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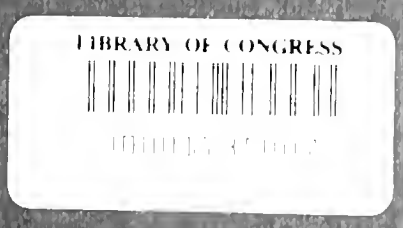

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MINUTE ON SLAVERY.

At a Yearly Meeting held in Philadelphia by adjournments from the 15th of the Fourth Month to the 19th of the same inclusive, 1839.

The following Minute was [illegible] with a sufficient number to supply every family, viz.

This meeting has been renewedly [illegible] our brethren, the descendants of the African race, in the numerous and complicated wrongs which are inflicted upon them, in many parts of our favoured, but guilty land.

And whilst we wish affectionately to caution our members against the excitement of an unsanctified and intemperate zeal, or joining in associations founded, or conducted upon principles which may hazard the faithful maintenance of our religious testimonies, we earnestly entreat them to cherish and dwell under those feelings of Christian love and compassion, towards this afflicted class of our fellow-men, which will lead them to regard with a just abhorrence, the crimes that the iniquitous system of slavery has introduced, and to bear an unwavering and consistent testimony against its obvious and multiplied violations of the dearest rights of humanity.

Our worthy predecessors, actuated by a sense of religious duty, laboured in this righteous cause, with a steady eye to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and made many sacrifices of worldly interest for its support. It is our fervent desire that we of the present day, may faithfully maintain the testimony on its original foundation; and under a solemn sense of the awful load of guilt which is impending over our beloved country, and of our share in the responsibility, may seriously and impartially examine what is required at our hands. If our hearts are softened and expanded by the love of God, we shall be prepared to view these oppressed people as children of the same Almighty Father, equally with ourselves the objects of his divine regard, and of that salvation which comes by Jesus Christ, and thus be enabled to enter into a lively feeling of the miseries and hardships they endure; to put our souls in their souls' stead, and in singleness of heart to follow every clear opening of duty in their behalf, whatever sacrifice it may cost us, either of worldly treasure or popularity.

The close connexion, and intimate intercourse which is maintained between the different sections of our common country, through the diversified and widely spread channels of commerce and business, may, unless we are very watchful, blunt our sensibilities to the cruelties of slavery, and diminish our abhorrence of its injustice. We wish tenderly to incite our dear friends to an individual inquiry, with a single eye to the pointings of truth, how far they are clear in these respects; and should such an examination awaken serious apprehensions as to any part of their traffic, that they may be willing to forego every prospect of gain, arising from the prosecution of business, which is incompatible with the purity of our religious profession.

We also desire that the attention of Friends may be particularly directed toward those people of colour who reside among us, and are nominally free. This class of our fellow-men are the objects of a cruel prejudice, which there is reason to fear is rather increasing among us, and they are subjected [illegible] and religious improvement. [illegible] renewed efforts for [illegible] their children, and extend [illegible] our superior advantages [illegible].

Extracted from the Minutes,

WILLIAM EVANS,

Clerk.

WEBB
BOOKBINDING