

MINUTES

OF

Canada Yearly Meeting

OF

WOMEN FRIENDS

1883.

PICTON:
PRINTED AT THE "PICTON TIMES" BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.
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AT CANADA YEARLY MEETING
OF
WOMEN FRIENDS,
HELD AT PICKERING, ONTARIO,

From the 22d of the 6th Mo, to the 26th, Inclusive, 1883.

The representatives being called are present except 4, and a satisfactory reason assigned for the absence of 3.

They Were from Pelham :

MARY ANN TREFFRY, PHEBE WARING,
ANNA H. MOORE, AND ISABELLA HENDERSON.

From West Lake :

MATILDA BRANSCOMBE, MARGARET JANE JONES,
JANE CRONK, MINCHA HAIGHT,
MARY ROBINSON, EVE BRANSCOMBE,
SUSAN C. DORLAND, PHEBE JANE LEAVENS,
ABIGAIL GARRATT, ANNA CRAWFORD,
MARGARET WARD, HANNAH GARRATT,
AND MARY E. JONES.

The caretakers for Pelham were Phebe H. Stover and Harriet C. Barker ; for West Lake, Abigail Garratt, Rhoda Garratt and Sarah Garratt—who, being called, are present except two ; no reason assigned for their absence.

We have in attendance at this meeting our beloved Friend Naomi Peacock, a Minister, with a minute of unity and concurrence from North Branch Monthly Meeting, Iowa, held 5th mo. 24th, 1883, endorsed by Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting, held 5th mo. 26th, 1883.

Also our beloved Friend Eunice F. Beezely, a Minister as companion to Naomi Peacock, from North Branch Monthly Meeting, Iowa, held 5th mo. 24th, 1883, endorsed by Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting, Iowa, held 5th mo. 26th, 1883. The company of these dear Friends is very acceptable to us.

We also have other dear Friends here with credentials, who are from Meetings with which we do not correspond, but whom we love and desire their well-being, realizing we are all the children of our Father in Heaven.

We appoint a committee to act in conjunction with a similar committee of men Friends, to prepare returning minutes, as truth may open the way, and present them at a future sitting. They are: Eliza H. Varney, Mary Ann Treffry, Isabella Henderson, Mary Robinson, Lydia P. Stover and Jane Cronk.

The closing minute of West Lake Four Months' Meeting coming up to this, brought this Meeting into tender sympathy with Friends of that meeting and with each other, wherein we could commend one another into the hands of Him who careth for his church and people the world over. Our hearts have been cheered and comforted with the words, "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son who He receiveth."

Epistles have been received and read from Western, Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings, to our comfort, encouragement, and edification, and our spirits bear witness with theirs that these things are so, and we desire that the truths therein contained may be treasured up in good and honest hearts. We appoint Jane Cronk, Anna Crawford, Matilda Branscombe, Lydia Margaret Haight, Margaret Jane Jones, Mary Ann Treffry, Isabella Henderson, Phebe Jones, Anna H. Moore, Elizabeth Haight and Margaret Boone, to prepare essays of epistles in reply, and produce them at a future sitting.

The time for which the clerks were appointed having now expired, the representatives are requested to confer together on the subject of clerks, and report to our next sitting.

This Meeting has been favored to feel ourselves brought near in spirit not only with one another, but above all to feel the presence of the Blessed Master to be with us, and the bread of life to be broken in our midst. To His name would we ascribe the praise.

We adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Seventh Day Morning, the 23rd of 6th Mo., 1883.

Friends met near the hour adjourned to.

The representatives having conferred together, Matilda Branscombe on their behalf reports they are united in proposing the name of Eliza H. Varney for clerk, and Margaret Jane Jones for assistant, which being united with, they are appointed to that service for one year.

The queries have been read with all their answers, as they came from the Quarterly Meetings, a summary whereof is as follows:

SUMMARY OF ANSWERS.

First Answer—Friends are careful to attend all our meetings for religious worship and discipline. Some appear to neglect this solemn duty, and Friends are not unmindful of it; yet labor has not been bestowed. The hour nearly observed; clear of all unbecoming behavior, as far as we know.

Second Answer—We trust Friends are preserved in love one towards another; no differences known amongst us. As far as appears, Friends do avoid and discourage tale-bearing and detraction.

Third Answer—We believe Friends do endeavor to train up their children, and those of others under their care, in the principles of the Christian religion as professed by us. Plainness in dress and address not as fully observed as would be best. Most Friends are good examples in these respects themselves, and we trust they do endeavor to guard their children and all others under their care against corrupt conversation and the reading of pernicious books.

Fourth Answer—Most Friends are diligent in reading the Holy Scriptures in their families collectively.

Fifth Answer—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.

Sixth Answer—The circumstances of the poor have been inspected and relief afforded, and all children under our care are in a way to be educated for the ordinary duties of life.

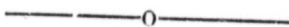
Seventh Answer—Friends are clear of complying with military requisitions, and of paying any fine or tax instead thereof.

Eighth Answer—We believe Friends are just in their dealings and punctual in fulfilling their engagements, and are careful to conduct their business as becomes our religious profession. We know of none who give occasion for fear on these accounts.

Ninth Answer—Care is taken to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness, although in all cases as would have been best.

Much excellent council has been handed forth both yesterday and to-day, and the prayer of our hearts is that we may be not only hearers of the word, but doers also.

This meeting adjourned to meet at ten o'clock on Second Day next.



Second Day Morning, 6th Mo. 25th, 1883.

Friends met near the hour adjourned to.

Essays of epistles for Iowa, Western and Kansas Yearly Meetings were presented by the committee on essays, and have been read and approved by this meeting, and the clerk was directed to sign and forward them to the correspondents of these yearly meetings respectively.

This Meeting is united in printing the women's minutes ourselves, and we appoint Margaret Jane Jones as treasurer. We also appoint Eliza H. Varney, Margaret Jane Jones and Rhoda Garratt a printing committee, and they are to call on the treasurer for funds to defray expenses, said funds to be raised by voluntary subscription by the members of the Quarterly Meetings in attendance and placed in the hands of the treasurer. The Monthly Meetings are requested to appoint two women Friends to receive funds for defraying expenses that may be incurred in printing and send to the Yearly Meeting treasurer, who is to report to this meeting next year.

Eliza H. Varney is appointed to gather up the exercises of this meeting in the form of a salutation of love to all our absent members, and present it to our next meeting.

The minutes of the representative meeting have been read, also the report of their committee, showing that many of our members have been brought into very close trials, and under straitened circumstances.

The report was satisfactory to this Meeting.

The Meeting then adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Third Day Morning, 6th Mo. 26th, 1883.

The meeting convened near the hour adjourned to.

The Friend appointed to produce a salutation of love to absent Friends, produced one which this meeting approves, and directs the clerk to have it printed with the minutes.

Returning minutes were prepared by the committee appointed to that service, and brought to this meeting for our beloved Friend Naomi Peacock and her companion Eunice F. Beezely, ministers from Iowa Yearly Meeting, acknowledging their company and services in the Gospel as being acceptable to us; which being approved by the meeting, the clerk is directed to sign them.

A meeting was held for the young on Second Day evening, by the meeting of ministers and elders, which was a favored season, owned and blessed of the Lord—a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord to the praise of Israel's God.

As the time draws near when we must take the parting hand, perhaps never more all of us to meet in this place, we feel to ask the blessing of the Lord to rest on each one of us as we return to our homes, and may our hearts be lifted to him in prayer and supplication. May our requests be made known in behalf of His seeking, suffering, sorrowing children, wherever they are found, and may these realize that "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his."

We have been favored to transact the business of this meeting in much love and harmony, and have been enabled to sit together as in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Under this covering of love, we conclude, purposing to meet here again next year, if permitted.

ELIZA H. VARNEY, CLERK.

A SALUTATION OF LOVE

To All Our Dear Aged Friends and Absent Sisters; also to the Sick and Afflicted, and Especially to the Young.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

“Come unto me” was the language of our blessed Savior, and it is especially so to those who are Mourners in Zion and to the heavy-hearted in Jerusalem, for He has promised “Rest” to all such as come unto Him in living faith. In His own time He will “undo the heavy burden” and set the captives free; He will not destroy that which His own right hand hath planted.

May the young abide under the hand of His power in the labor of regeneration, and He will present you unto His Father a diadem of beauty. These will be enabled to bear the Ark of the Testimony before the Lord’s people with clean hands, and a pure heart fervently, for He hath called you with an high and holy calling.

May we not let any of these precious testimonies fall to the ground, for, as we are found faithful a succession of standard-bearers will be raised up. As the mantles fall from the mothers they will rest upon the daughters, when the mothers are called to join that blood-washed throng, who came up out of great tribulation, ascribing praises to God and the Lamb, who are worthy for ever and ever. We were reminded that it was not the “well said,” but the “well done,” that would give us the passport to the kingdom of Heaven—the acts of a faithful, dedicated heart; for “So shall my word be which goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Dear Friends, if we are not faithful in what we have already received from our God, what right have we to ask for more? May we be faithful stewards of the manifold mercies of God.

What will it profit us if we have a name to live while as yet we are dead? If we are grafted into Christ, the true and living Vine,

we shall not only know that He lives, but that by Him we live also, and that "the life we now live is hid with Christ in God," and we shall know of receiving the sap that flows from the "True Vine," which will nourish and strengthen us, and He will give unto us that bread that cometh down from God out of Heaven, which will refresh our spirits and satisfy our hungry souls. We shall not be found believing in cunningly devised fables," but that we might know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent to redeem the world from sin and transgression, and to raise up unto Himself a people that would bring praise unto His great and holy name. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

There has been much concern and travail of soul on behalf of our younger Friends, and fervent desires were raised for their furtherance in the truth as it is in Jesus; believing they have felt the drawing cords of His love, and His sceptre afresh extended unto them. May they close in with the offers of redeeming love and mercy, and become the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, who gave His life for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity.

May our young Friends not slight the convictions of His Holy Spirit, but leave undone that which God would not have you to do, and do that which he calls for at your hands, however small it may appear; for he that is faithful in the little will be made ruler over more, and hath the promise of "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." These will have that peace which He promised unto His followers when he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid; for "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

We have been enabled by the mercies of God in Christ Jesus, and by the out-pouring of His Holy Spirit upon us, to partake at this time in no small measure of the cup of consolation, and we felt that we ought not to partake of it alone, but that we should remember the aged Fathers and Mothers, who "have borne their burdens in the heat of the day," who feel that the evening of their day is drawing near its close, many of whom are not able to go beyond the precincts of home, and are shut in by the infirmities of age or sickness, or by other causes not in their power to remove, but who do still travel in spirit for the welfare of Zion, that the broken walls may be again built up, and that the workmen upon the walls there may

see, "eye to eye," and that the gates and bars may be again set up that they may "see Jerusalem a quiet habitation," and that the voice of war may not be heard in her any more forever. Truly, if the Lord had not spared us as a remnant we should have been as Sodom and Gomorrah. Realizing the great responsibility resting upon us, in all our weakness and inability, well may we ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" We sensibly feel that our sufficiency is not of ourselves, but of God, from whom alone our help cometh, by and through the aid of His Holy Spirit.

The exercises of the stranger Friends have been in near and tender sympathy. Having partaken of the same bitter cup, they are prepared to feel with us in our stripped condition, and in our entire dependence upon Him whose never-failing arm of power is underneath for our support, and who never yet said unto the wrestling seed of Jacob, "Seek ye my face in vain." Our Heavenly Father has not forgotten to be gracious, but amid all our trials there are times and seasons when He comforts the true mourners in Zion and the heavy-hearted in Jerusalem, in the language of the Psalmist when he said, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God."

Friends were encouraged to be faithful in their day and generation, building upon the true foundation, Christ Jesus, that we might know of an establishment in the ever-blessed truth, and a settlement in the most "Holy Faith," that being rooted and grounded in love we "may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up unto Him in all things, which is the head even Christ," having builded "upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord."

We miss the company of many of our dear aged Friends, whose faces we were accustomed to see in all our solemn assemblies, and whose loving counsel we always rejoiced to hear, but regret that we did not always take heed thereto. May we learn by the things we suffer, and be found more diligently following their examples in a Godly life and conversation, and may their prayers for their precious children, and for the church at large, and for the advancement of

Christ's kingdom on the earth, be heard and answered by Him who is a God hearing and answering prayer.

May all our meetings ever be held in the life and power of God, though Friends may have to pass through much suffering to attend them. May we be favored to come down to the place of true waiting, wherein we can realize our spiritual strength to be renewed, wherefore we desire that we faint not at tribulation.

Now, "unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end, Amen."

Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

ELIZA H. VARNEY, CLERK.

EPISTLES
 ADDRESSED TO
Canada Yearly Meetings
 OF WOMEN FRIENDS.

WESTERN.

DEAR SISTERS:—

It is through the mercy of our Heavenly Father we have been permitted to meet once more in this our annual gathering, realizing that without His assisting grace we are unable to transact the affairs of the Church to the honor of truth. We have cause to be truly thankful that He has crowned our meeting with his presence, enabling us to dispense with the various subjects that came up before us, in love and harmony.

The reading of your very acceptable epistle, with those from other Yearly Meetings, brought fresh to our minds the trials we are all passing through, and we were dipped into sympathy with all those that are made willing to stand firm, in order that our testimonies may again be maintained in their purity, and the Society of Friends become a people whom the Master would delight to bless.

We have the company of several dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings, besides those from your Meeting, who are very acceptably in attendance, whose company and gospel labors have been comforting to us. The dear youth have been brought near our best feel-

ings, with desires that they may be obedient to the intimations of truth manifested within their own hearts; and be willing to take up the cross, denying themselves of the sin-pleasing things of time; thereby showing to the world that they are the disciples of a crucified, but now risen and glorified Redeemer.

In reviewing the state of Society as presented by the answers to the queries, a fervent exercise prevailed in the meeting, that we might come to that humble position that will enable us to dwell low at the Master's feet; thereby having a close walk with God, and a more faithful obedience to the light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world.

Reports from the Quarterly Meetings show quite an increase of interest in the guarded and religious education of our children. There have been five schools taught the past year by consistent Friends, under the care of committees in different Monthly Meetings, and there is being quite an effort made to continue the work this year.

Dear Sisters, we desire in an especial manner that we make ourselves familiar with the Holy Scriptures, meditate on them with our minds turned towards the Fountain from which they flowed, that they may be opened to our understandings, and as obedience keeps pace with knowledge, we will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, so that our feet will become established on the rock Christ Jesus; and we will have no desire to go after the many voices crying, "Lo! here is Christ; or, lo! He is there." Thus shall we be permitted to sit under our own vine and fig tree, where none can make afraid.

Signed, by direction and on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

PAMELA STANLEY, CLERK.

K A N S A S .

DEAR SISTERS:—

It is under a sense of unworthiness, and of our inability as creatures of time, to do anything that will promote and build up the Redeemer's kingdom, that we at this time attempt to address you. Your acceptable epistle has been read in our Meeting to our comfort and edification, and we regard it as a means through which our gracious Creator works for the upbuilding of His outward or visible

church.

We believe such a correspondence as we are engaged in, if carried out in the ordering of truth, ever has a tendency to bind all of God's truly dedicated children together, as in one bundle of love.

Dear Sisters, we feel at this time to encourage you to more faithfulness, and to greater diligence, in order that we as a people may be enabled to lay fast hold of the promises that are for all the faithful. Let us all remember that this is an undivided work, and if the great end is ever accomplished, it will be by individual faithfulness on the part of all; that in the great harvest or vineyard of the Lord, there is room, and that the Lord of the harvest is willing to send laborers. Let us remember we must be co-workers with Him; that we of ourselves cannot do the work; that He fits and qualifies His servants, and assigns and allots the work to them; hence the importance of individual watchfulness and faithfulness.

Dear Sisters, we do not believe that *works alone* will do. We desire that you with us may bear patiently the turnings and overturnings of the Lord's hand upon us, for we have the assurance that if we abide in patience we will be enabled to go down to the very bottom of Jordan, and bring up "stones of memorial"

We are aware that you with us have had to pass through many deep and fiery trials, and we know not but there are dark seasons yet to pass through. For your encouragement we ask you to remember that our dear Master said to his disciples, "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations, and I appoint you a kingdom." This will hold good forever to all his upright followers.

With the salutation of love, we remain your sisters.

Signed, by direction and on behalf of the Meeting, by

MARTHA L. PICKETT, CLERK.

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I O W A .

DEAR SISTERS:—

Under the constraining love of our Heavenly Father, we salute you. Being met together in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, to transact the weighty affairs of the church, our minds were brought into deep feeling of sympathy with you by the reading of your acceptable epistle; knowing that you are passing through the very same trials with ourselves, which makes you seem to be bone of our

bone ; desiring that all may build on the rock Christ Jesus, the sure foundation, which all the Prophets and Apostles, and also our early Friends, stood upon. Dear Friends, be not discouraged although times look gloomy, and some of you may have to sit as it were in solitary places ; our good Master still cares for his little dependent ones, wheresoever they are ; so let us in humble confidence and faith look to him, for assuredly He will make a way for us where, to human wisdom, there seems no way.

We feel that we can adopt the same language with you, that now we are seeking to be set free from the entanglements so long spread over us, we may leave the things that are behind, and "press forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Dear young Friends, we would affectionately entreat you to yield your hearts unreservedly to the constraining love of your Heavenly Father, who will require nothing of you but that He will give the ability to perform ; trust not yourselves, but lay all on this altar, and he will make hard things easy and bitter things sweet.

"Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting,

EUNICE F. BEEZELEY, CLERK.

of love, we remain your sisters.
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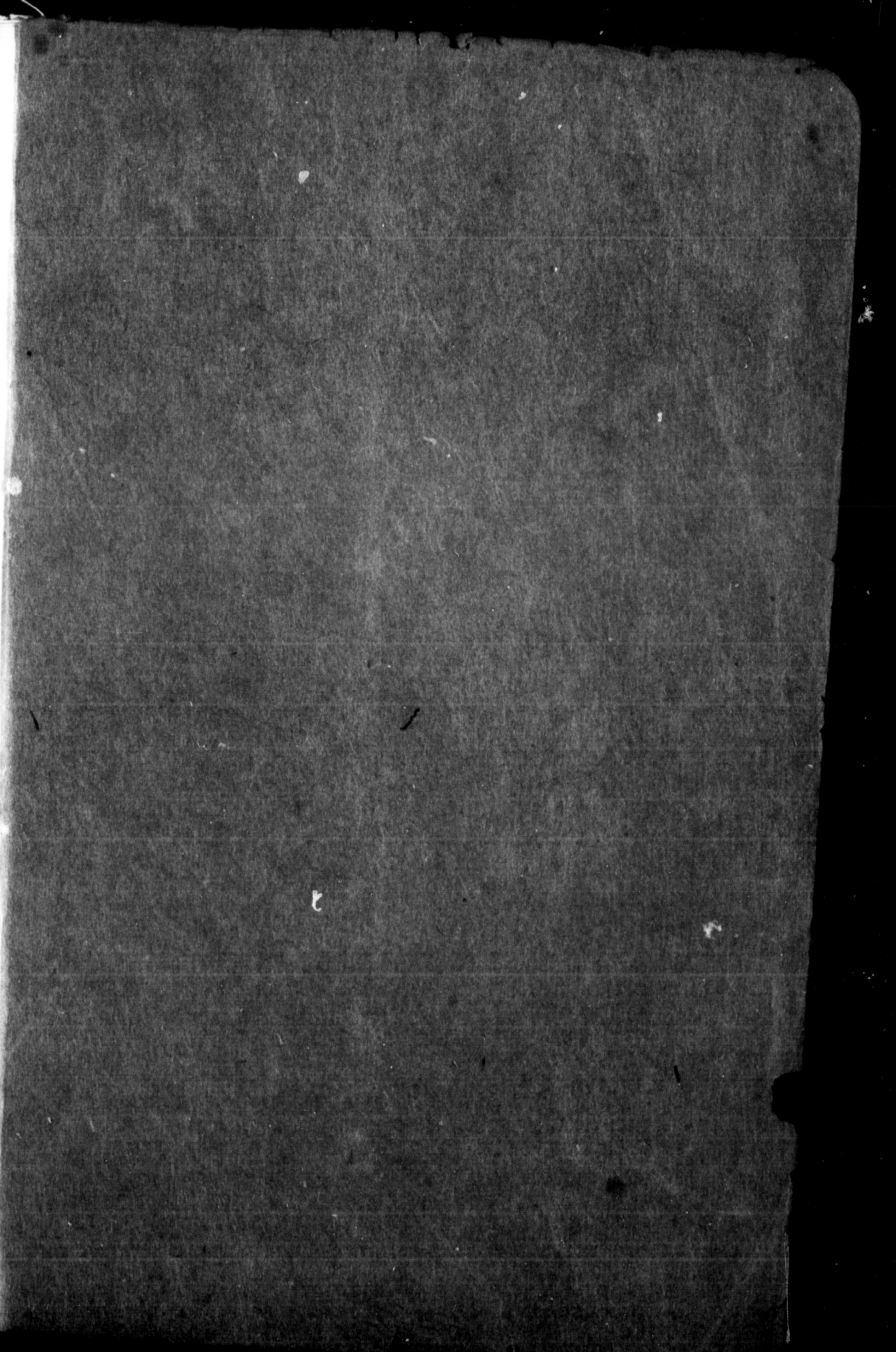
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Calendar for 1884.

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS :

- Yearly Meeting for Discipline—The last sixth-day but one in 6th month, at 10 A.M.
- Meeting of Ministers and Elders—Fifth day of the same week at 2 P.M., subject to adjournment during the yearly meeting.
- Yearly Meeting for Divine Worship—First-day of each week at 10 A.M. and 3 P.M.
- Representative Meeting on fifth-day of same week, at 4 P. M.