worship were felt to be seasons of spiritual baptism and individual profit, and we close the sessions feeling that if our Society is true to the demands of this new time, and the light with which it has been endowed, its Golden Age is in the future and not in the past.

With the prayer that other like meetings of our Religious Body may be still more richly favored; that

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a closer feeling of fellowship with our brethren and a greater sympathy with struggling humanity everywhere may be increasingly our experience, and that a love as inclusive as that of the All Father, may inspire our hearts, we are your Friends in the truth.

Signed by direction of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in the City of New York from the 29th of Fifth Month to the 1st of Sixth Month, inclusive, 1899.

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

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Baltimore, from the 31st of the Tenth month to the 3rd of the Eleventh month, inclusive, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING :

Dear Friends,—Having been again permitted, through Divine favor, to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we are cheered and encouraged by the reading of your kind Epistle, and with a feeling of gladness that we have been so thoughtfully remembered, we are led to address you in brotherly love, hoping by mutual correspondence we may all be uplifted into higher realms of thought and Christian experience from which comes the required strength.

We further trust that we fully realize that the holding of our meeting will be in vain, if we, at its

close, are no better qualified to fulfil the Father's purposes of life, if through the alchemy of human influence, the world is no better for the week's effort. We are, however, encouraged to the belief that every rightly directed effort, raises us nearer the ideal enunciated by Jesus in the sermon on the Mount.

We have been favored with the presence and instructed by the exercises, of a number of Friends in attendance from other Yearly Meetings. We trust a blessing may attend their labors, and they be fully repaid for the sacrifices made in leaving their homes and meeting with us at this time.

A half-hour meeting for devotion and preparation for the day's business has been introduced this year, proving to many a season of refreshment and strength; giving evidence that our members are awakening to a more intelligent conception of the relationship existing between man and the Author of his being, and, consequently becoming better qualified, to bring before waiting and receptive minds, the beauty and applicability of the Friendly thought.

The earnestness manifested and the character of the thought expressed at our Youths' meeting, held on First-day afternoon, also those held under the auspices of the First-day School Association, lead us to believe that the fundamental thought of Friends, "The immediate teaching of the inner Christ," has found lodgment in a soil prepared in a large measure through the instru-

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mentality of the First day school work, which will nourish its growth ; its further unfolding needing only a succession of earnest conscientious souls as its custodian.

Our Press Committee continues its good work, letters having been sent to three thousand editors of newspapers, also to many ministers of different denominations, urging effects to suppress the printing and circulation of impure literature.

A Home for Friends and Friendly people has been established in Baltimore within the past year. We are encouraged to believe it will be a comfort to those who may avail themselves of the opportunity offered.

The question of Temperance is receiving much attention at the hands of our Philanthropic Committee, An illustrated lecture was given one evening during the week, and a resolution was adopted favoring the prohibition of the liquor traffic by law, also that our Yearly Meeting shall, through the proper channels, endorse the bill now before Congress, known as the "Ellis Bill," to abolish the "Canteen System" now in vogue in the army and the National Soldiers' Homes.

The report of the Committee on Indian Affairs was a gratifying one, and gave a complete record of the work our Meeting is doing, to better the condition of the Red Man.

The seed in which is encased the life, germinates and develops only when favorable conditions for growth are brought to bear upon it. We hold that the seed of the Kingdom, lying in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, should be nurtured by encouraging recognition. Under this thought a Committee was appointed to prepare a letter to be endorsed by the Yearly Meeting and forwarded to our isolated members.

Some new features of Philanthropic Work became prominent when the war-cloud overspread us, in an endeavor to avert it; and although peace has been declared, we still realize the fact that upon the cultivation and enlargement of that Divine nature, which God breathes into every human being, depend the welfare and salvation of individuals, societies and nations, and that whenever a nation feels that it is in possession of material strength, sufficient to endure without spiritual help, it is nearing the border line of destruction. We, therefore, as lovers of God and country, deprecate any evidence of a drift towards militarism, as being destructive to the spirit of our institutions, and contrary to the teachings of the Founder of our religion.

The future well being and happiness of mankind depend upon the recognition of Spiritual possibilities, and not upon the increase of military power; hence the urgent necessity of bearing a faithful testimony in favor of peace.

Our meeting has been well attended, and a deep interest manifested, offering opportunities to receive that strength required to meet the foe in the battle of daily life, arming us with weapons not carnal, but mighty through God, that we may do our part as individuals and as a Society, towards removing the wrongs that blot the pages of human history.

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

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

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Mount Pleasant, Ohio, by adjournments from the 29th of Eighth Month, 1898, to the 1st of Ninth Month, inclusive.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—We have again been permitted to assemble together to consider the weighty affairs of the church, and for a season of needed spiritual refreshing and renewal of strength for the duties of the year before us.

We have been favored with the presence of a number of visiting Friends, some of whom have come to us bearing Gospel messages. Their ministrations have been indeed a benediction, and we have realized anew that "As iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the

countenance of a man that of his friend." We feel a renewed sense of our obligation to our Heavenly Father for these, and unnumbered blessings.

The hope expressed in one of the epistles that Peace might again reign over our beloved land ere these lines should be read in our annual meeting, elicited our heartfelt thanks to the Ruler of Nations that we have indeed realized that hope; and with us is kindled anew the desire that our Society may endeavor in every possible way to exert an influence for the promotion of peace. This is not a time to relax our efforts, but rather to labor more earnestly for the establishment of an "International Board of Arbitration for the settlement of national differences."

The subjects of Education for our youth, and of Purity of life for all, have engaged our thoughtful attention, and much valuable counsel has been handed forth, falling, we trust, upon good ground where it will bear fruit, and redound to the Master's glory. The rapid advance along educational lines within recent years, affording more thorough preparation of the young people for the active duties of life, reminds us that we can ill afford to neglect or undervalue the thorough intellectual training which Friends' schools now offer.

Trusting that our interest in that which is noble, pure and true may not only continue, but increase, and that we may labor together for the good of humanity

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in whatever field may be open to us, both as yearly meetings and as individuals.

We remain, with a salutation of love, your friends,

Signed by direction of the meeting,

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

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia held by adjournments from the Fifteenth day of the Fifth month to the Nineteenth of the same, inclusive, 1899.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS :

Dear Friends,—Under an humbling sense of our Heavenly Father's love, and with earnest cravings for Divine strength and guidance in the transaction of business, our Yearly Meeting assembled.

We were tenderly counselled to wait, like Mary of old, at the feet of the Master, to receive that strength which would qualify us for every service and would clothe us with that spirit which is the crowning grace of a Christian life.

Near the end of our meeting of Ministers and Elders, our beloved friend, Aaron M. Powell, was suddenly called from the midst of those whom he was addressing, to the life beyond. It seemed a fitting close

to a life of loving self-sacrifice, and, with our sorrow, were mingled thanksgiving for his example of consecrated service, and renewed resolution to be faithful every day and every hour to the duty which lies nearest us, even as he was to the moment of his call higher.

The salutations of love from our distant friends revived the feeling of Christian fellowship, and brought forth many expressions of tender sympathy.

We have welcomed to our meeting visiting Friends from other Yearly Meetings, including some from across the sea.

We have been saddened and humiliated that the spirit of war has been so prevalent throughout our land during the past year, but, realizing that efforts for the cause of peace are needed more than ever, we have endeavored not to rest under the cloud of discouragement. We were grateful for the opportunity to urge upon the Czar's International Conference, assembling at The Hague, while our Yearly Meeting was in session, the early establishment of International Arbitration, as tending to the ultimate reign of universal peace, and the deep importance of this subject at this particular time moved us to make once more a formal declaration of the principles of peace which our Society has held from its foundation.

Philanthropic work has taken vigorous root in our Yearly Meeting, and, in furthering it, we strive to follow the revelations made by the Spirit of Christ. Re-

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sults are not always as apparent as we would wish, but we were urged not to be weary in well doing.

We were also reminded of the little charities, and further urged not to fail to act in these opportunities, nor even to wait for them to come to us, but seek and be on the watch for those who need our assistance.

We were encouraged by the report of our First-day School Committee showing an unabated interest in this important branch of our work and the establishment of four new First-day Schools.

Last year we addressed a letter from our Yearly Meeting to all our isolated members, and from many of them we have received expressions of deep appreciation and love for the interest thus shown in them. We feel that they have been drawn nearer to us, and this year we have again prepared a letter to be sent to all.

A concern having been brought forward by the Correspondent for Isolated Members, that some united action might be taken by all the Yearly Meetings, with which we correspond, looking to the settlement and encouragement of new meetings where isolated Friends reside, we have appointed a small committee to cooperate with similar committees in other Yearly Meetings, to consider what, if anything, can be done in this direction.

A desire for the careful, tender training of the children, has been lovingly presented to us, and the

hope expressed that parents endeavor to instill those principles of integrity that will enable them to resist the many temptations to which they are subjected in their intercourse with the world. Society needs strong men and women, who, under the guidance of the Divine within them, will maintain the high standard which has always been the aim of our religious Society.

As we have endeavored, prayerfully, to consider the weighty concerns of the meeting, we have been conscious of our Father's leading, and in His light and strength have been enabled to conduct harmoniously and lovingly the business of our large Yearly Meeting.

In the bonds of Christian love we bid farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting.

EMMER ROBERTS, } Clerks.
SARAH GRISCOM, }

From Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends.

TO GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS TO BE HELD
AT YARMOUTH, ONTARIO, 6TH MONTH, 1899 :

Dear Friends,—As we gathered in a Yearly Meeting capacity, the beginning of our feast was listening to the epistles from your and other Yearly Meetings. How refreshing, to rest, as it were, from labor and responsibility, and, as the children of one family, brothers and sisters together, to have brought

before us, one after another, subjects in which we all have a common interest; coming, as they do, from your minds, under the exercise of Divine Truth. The silence between the reading of each of the loving messages, none seemed willing to break until nearly all had been brought before us; so complete was the covering in which all waited, in oneness of feeling, to hear how the principles of our beloved Society are being maintained by our brothers and sisters, east and west.

While we were assembled in solemn session in the spirit of "Peace on earth and good will to men," *throughout the nation* could be heard the fife and drum, and pulsing beat of marching hosts returning from war with victory on their banners. As American citizens, we are expected to *rejoice*—and *why?* Because the Cubans have been freed from the yoke of bondage, or that *peace* has been declared? No! These things seem to have been forgotten in the rush of enthusiasm over the fact that we have conquered a nation, though we have slain our brothers; and the natural result of this is that, as a people, we are becoming proud of our national military power and the position we have attained among the nations of the world by our late military achievement. Is it not time that we, as Friends, move forward and take our light from under the bushel; that measure by which we have been limiting our ability to do good to those only of our own household of faith?

Words are too feeble to express the baptism of feeling under which we unitedly entered the closet of

silent prayer for the one who stands at the head of our nation, waiting for light to guide and maintain a right attitude toward the other nations of the earth.

Laborers from other Yearly Meetings have been with us, side by side, assisting us in gathering the sheaves of richest blessings, and we desire that they may take a full share with them to their distant homes. We are rejoiced to have had their loving counsel and helpful ministrations throughout the meetings.

There was manifest during the reading of the "Queries and Answers," a live interest,—a desire for improvement and a deep searching after the truth as to the condition of our Society even though the truth be not always pleasant. There was some concern expressed lest the use of the plain language should die out. Is it not well to remember that Jesus was *not distinguished* from his countrymen by any peculiarity of speech or dress, yet he was simplicity itself?

The subject of receiving revenue by the Government from the sale of intoxicants, brought over the meeting a deep exercise yet we felt that our inability to "see eye to eye" left with us a beautiful lesson in charity, and in the freedom with which we should permit each one to express his highest conception of right.

Signed by direction of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Waynesville, Ohio, 9th Mo., 26th to 29th, 1898.

GEORGE R. THORPE, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
GENESEE
FIRST-DAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT SPARTA, ONT., 6TH MO., 10TH
AND 12TH, 1899.

*At a Meeting of Genesee First-day School Association,
Held at Sparta, Ont., 6th Mo., 10th, 1899.*

The Clerks being absent, Samuel P. Zavitz and Bessie Haight are appointed for the day.

Written reports were read from the Bloomfield, Yonge St., Arkona, and Coldstream Schools, and oral reports were given of the Schools at Sparta and at Pelham, from which we learn that considerable interest is shown in the cause, and, although the numbers seem small, we feel we should not be discouraged in this good work.

Ethel Cutler, Edgar Haight, Bessie Haight, and Samuel P. Zavitz are appointed to essay an epistle to send to our kindred Associations, and report to a future session of this meeting.

Epistles from New York, Baltimore, and Indiana were read, in which is discovered the earnest work being done in other parts, and suggestions which should be helpful to our own Schools and to us as individuals.

Maria Haight, Edgar M. Zavitz, Frank A. School-ey, and Phoebe C. Zavitz were appointed to propose to our next meeting the names of suitable persons to act as Clerks for the ensuing year.

Then adjourned to meet on 2nd day afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Second-day afternoon at about the time adjourned to the Association met.

Frank A. Schooley, on behalf of the Committee, proposed Samuel P. Zavitz for Clerk and Bessie Haight for Assistant Clerk. After being considered separately and united with, they are appointed to the services for one year.

The Committee to prepare an Epistle to forward to the Associations with which we correspond, presented one, which, on being read, with slight change, was approved, and the Clerks were directed to transcribe, sign and forward a copy to said Associations.

To arrange a programme for the special session on 2nd day next year the following committee was appointed, viz.:—Maria Haight, Charlotte C. Talcott, Allen Oille, Edgar Haight, Amanda Willson, and Eliza D. Cronk.

An interesting programme, consisting in Papers and Readings by members of different schools, was carried out.

With the hope that our associating together on these occasions may strengthen us and remain with us as we go to our own homes, and to our various schools and that the Divine Father may help us always to do His bidding, we now adjourn to meet at Bloomfield on seventh day afternoon at 3 o'clock previous to Yearly Meeting week in 1900.

REPORTS.

From Canada Half-Yearly Meeting Association.

TO THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF GENESEE
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS TO BE HELD AT
SPARTA.

Since our last report we have held two sessions of the F. D. S. Association, one on First-day afternoon during each Half-yearly Meeting.

Reports from two of the schools of this Association are being forwarded.

At Bloomfield, 28, 5, 1899, an interesting programme was rendered, a number of recitations and readings were given by the children, which were called little sermons by some one in their remarks about them.

A paper entitled, "The Effects of the Atmosphere upon the School" explained the effects well and showed how very essential for good results it is to have a bright exhilarating air in the school room, no matter how inclement the weather outside, and this may be accomplished in a great measure if the teachers and officers come with an air of cheerfulness and a pleasant greeting of welcome to all whom they meet.

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Also a paper, "How to Build Up the First-day Schools, likewise the Meetings," was read; this aroused thought and a general discussion followed.

The exercises were then closed by the Chairman reading an essay on "Cheerfulness."

Signed on behalf of Canada F. D. S. Association.

ISAAC WILSON,
Chairman.

MARY E. BROWN,
Secretary.

From Bloomfield.

Bloomfield, Fifth Mo. 28, 1899.

Dear Friends,—Our report in regard to the progress of our First-day School work is by no means unsatisfactory, yet we would that it were in our power to report a larger attendance and a fuller interest than in previous years, but we are not able to do so yet. We are not discouraged, being satisfied to do our best in the way of helping our young people. Our school is divided into three classes, junior, intermediate, and senior with teachers who are apparently zealous in the work. A few in our school would favor following International Lessons. We have a short programme each First-day of readings and recitations. Our library is still freely used by the young. Our average attendance is 22, with enrolment of 35. We hope to continue in well-doing for the progress of our beloved Society.

FILANA BARKER.

From Yonge Street.

Yonge Street First-day School of Friends.

The hour of meeting is ten o'clock and the school is kept open for the whole year. We have not a very large attendance, the average being about twenty or twenty-one. However, we think that those that do come are quite benefited by it. The International Lesson Leaves are used and are satisfactory. The classes have been doubled and the number of teachers at present is three. After the class exercises, the Superintendent always reviews the lesson of the week before and also the one for the day, which makes the lesson more interesting.

CLARA PHILLIPS,
Secretary.

From Arkona.

TO THE F. D. ASSOCIATION HELD AT SPARTA, SIXTH
MONTH, 10TH, 1899.

Dear Friends,—In presenting this our annual report, it is with feelings of gratitude that we are enabled to say that interest in our school and its work is not abating. Our school is opened with reading the chapter in connection with the lesson for the day, then a short silence, after which the classes turn to the lesson. We have five classes. There are 46 names on the roll and an average attendance of 27. At the close

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of school we have a review of the lesson by the Superintendent. We distribute S. Seeds, Happy Days and Little Learners' paper, with reward cards for the infant classes. We use Friends' Lesson Leaves, with the lessons in S. Seeds for the two small classes.

Our school opens in fourth month and closes in tenth month, and during the winter months we have Bible class and children's class.

Signed on behalf of school, by

ANNIE S. CUTLER,
Superintendent.

From Lobo First-day School.

TO THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD IN
SPARTA IN 6TH MO., 1899.

As the time for our annual gathering approaches, we look forward with much pleasure to again meeting with interested workers in the First-day School cause, and it is with feelings of gratitude that we again submit the report of our school.

The school is held at 10 a. m. each First-day throughout the year, during seven months, beginning with 4th month. It is divided in seven classes, with a total enrolment of 93, and an average attendance of 55.

The remaining five months we meet in three classes, a Bible class, an Intermediate class, and an

infant class, the teachers of the previous summer taking their turn in conducting the Bible class.

Friends' Lesson Leaves are used as helps in all the classes but one. That being the infant class, the lessons in the Scattered Seeds are used and seem well adapted to the purpose. One class use the Intermediate or New Testament series.

We distribute the following papers, viz.:—"Scattered Seeds," "Northern Messenger," "Water Lily," "Every Other Sunday," and "Angel of Peace."

One feature of our school during the summer which we think of particular interest is a ten minute review of the lesson for the day, which is given by the teachers, in turn, directly after the lesson has been gone over by the classes.

We still continue holding a Philanthropic session at the close of each quarter instead of reviewing the lessons gone over.

IDA HAIGHT ZAVITZ,
Superintendent.

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THE DUTIES OF A PRIMARY TEACHER.

(A Paper read by ALBERTA PARCHER, Arkona.)

In dealing with this subject, there is much that may be said, much that I may not mention in my small paper, but I will strive to set before you as well as I can my idea of what the duties of a primary teacher should be.

A teacher should teach from love of the work, not because they think or some one has told them it is their duty. Try to win the love of the scholars, always appear before the class with a pleasant countenance, do not leave greetings for the Sabbath only, but have a word or smile for them wherever or whenever you may meet them, and do not think it too much trouble to stop and chat a few minutes pleasantly when meeting them. Christ did not think it too much trouble to notice the little ones, for did He not say, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven," Do not think your duty done when First-day School hour is over; follow the scholars through each week, have a care for them, study the character of each, and try to find the weak parts of their nature, and then bring something in the lesson to help them in whatever line their weakness may be, but in doing this be careful not to let your remarks appear personal!

Prepare your lesson before First-day, give the time for it with a willing heart, not grudgingly. We

should try to make the lesson, by prayerful and careful study, interesting and easy for the young minds to grasp. Be punctual, and as regular in attendance as circumstances will permit. Cultivate a free manner and help the scholars to feel at ease.

Those who have taught will know what a pleasure it is to see the row of eager and expectant faces, probably all craving for a deeper knowledge of Christ's teachings. If questions are given with the lesson, do not confine yourself to these alone, but use them as a basis for a number of questions. Also encourage the scholars to ask questions and talk about the lesson, and as soon as their age will permit, allow a certain amount of discussion. This method gives them to understand that, even though they be young, they are not too young to have and express thoughts. By this, confidence in self is established and a desire for deeper knowledge is formed. Then you will find your scholars reaching for and grasping that knowledge which cometh from God. Do not allow them to dwell too much on just what you may say, but keep the thought ever before them, that God deals individually with each one of us, and teach them, above all else, to open their hearts and allow Christ to come in and dwell with them and show them the necessity of strict obedience to the voice of God.

What a work there is for every willing teacher, for the harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few.

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EPISTLES.

From Philadelphia First-day School Association.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—As each returning spring brings with it the evidence of renewed life, so does it bring thoughts of our yearly gathering, where friend meets friend, and the intermingling should surely inspire us with greater zeal.

Although we have had some discouragements in our First Day School work, still we feel that there is a band of earnest, interested workers, who give their time and strength to this most important work of our Society, who during the week keep the First Day School in mind, and are thus able to bring before their classes many lessons of practical value. Under the care of such teachers the interests of both meeting and school are fostered and their care is repaid by an increased attendance in both.

We are pleased to note the establishment of two new schools within our borders since our last greeting.

The Lesson Leaves, which, this year, show a marked advance in Bible study, are found to be of

profit to the classes who use them. The fact that they require study is an evidence that they will develop our better thought and broaden our minds.

The Illustrated Lessons, furnished for the children in the "Scattered Seeds," have been a help to the teachers and of interest to the little ones, and have added to the value of the paper.

Some of our schools are taking up Bible study, independent of the Lesson Leaves, and are doing good work along that line.

The Travelling Libraries, twelve of which we now have in use, are considered valuable both to young and old. We can helpfully add to the intellectual and spiritual development of the young by placing within their reach and encouraging them to read good literature, thus lessening the danger of their acquiring a taste for works of harmful influence.

Our Association Meeting last fall was considered a time of help and encouragement; we had some practical suggestions for teachers; also the presentation of several object-lessons, which were especially valuable in showing how much can be done by appealing to the eye.

Many of us feel the good effects of having attended the Conference at Richmond; these large gatherings are both pleasant and profitable to us.

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In closing, our prayer is that we may all be faithful in our work, not yielding to discouragement, if the good we hope for does not immediately appear, knowing that if the work is of God, He will raise up others to carry it on, and will bring forth the harvest in due season.

“To-day shall end what yesterday begun ;
 What we are planning, others yet may build ;
 The leaves may wither, but the tree shall grow ;
 And though at last we leave our work undone,
 Our life will not the less be all fulfilled.”

Signed on behalf of the Association for the Promotion of First Day Schools within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

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

Philadelphia, 5, 17, 1899.

From New York First-day School Association.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Dear Friends,—Again at the annual gathering of our First-day School Association we have received greetings from other Yearly Meeting Associations and Committees, and we have been impressed with the similarity of work in all our different schools.

One of the epistles speaks of the difficulty in holding the interest of the older children. We also

have this same problem to solve. If all Friends would only realize that the First-day School is a necessity, the younger children would attend as regularly as at the day school and regular attendance assures interest. If the teachers would invite the older boys and girls to their homes or plan little social occasions for them, the spirit of comradeship would keep them in the First-day School. And also, if Friends' children attended Friends' Schools and Colleges, they would make their intimate acquaintances among those of our Society, and when they reached the age when boys and girls become men and women, their social life would be in Friendly circles and their interest would be in the First-day Schools.

In many Colleges and Universities we notice that Biblical study has been introduced. When our college graduates come back to the home schools, filled with the great importance of this study and ready to impart to others their Biblical knowledge, then we believe more First-day Schools will be successful.

If these suggestions could be carried out, we believe the difficulty about the young people would be eliminated, and with the help of the Young Friends' Associations, Friends of all ages would be in touch with the Society.

We realize that too many of our teachers think but little of the lesson during the week, and too many of our gifted ones expend their energies on daily duties so that they need the day for rest.

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The question of selecting teachers for the First-day School is always a serious one, and whether the Committee or the Superintendent has the matter in charge, it should be given a great deal of thought in order that each teacher may fit into the appointed place and develop the class in the best way possible, that they may become more useful boys and girls and more earnest Friends.

The selection of a teacher for the little folks often presents great difficulties. If a Friend who has either had kindergarten training or, at least, has thoroughly imbibed its methods can be induced to take the little people, we may be pretty sure that they will become happier and so better children. Such a teacher knows that the little hands and the little brains must be kept at work and after she has told her story, she will have the children give their experiences; or after she has given them an object lesson, she will have them bring her some other illustration of the lesson. She will organize a "Band of Mercy" and will tell them not only the story of the "Good Samaritan," but will go beyond the limits of the Bible and will tell them of the St. Bernard Dogs, of the life and work of Audubon and the beautiful legend of Buddha and the wounded swan. Under the influence of such lessons the little ones will be quick to add their mite of kindness to relieve the sufferings of the world.

Such a teacher was Henry R. Russell who, while still actively employed in First-day School work, passed

from this life. If all First-day School teachers were as fully consecrated to their work and as full of the love of God's little ones as he, we should hear no word of discouragement from them regarding the schools, but only thankfulness that in moulding the characters of the children, they should be privileged to determine the future of the Society.

“ We may share in the joy of God's angels,
On the errands that He has given ;
We may live in a world transfigured,
And sweet with the air of heaven.”

Signed by direction and on behalf of the New York Yearly Meeting's First-day School Association.

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

New York, 5th Mo., 31st, 1899.

From Ohio First-day School Association.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—The inspiring influence of our beautiful custom of exchanging fraternal greetings has been again evidenced by the reading of epistles addressed to the annual meeting of our Association for 1898, but regret that we have not received one from you at this time. We come together year by year to report our progress in the work we accept as impor-

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tant for the health of our religious organization, and to counsel together respecting methods and results. Being a small body, the assurance, as conveyed to us by the several epistles received at this time, that others are unwavering in efforts to present to the young, under the influence of our Society, a clear view of truth as accepted by us, and held by us to be of such importance as to give us excuse for existing as a distinct organization, is especially cheering.

Except we are imbued with the thought that we do accept very fully the phase of truth that makes us distinctive, and are zealous to preserve this truth and present it in convincing clearness, the work of our First-day School cannot be effective and sustaining to the Society of Friends. Therefore, we do earnestly and sincerely crave that we may not touch the deep things of God lightly, or with unqualified hands, or in anything run before the witness, but day by day present only that which is experimentally our own. To do this requires unwavering effort and to be always in the way of the manna of to-day. God's mercies are new every morning, whether coming to us an inheritance from the past, or from the mental and spiritual life of the present hour, touching and inspiring our souls.

God surely meant from the first, that the living soul breathed into man from himself, which differentiates him from every other creation, should draw help

and strength from its fellows, as well as directly from the Divine source.

The work of the First-day School is to happily combine the best from every source and so present it, that the theory of Divine relations may so coalesce with practical material relations, as to stimulate and secure lives that to the core shall be an honor to the church they represent and to the universal church made up of the good of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

The sessions of our Association have had the inspiring presence of a number who attended the recent Richmond Conferences, who testified to the valuable opportunity there afforded. We thankfully recognize the increasing strength of our organizations devoted to the spiritual training of our youth.

It is our earnest hope that you, with ourselves may be so inspired and sustained that our labors in our First-day Schools may be abundantly fruitful, gathering those coming within their influence to useful membership with us, and to a largeness of living that testifies to the indwelling Christ-spirit which lifts from the sordid to the Gospel standard.

Signed on behalf of the aforesaid meeting held at Mt. Pleasant, O., eighth month, 29 and 30, 1898.

ESTHER J. FOX,
MARIETTA HARTLEY, } Clerks.

From Indiana First-day School Association.

TO GENESEE FIRST DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Dear Friends,—The meetings of our Association following so closely upon the Conference Meetings at Richmond, from which we have received so much that is suggestive and elevating, have been, in a measure, a review of the work done there. The opportunity which these Conferences afford to re-echo the thoughts originating in each one of our meetings throughout the whole body, is most helpful. It has inspired us with the earnest desire to make our First-day School Association a true inspiration and aid to each First-day School within our borders.

Epistles have been received from all the Associations but two, the consideration of which has been a source of pleasure and profit to us. We much regret that no messages were received from your Association or that of Ohio. We miss the helpful, suggestive thoughts of former years, and trust it has been by loss through the mails or other accident that has deprived us of these missives, and not that any Association feels ready to become a broken link in the chain that has heretofore encircled the seven yearly Associations.

We are glad to learn that the desire expressed for Friendly Lessons, based on the text of the "International Series," is to be supplied, as we believe the earnest, active workers in each school, are best qualified to judge of the instruments suited to their work.

Friends' Lesson Leaves are used in all our schools and we greatly appreciate them as prepared in the present series (1898).

It was suggested that we perhaps lose some opportunities of using them as a power for good, by not presenting one to each stranger who comes to our schools. One—not a member with us—who attended all the sessions of both the Yearly Meeting and the F. D. S. Association, told us it was by this means she had been drawn to mingle with Friends.

We would urge upon all teachers who have felt that the present lessons were not adapted to their needs the necessity of informing themselves on the best methods of presenting them. Do you keep in touch with our larger meetings, with Friends' papers, and like means of information? We must bring to our work as teachers in the First-day School, the same qualifications that make successful teachers in our secular schools, to which must be added a greater unselfishness and deeper spirituality.

Two of the papers read at the Richmond Conferences, viz.:—"The First-day School, a Missionary of the Society," and "Biblical Research among Friends," have been discussed during our Association, we believe, with benefit. The papers and exercises at the Richmond meetings which presented to us the real work that is being done in many of our schools, appealed to us as of practical value. We have especially called

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attention of teachers of primary and intermediate classes to the importance of kindergarten methods; also the need of blackboard exercises in bringing the thought we wish to convey more clearly before the minds of the children.

With the sincere desire that the F. D. S. interests which we have so much at heart may receive constant attention, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Signed by direction of Indiana Yearly Meeting's First-day School Association, held at Waynesville, O., 9th mo., 26th and 28th, 1898.

MARY PARRY THORPE, } Clerks.
LEWELLA BRANSON, }

From the Baltimore First-day School Committee.

TO GENESEE FIRST-DAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION :

Dear Friends,—As we gather once more in our annual association we are cheered by the message of love, and strengthened by the suggestions of the character and methods of work upon which others have entered for the advancement of our First-day School cause.

As we realize more and more the value that may be derived from this annual correspondence we are thankful for the privilege of this communication with our co-workers in other parts of our Father's Vineyard.

The interest and faithfulness of our First-day School workers has in many instances increased.

The effect of the "General Conference" has been made manifest in the greater number of adult members interested in Bible study, which is now being systematically pursued in several of our schools. The value of the study of the Bible as a whole was clearly set forth during one of our sessions, by one who has given almost life-long attention to this subject.

The "Travelling Libraries" are also believed to be accomplishing excellent results, and are eagerly looked for by our country schools. Other denominations have seen the benefits derived from them and have adopted our plan.

We have continued to hold the Quarterly Unions, and many of the sessions have been live, interesting occasions.

The "Lesson Leaves" are used in all schools, the Primary lessons contained in the "Scattered Seeds" are found to be very helpful.

We have had with us enthusiastic workers in the First-day School cause, from other Yearly Meetings, and their earnest words have inspired us with renewed zeal.

We were told that we must "vitalize our organization." There is nothing vital in the achievements of

the past. Just as our fathers realized the conditions that lay about them, and acted in accordance with those conditions, so must we act in the present according to the demands of the present.

We need to use the First-day School as a missionary, a means, a channel for presenting a clearer understanding of the faith for which the Society stands.

We have always been considered a peculiar people by the world at large, keeping aloof from the balance of Christianity and holding views which have not been clearly understood by them—slow to spread the truth as we see it, and have fallen into error by thinking only how we might keep what we already have.

It is well to teach our children our faith, but we must not forget to carry the truth to those outside our own household.

The greatest stumbling block is "indifference" Too many are willing to excuse themselves on the ground of inability, then again there are too many of a critical nature, and pride prevents us from doing the work we might do, because we think we cannot do it as well as some one else. But in the First-day School work we need a diversity of gifts; it may be only the silent sympathetic presence, but no one is without responsibility in the matter.

We feel the loss most of practical business men. but it is not when the boy has reached the age of fifteen or eighteen that we should begin to ask why he does not care to come to First-day School. We must begin with the little child and create in him a desire for spiritual things.

There is an animation, a bubbling up that we need to use, rather than repress. If the boys come to the class full of yesterday's foot-ball game, do not suppress their animation, but by gaining their confidence and sympathy, direct and mould that energetic spirit into a different channel.

A short and effective motto would be the little word "do."

He whose house is founded upon a rock not only knows but does.

May each one of us be found faithful, with a willingness to "do" and to "give" to the true service of the Master.

Signed by direction of the above Committee.

ELI M. LAMB, Chairman.

SARAH R. MATTHEWS, Secretary.

Eleventh month 2, 1898.