

MINUTES

OF

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

OF

FRIENDS.

1862.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., PRINTERS.
1862.

MINUTES.

At the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, commencing with public meetings for worship at Newport and Portsmouth, on first day the 15th, and for discipline at Newport, on second day morning, the 16th of 6th month, 1862.

By the Reports received from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that the following Friends have been appointed Representatives to this Meeting, viz :

From RHODE ISLAND—David Buffum, Samuel Gifford, Joseph Metcalf, Gilbert Congdon, Timothy C. Collins, Perez Peck, William Richardson and Obadiah Chase.

From SALEM—Nathan Breed, of Lynn, Stephen A. Chase, Moses Huntington, Daniel Beede, Nathan Breed, of Weare, and John Page.

From SANDWICH—Samuel Rodman, William C. Taber, Nathan T. Shepherd, Newell Hoxie, David Kelley, Benjamin Potter, Thomas Macy, Matthew Howland and Charles R. Tucker.

From FALMOUTH—Henry M. Minott, Stephen Cartland, Abram Winslow, Joshua Cobb, Charles Nichols and Ezekiel Varney, Jr.

From SMITHFIELD — Richard Battey, Edward Earle, Greely Dow, Anthony Chase and Thomas Grover.

From VASSALBORO' — Stephen Jones, Thomas B. Nichols, Hartwell A. Jenkins, John D. Lang, James Van Blarcom, John Moulton, Timothy Hanson and Eli Jones.

From DOVER—Jesse Roberts, Joseph Brackett, Moses Roberts and Oliver Meader.

From FAIRFIELD—George Richardson, Alden Sampson, Moses Bailey, Elijah Pope and Silas E. Hoxie,—

whose names being called, they were all present except two, for whose absence sufficient reasons were assigned.

Having, at this Meeting, the acceptable company of our beloved friend William Green, from Ireland, satisfactory certificates were received from the Monthly Meeting of Lisburn, in Ireland, held the 13th of the 2d month, 1862, the Quarterly Meeting for the Province of Ulster, held at Lisburn, Ireland, the 3d of 3d month, 1862, and the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders for Ireland, held in Dublin the 26th of 4th month, and by adjournment on the 3d of 5th month, 1862, expressing unity with him as a Minister sound in doctrine, and in the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and with his present religious engagement.

We have also, at this Meeting, the acceptable company of our beloved friend William G. Johnson, of Plainfield Monthly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting; Joseph Hobson, of Gilead Monthly Meeting, Ohio; John Henry Douglass, of Dover Monthly Meeting, Indiana Yearly Meeting; Abraham Morris, of Gilead Monthly Meeting; Phebe Ann Sands, of Amawalk Monthly Meeting, New York, and Mary H. Thomas, of Scipio Monthly Meeting, New York, and satisfactory certificates from their respective Meetings, expressive of unity with them as Ministers and with their present religious engagements, were received and read.

Our beloved friend, John M. Macy, from Hopewell Monthly Meeting, companion to our friend William G. Johnson; Eli Harvey, of Springfield Monthly Meeting, companion to our friend John Henry Douglass; John J. Thomas, accompanying his wife Mary H. Thomas, and Jacob Mekeel, of Amawalk Monthly Meeting, New York, being now with us, satisfactory testimonials from their several Meetings, expressive of unity with them as Elders and with their present engagements, were received.

We have also, at this Meeting, the acceptable company of our dear friend Isaac Stanly, companion to our friend Joseph Hobson; Isaac Mekeel, who is in company with our friend Jacob Mekeel; Abby W. Underhill, companion to our friend Phebe Ann Sands, and Mehitable J. Morris accompanying her husband Abraham Morris, and satisfactory minutes from their respective meetings, expressing unity with them as members and with their present engagements, were received and read.

The London printed Epistle of last year has been received and now read; and we trust it is to our edification as well as comfort. We desire that all our members may have it in their possession, and carefully read and ponder it; and thus commending it to our individual attention, we appoint our friends William A. Robinson and Matthew Howland, to place in the hands of the Representatives a reprint of three thousand five hundred copies, to be conveyed to our subordinate Meetings and members.

Epistles from our dear brethren of London, Dublin, New York, Baltimore, Ohio, Indiana and Western Yearly Meetings were now received, and in their reading, our beloved friends were brought very near to us in Christian love; and we appoint the following friends to take these communications into consideration, and as the way opens for it, prepare essays of epistles to those several Meetings, and also one to our dear friends of the Yearly Meeting of North Carolina, from whom we have received no communication at the present

time, on account, as we believe, of the difficulty of transmitting documents to us from that part of our country, in consequence of the interruptions occasioned by the lamentable war existing in our land; and for our dear brethren of that Yearly Meeting, in their present trials, our sympathy is warmly enlisted.—viz: Stephen A. Chase, Joseph Metcalf, John D. Lang, Samuel Boyce, John Page, Samuel Boyd Tobey, George Richardson, Henry T. Wood, William C. Taber, Newell Hoxie, David Buffum, Eli Jones, Obadiah Chase, Moses H. Beede, James Van Blarcom, Gilbert Congdon, William A. Robinson, Thomas Folsom, Charles F. Coffin, David K. Akin, Jonathan L. Slocum, George L. Collins, Timothy K. Earle, John Milton Earle, Richard Battey, Joseph Hoag, Newell Ordway and Thomas B. Nichols.

An acceptable communication from London Yearly Meeting to Friends in North America, on the subject of the war in the United States, was received, with the information from the correspondents that it came to hand soon after the rise of our last Yearly Meeting, and that they caused twenty-five hundred copies to be reprinted and distributed among friends. The action of the correspondents in this respect is approved by us.

The Clerk informs that he has received a copy of the "Christian Doctrine, Practice and Discipline of the Society of Friends," presented to this Yearly Meeting by the Meeting for Sufferings of Friends in London, 1862, which he is requested to acknowledge as acceptable, in a P. S. to the Epistle to London Yearly Meeting, and place it in the Yearly Meeting's chest of books and papers at Providence.

The Quarterly Meetings report that they have given attention to the payment into our Treasury of the amount called for by this Meeting last year, and we appoint our friends William A. Robinson, Micajah C. Pratt, William Gifford, Henry M. Minott, Anthony Chase, Ebenezer Frye, Amos D. Purinton, and Charles M. Bailey, to audit the Treasurer's ac-

count, propose a sum proper to be raised for this Meeting the present year, and the name of a friend for Treasurer, and report to a future sitting.

By the Report from the Quarterly Meetings, it appears that *Rhode-Island* has united with Greenwich Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Solomon R. Knowles to the station of Elder, with Providence Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Gideon C. Smith, James Dennis and Anna T. Dennis, and with Swanzey Monthly Meeting, in the appointment of William Chace to the same station—also, that Thomas S. Gifford, an Elder and member of Swanzey Monthly Meeting, died 12th month 24th, 1861, aged 50 years, 5 months and 4 days.

Salem informs that Solomon Varney, a member of Salem Monthly Meeting, in the station of Elder, deceased the 15th of 6th month, 1861, aged 81 years; that Robert Brown, an Elder, and member of Seabrook Monthly Meeting, deceased the 24th of 1st month, 1862, aged 81 years 4 months and 20 days; and that Abigail Peasley, also an Elder and member of that meeting, died 1st month, 28th, 1862, aged 53 years and 4 months; that Joshua Page, an Elder and member of Weare Monthly Meeting, deceased the 8th of 3d month, 1862, aged 59 years, 10 months and 2 days.

Sandwich informs us that it has united with Sandwich Monthly Meeting in acknowledging the gift, and approving the public ministry of Elizabeth C. Wing—and that Abigail Davis, a Minister and member of New-Bedford Monthly Meeting, deceased 3d month 1st, 1862, aged nearly 80 years.

Falmouth reports that it has united with Windham Monthly Meeting, in the appointment of Sarah B. Jones and Mercy Lowell, to the station of Elder, and that Lois Beal, an Elder and member of Durham Monthly Meeting, died 4th month 16th, 1862, aged 63 years and 4 months.

Smithfield reports the decease of Rowland Rathbun, the 21st of 10th month, 1861, aged 85 years, 1 month and 21 days; and of John Osborne, the 28th of 4th month, 1862, aged 78 years, 2 months and 11 days, both Elders and members of Smithfield Monthly Meeting.

Vassalboro gives the information that it has united with China Monthly Meeting, in acknowledging the gift and approving the public appearances in the Ministry, of Sarah Ellen Jones and Desire D. Abbott, and with Unity Monthly Meeting, in the appointment of Timothy Hanson, Almira S. Hanson and Mary W. Brown, to the station of Elder.

Dover informs that Benajah Buffum, an Elder and member of Berwick Monthly Meeting, deceased 8th month, 29th, 1861, aged 68 years, 6 months and 14 days; and *Fairfield* reports the death of Elizabeth Bowerman, an Elder and member of Sidney Monthly Meeting, the 7th of 4th month, 1862, aged 92 years, 3 months and ten days.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment.

David Buffum, on behalf of the Representatives, reported that they were united in proposing Samuel Boyd Tobey for Clerk, and Charles R. Tucker for Assistant Clerk of this Meeting for the ensuing year, which, being approved, they are accordingly appointed to those stations.

The Records of this Meeting for the last year were now read.

The Report of the Boarding School Committee was presented and read, and it is satisfactory to this Meeting, and the friends now under appointment are continued for the ensuing year, to unite with a similar Committee of the Women's Meeting in superintending the school as heretofore, and desired to report to us next year.

"TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Boarding School Committee report: That they have given attention to their appointment, during the past year, and feel justified in stating, that the various concerns of the Institution have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

For the Summer term, 83 scholars were admitted, viz. 53 males and 30 females; and for the winter term 119, viz. 74 males, and 45 females.

The officers of the school have been, Albert K. Smiley and Eliza P. Smiley, Principals; Alfred H. Smiley, Associate Principal; John F. Rowell, Rebecca H. Smiley and Ruth P. Nichols, Teachers of English branches; Rufus Read, Teacher of Mathematics; Charles R. Paine, Assistant teacher of Greek and Latin; Alfred Gaudalet, teacher of French; Mary A. Potter, teacher of Drawing.

The health of the family and pupils has been good, which, under the divine blessing, we believe may in part be attributed to well directed gymnastic exercises which have been systematically pursued.

During the past winter, meetings for divine worship have been satisfactorily held in the school house, on first day mornings, and on first day afternoons, and in the middle of the week the meetings of Friends in the city have been attended.

The accounts of the Institution having been examined, show the following result for the past year.

The receipts for tuition, &c. with \$3800 from the income of the permanent fund, have paid the expenses of the school. The remainder of the income has been applied to the payment of interest, insurance, &c., and the liquidation of the debt, (\$1500) leaving the Institution free of indebtedness, and a balance of \$50.15 in the hands of the Treasurer.

A pretty large expenditure is now required in the outside painting of the buildings in order for their preservation, but we trust this may be made without involving the Institution in any indebtedness.

We propose that the terms commence and continue as last year, and that the charges remain the same, viz. \$40 per term, for members of our Yearly Meeting; \$60 for members of other Yearly Meetings, and where one or both parents are members of our religious society, or the scholars are sent at the charge and expense of such members; and \$100 for any others, payable in advance. And that \$5, additional charge, continue to be made for instruction, either in the ancient languages, in French or in Drawing, and that books and stationery be furnished at the same price as heretofore.

We again call attention to the "Regulations of the School Committee," which have been approved by the Yearly Meeting and are hereunto annexed.

Signed on behalf of the School Committee,
GILBERT CONGDON, Clerk.

Providence, 5th mo. 6th, 1862."

REGULATIONS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

“As the number to be admitted is limited to eighty of each sex, it will be necessary that the committee should be seasonably informed of all in this Yearly Meeting that desire to occupy places in the school, in order that they may determine how many others, if any, may be received.

Application should therefore be made for members of our Yearly Meeting, seasonably to be laid before the committee at their meetings to be held in the 3d and 9th Months—as heretofore determined by the Yearly Meeting.

At these meetings, applications for the admission of members of our Yearly Meeting will have precedence of all others.

After this time, applications for the admission of scholars, will be considered in the order in which they are made.

Monthly Meetings desirous of occupying the privilege of the Charitable fund, are requested to send their applications as heretofore, in season for the meeting of the committee in the 9th month, and to specify whether they desire it during the winter or succeeding summer term. And friends are requested to observe the various regulations adopted by the Yearly Meeting, in order for admission of scholars into the school.

It is desired that payment for each term be made in advance.

It is expected that scholars will be at the school punctually at the commencement of the term; but if circumstances occur to prevent such attendance, notice is to be forwarded to the Principals, within one week of that time, stating whether or not their places are desired to be reserved for them. A failure to attend the school, or to give the notice above specified shall be considered a relinquishment of the privilege, unless again admitted by the committee; and in all cases of children being admitted for the term, and attending the school, it is expected that payment will be made for the term.

Friends of pupils, and others, visiting the school, will in future be expected to defray the expense arising therefrom to the Institution.

Application for admission into the school, and for the benefit of the Charitable Fund, is to be made to the Principals.

Address, ALBERT K. SMILEY,

Principal Friends Boarding School, Providence, R. I.

[*Committee.*—Samuel Boyd Tobey, Gilbert Congdon, William C. Taber, Samuel Taylor, Samuel Boyce, Gideon C. Smith, George Howland Jr., Samuel Austin, Charles R. Tucker,

David Buffum, Stephen A. Chase, William A. Robinson and John D. Lang.

Susan Howland, Lydia Congdon, Sarah F. Tobey, Ann Elmira Lang, Eliza B. Boyce, Mary A. Smith, Lydia H. Jones, Dorcas F. Tucker, Rachel S. Howland, Sarah T. Sampson, Ann B. Earle and Anna T. Dennis.]

We appoint our friends, Jonathan L. Slocum, Moses F. Rogers, Newell Hoxie, George Douglass, Richard Battey, William A. Jones, Isaiah Frye and George Richardson, to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries now received from the Quarterly Meetings, and present it at our next sitting.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY MORNING, the 17th, the Meeting assembled pursuant to adjournment. Representatives present except three.

The Meeting now entered upon a consideration of the state of Society, by reading the queries and answers, under, we believe, a sense of the solemn importance of the service, and, we trust, with a covering of divine good spread over us. The want of the due attendance of our religious meetings, always so apparent in this review of our condition, was manifest at this time in the answers now presented. The duty of meeting to worship Almighty God was feelingly brought to view, and the language of encouragement to greater faithfulness was freely offered. It was earnestly pressed upon us to examine ourselves, and prayerfully to seek for help to discharge what is required at our hands in relation to this important service,—to sympathize with those in the younger walks of life, and to show them the preciousness of the privilege of meeting together in the name of Christ, with the blessed assurance that His presence will be with us, if we really love him, and are engaged to serve Him. Friends were earnestly entreated to seek for ability to meet in the name of the Lord, looking unto Him for help, that our meetings might prove seasons of brokenness and of refreshment; and that beholders

might be brought to feel and acknowledge that these are opportunities to be sought, desirable for all and attractive to all; and that we shall know, in measure, our experience to be like that of David, when he declares, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." The old and the young were entreated to go up together to worship our Heavenly Father, to be partakers together of His blessings, without which we must utterly perish. A sense of our dependence, and of the matchless love of our blessed Redeemer, cannot fail to soften our hearts, to fill them with gratitude, and to cause us to rejoice in offering unto Him such sacrifices as He will accept.

Having proceeded to the reading of the third query and answer, inclusive, the Meeting adjourned to 4 o'clock this afternoon.

At the appointed hour, Friends again assembled, and proceeded with the remaining queries and answers.

During the engagement of this Meeting in receiving the account of the state of Society, as set forth in the answers to the queries, we have been brought into a lively concern for the health of our religious body, and much tender and pertinent counsel has been offered. The plain, practical duty of the daily reading of a portion of Holy Scripture, was feelingly adverted to, and Friends were tenderly encouraged to be faithful in its observance, with their families collected about them. Sympathy was expressed for those who may have been deterred from this practice by a fearfulness of their ability rightly to engage in it; but these were exhorted to remember that it was a blessed *privilege*, as well as a duty, to advert daily to the precious contents of that volume, given by inspiration of God, and which direct us in the discharge of the practical duties of life, as well as make wise unto salvation, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A little portion of time every day,—perhaps either at the commencement or close of the morning meal,—spent in this interesting engagement, performed in simplicity, and with a suitable time of

solemn silence, it is believed, will be blessed to those who observe it, and a little strength will be afforded, that may be sustaining in the trials and temptations of the ensuing day.

While engaged in the review of the state of Society, the vital importance of the right performance of the duty alluded to in the tenth query, was brought impressively before us, and we were feelingly reminded of the course prescribed in the Gospel, upon which our discipline is founded.

First, let the labor with an offending brother be between him and thee alone—then two or three may engage in the work; and if this be unavailing, the aid of the Church may be rightly invoked to exercise its authority, in the spirit of meekness and wisdom. A committee is to be appointed, free from prejudice, moving in the fear of God and in the love of Christ, to labor, in this love and in tenderness, to show the offender the error of his way, and to restore him to the right path; and if all this prove unavailing, then may the Church testify against his evil way, and, for the sake of the cause of Truth, dissolve his connection with our religious body. This course is according to the discipline and usage of our Society; and it is the sense and judgment of this Meeting, that the case must be of a very flagrant nature, in which the Truth would greatly suffer by delay, to justify a more summary proceeding. Friends are entreated to be sure that no root of bitterness exists in their own hearts,—a fatal disqualification for doing good to others. No one can tell how abundant may be the fruits of the labor, bestowed in the love and under the influence of the spirit of Christ, whether they are immediately manifested, or gathered after many days. “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou, also, be tempted.”

The Clerk is requested to forward this Minute to subordinate Meetings, to be observed by them.

The following is a summary of the answers received :

GENERAL ANSWERS .

1st. All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended, except nineteen specified in the accounts; these being very small Meetings, and their attendance being prevented by sufficient causes assigned; and one account states, "A few instances in three small Meetings." Those on First day generally by the greater portion of our members. Meetings in the middle of the week frequently small; and one account says, "A few seldom attend any of our Meetings." The hour nearly observed. Mostly clear of unbecoming behavior, a few instances of sleeping excepted. All the accounts, except two, state that care has been taken in the above deficiencies.

2d. Love and unity appear to be, in a good degree, maintained, except in a few instances. Detraction mostly guarded against. Care has been taken to end differences when they have appeared.

3d. Friends are not all as careful in regard to plainness of speech, behavior, and apparel, as would be best. Generally careful to restrain from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. Mostly good examples herein themselves. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends' families.

4th. The use of spirituous liquors appears to be confined to medicinal purposes, with four or five exceptions; in three of which, labor has been extended. The unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, mostly avoided. Moderation and temperance are observed on the occasions referred to.

5th. The circumstances of the poor are inspected, and their necessities relieved. Their children partake of learning. None placed out from among Friends.

6th. Our Discipline, in these respects, appears to be maintained, except seven cases of keeping company, with reference to marriage, with those not in membership with us, and eleven instances of marrying contrary to discipline;—some care taken.

7th. A few are not as careful in the maintenance of our testimony to a free Gospel Ministry as is queried after. Several instances of a military nature are reported in most of

the accounts, some of which are under notice. Clear, as regards the other parts of this query.

8th. Friends are generally careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and endeavor to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

9th. Generally careful as to records. A few removals without certificates, most of which are under notice.

10th. Care has been taken to deal with offenders, yet two accounts state, not, at all times, as seasonably as would be best. Judgment, when placed, has, we believe, been according to discipline.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FOURTH DAY MORNING, the 18th. Friends assembled pursuant to adjournment. Representatives present except four.

The Committee on the concern of this Meeting for the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians made the following report, which, with interesting verbal statements by members of the Committee, is very satisfactory; and we are encouraged in the belief that our efforts for the good of these people are acceptable and useful to them; and the Friends now under appointment, with the addition of our Friends, George Richardson and Joseph Estes, are continued for another year, and desired to give such attention to this interesting concern as way may open for, and report to this Meeting next year. The Committee are authorized to draw on our Treasurer for fifty dollars, should they deem it expedient to do so, and appropriate it in their discretion, for the benefit of the Indians, and we desire that the Passamaquoddy Tribe may receive such notice as the Committee may be able to give.

“TO THE YEARLY MEETING.”

The Committee intrusted with the concern of the Yearly Meeting, in relation to the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians, report:—

That the former tribe has been visited by two of our number. They seemed very glad to see us, and with much confi-

dence, told us of their affairs. We find this tribe numbers about five hundred; there are about one hundred and fifty men capable of labor; of these, about one hundred are engaged in agriculture during the summer season. They are gradually becoming expert in holding the plow, and some of them might be called good farmers. They own 146 islands in the Penobscot river, containing an area of 4,482 acres. They cultivate nearly 1,000, including their mowing lands.

Their school on Oldtown island was in operation 17 weeks, last summer; whole number in attendance, 37; average, 26. Another school farther up the river, at Lincoln, was open for 14 weeks; whole number in attendance, 18; average, 12. About 100 of this tribe can read understandingly, and several of them can write a fair hand.

Way did not open to visit the Passamaquoddy Tribe; we learn, however, that they number 463, showing a slight increase since 1859. They have 73 children between 4 and 21 years of age; 67 of these have participated, to some extent, in the advantages of a well-conducted school, of several weeks continuance. Some one hundred and twenty do something at farming, and the number is increasing who turn their attention to this business pursuit.

It is without doubt, that cases of intemperance are less frequent among them than formerly; and a slow, but we believe a sure, improvement is apparent, and that a continuance of our care and concern may, under the Divine blessing, be for good to them.

JOHN D. LANG, ELI JONES, HENRY T. WOOD, JAMES VAN BLARCOM,	}	On behalf of Committee.
---	---	----------------------------

Newport, 18th 6th mo., 1862."

[*Committee.*—John D. Lang, Stephen Jones, Joseph Taber, Nathan Douglas, Allen Wing, Caleb Nichols, Samuel Taylor, Eli Jones, Alfred H. Jones, Henry T. Wood, James Van Blarcom, George Richardson and Joseph Estes.]

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings, for the past year, were laid before us and read, and the important and interesting proceedings of that Meeting were fully and cordially approved; and the clerk is requested to cause the

Memorial to the President, with his letter of reply, to be printed with our Minutes of the present year, for distribution among Friends; and the Friends now under appointment, with the exception of our late dear Friends, John Osborne, Benajah Buffum and Thomas S. Gifford, deceased, are continued for the present year, to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, to act on our behalf on such subjects of interest to our religious Society as may, from time to time, properly come before that Meeting.

“ TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES :—

Assembled for the discharge of the duties that devolve upon us as Representatives of the Society of Friends, in New England, we have not failed to be deeply concerned for our beloved country, and believe it right for us, with much respect, briefly to address the Head of the Government.

It is well known, that as a religious body, we have ever believed that all war is inconsistent with the teachings of the Prince of Peace, the Saviour of the world, the living King of kings and Lord of lords, at whose coming the angels sung the Heavenly anthem, ‘Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will to men.’ And while steadfastly maintaining this doctrine wherever situated, and in some parts of the world enduring much suffering in its defence, we have ever been a loyal people, under whatever government placed, engaged to maintain the civil authority, not shrinking from any burden which its support might rightfully impose.

Upon the accession of President Lincoln to the high and very responsible place he now occupies, our sympathy for him was deep and sincere on account of the distracted condition of the nation,—several of the States denying the just powers of the General Government, and repudiating the allegiance due to it; and fervent have been our desires and prayers that the President might be engaged to seek that wisdom from on high, which directeth aright, and be strengthened to discharge his whole duty to God and his fellow men.

Of recent time, we were anxiously concerned in consequence of the attitude assumed by England towards the United States, indicating that the two countries might be involved in the fearful calamity of war with each other; and we trust the President will not deem it impertinent or obtrusive in us

to express our full approbation and grateful appreciation of the wise and dignified course pursued by him and his cabinet on that occasion.

It may be, that in our relation to foreign powers, in the present time of general excitement, future troubles may arise, the solution of which will require the exercise of much delicacy and forbearance, and we would most kindly and earnestly entreat our much respected President to use every means which becomes an enlightened Christian nation to preserve peace, and prevent the shedding of blood. And if in any case direct negotiation fail, that the question be referred to the decision of some disinterested tribunal, instead of resorting to the awful arbitrament of the sword. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon the President. May he find Divine guidance through the many difficulties in which he is involved, and at the close of his official duties, be enabled to review his course with the consciousness that he has been engaged, firmly and uprightly, in the fear of God, to do justice to all.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.’

Signed on behalf and by direction of a Meeting of the Representatives of the Society of Friends for New England, held at Providence, Rhode Island, the 5th of second month, 1862.

SAMUEL BOYCE, Clerk.”

“EXECUTIVE MANSION, }
Washington, March 19, 1862. }

DR. SAMUEL BOYD TOBEY—

My Dear Sir :—

A domestic affliction, of which doubtless you are informed, has delayed me so long in making acknowledgment for the very kind and appropriate letter, signed on behalf and by direction of a Meeting of the Representatives of the Society of Friends for New England, held at Providence, Rhode Island, the 5th of the second month, 1862, by Samuel Boyce, clerk, and presented to me by yourself and associates.

Engaged, as I am, in a great war, I fear it will be difficult for the world to understand how fully I appreciate the principles of peace, inculcated in this letter, and everywhere by the Society of Friends.

Grateful to the good people you represent, for their prayers

in behalf of our common country, I look forward hopefully to an early end of war and return of peace.

Your obliged friend,

A. LINCOLN."

Members of Meeting for Sufferings:—

Daniel Buffum, Perez Peck, Joseph Metcalf, Samuel Boyd Tobey, John D. Lang, Samuel Taylor, Allen Wing, Samuel Boyce, Joseph Taber, of Albion, Timothy C. Collins, Thomas Harkness, Stephen Jones, David K. Akin, Stephen A. Chase, William Farr, William C. Taber, Tobias Meader, Micajah C. Pratt, Thomas Jones, George Howland, Jr., Alden Sampson, William A. Robinson, Stephen Beede, Gilbert Congdon, Richard Battey, Ebenezer Frye, Henry M. Minott, Elisha Jones, of Windham, John Page, Charles R. Tucker, Lemuel Gifford, Nathan Breed, of Lynn, Joseph Taylor, George Bowen, Newell Hoxie, David Kelly, Moses Huntington, Jr., and Edward Earle.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON. Met by adjournment.

The Committee on Correspondence is requested to prepare suitable minutes for Friends now in attendance from other Yearly Meetings, and present them at our next sitting.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting proposes the appointment of Matthew Barney as correspondent of Nantucket Monthly Meeting, in place of our Friend, Cromwell Barnard, deceased; and Smithfield, the appointment of Isaac Steere as correspondent of Smithfield Monthly Meeting, in place of our Friend, John Osborne, deceased—address Burrillville, R. I.—with both of which appointments this Meeting unites.

The Committee on Education presented the following report, which is interesting to this Meeting; and in conformity with the suggestions contained therein, our Monthly Meetings are requested to appoint Committees to render their aid in procuring accurate statistical information, and by other proper means to assist the Committee in the fulfilment of the interesting and important concern of this Meeting, for the increase

of the number of First Day schools, and for the promotion of the religious and literary education of our dear youth and children, in conformity with our established order and Christian principles; and, also, in compliance with a suggestion in the report, for a new appointment of a Committee at the present time, the following Friends are requested to propose, at our next sitting, the names of suitable Friends to constitute this Committee—viz: Ellis Gifford, Obadiah Chace, John Henry Crossman, Thomas Folsom, Henry T. Wood, David Kelly, George Douglas, Joseph Cartland, Albert S. Payson, Richard Battey, William A. Jones, Eli Jones, Albert Buffum, Joseph Brackett, Moses Bailey, Levi Jones, George Richardson and Henry M. Minot.

“TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Committee on Education report that they have given attention to this interesting concern of the Yearly Meeting.

A sub-Committee from our number visited the Boarding School at Providence, and report that institution in a satisfactory condition.

The Oak Grove Seminary, under the care of Friends in Maine, has also been visited, and we believe that these schools are doing much to aid the children and youth among us, in acquiring a substantial and practical education.

First Day Schools have been in successful operation during part, or all of the year, in many localities, where Friends meetings are held.

For the number, length and general attendance of these schools, we refer to the following statistics:

Number of children in the Yearly Meeting between the ages of 5 and 15 years, -	632
Number between 15 and 21 years, - -	487
Number of Monthly Meeting Schools, - -	2
“ “ Preparative Meeting Schools, - -	1
“ “ Family Schools, - - - -	5
The whole number attending school, - - -	922
Number taught by Friends, - - - -	205
Number of Friends who have taught school the past year, - - - -	115
“ “ Members obtaining an education at Academies and Colleges, - -	13

Number of First Day Schools taught under the care of Friends, - - - - -	33
The average continuance of these schools is about - - - - -	7 months.
The whole number attending these schools -	902
Number of Friends connected with the same as teachers or scholars, - - - - -	435
“ “ Bible classes apart from First Day Schools, - - - - -	7
“ “ Friends attending Bible Classes,	133

We believe, though there may be little indication of it in the statistical information furnished, compared with that of last year, that there is an increasing interest in the subject of education among our members generally, and especially with our younger Friends who occupy the responsible relation of parents.

These feel, as their little ones gather around them, asking for intellectual and spiritual food, that they need *wisdom* to counsel and direct. They realize, as they have never done before, the importance of a *thorough* guarded education, that the moral and religious faculties of the mind, as well as the intellectual, should receive proper culture. They are beginning to appreciate, more fully, the inestimable value of the Holy Scriptures, as a powerful agency in their hands, for the elevation of themselves and those around them. They thankfully welcome the Bible as their *dutiful* companion, and, as they witness its elevating influence upon the family circle, their hearts become interested in the community around them, and, as a natural consequence, the First Day School is established. Nor does their interest end here; for there are of our members who are engaged in going from place to place, aiding in the establishment of these schools for Scriptural instruction.

But while the Committee are greatly encouraged by the individual faithfulness of many of our members, in promoting the cause of education in its broadest sense, they feel that as a Yearly Meeting, the Friends of New England have not done their whole duty; and would earnestly encourage them to more faithfulness in this respect.

We would recommend, at this time, the appointment of a new Committee by the Yearly Meeting, with the hope that an increased interest may be awakened upon this subject, of such vital importance to our beloved Society.

And we would further suggest, that it would materially aid

the Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting on the interesting subject, if Monthly Meetings were to appoint Committees to collect statistics, encouraging the organization of First Day Schools in all of our Meetings, and to act in other respects in conjunction with the Yearly Meeting's Committee. And that the members of these several Committees, together with the members of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, resident within each Quarterly Meeting, meet at the time of holding the Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting, to prepare a report to be presented to the Committee on Education, when they meet at Newport.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN H. CROSSMAN, *Clerk.*

Newport, 6th month, 18th, 1862."

The Committee appointed by this Meeting, last year, to labor in restoring love within the limits of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, presented the following report, and the evidence it affords of a faithful attention to their appointment is satisfactory to us; and with an earnest concern for the removal of everything that still hinders the free circulation of that love so entirely essential to the health of the body, the Friends now under appointment, viz. :—Samuel Boyd Tobey, Gilbert Congdon, Stephen A. Chase, Samuel Boyce, Isaac R. Gifford, John D. Lang, Newell Hoxie, John Page and Charles R. Tucker, are continued to constitute a Committee to act in our behalf in imparting to Meetings or individuals wherever, within our limits, it may appear necessary, in that ability which may be mercifully granted them, such advice and assistance as may tend to promote love and unity, and preserve the right order of the church.

“TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

We, your Committee appointed to labor in Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, for the restoration of love and unity and for the support of the cause of truth and right order in the church, report, that we have endeavored faithfully to attend to the important service deputed to us by the Yearly Meeting. All the Committee met at Portland, in the 10th month last, and

attended Falmouth Monthly Meeting, and a part of our number were at Falmouth Quarterly Meeting the following week. We were entirely united in issuing the subjoined advice to the Monthly Meeting, viz. :—

‘TO FALMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING :—

Dear Friends,—Having been appointed by the Yearly Meeting for the purposes expressed in the Minute which we herewith present, we come among you in much love and with fervent desires to promote the cause of truth and the welfare of our religious body. Under a deep and reverent sense of our dependence on the Great Head of the Church for a qualification to move in his service, we have, we trust, been engaged to look humbly unto Him for direction; and under a feeling of religious duty, we tenderly and earnestly advise every member of the Monthly Meeting carefully to abstain from every allusion to those subjects that have tended to produce the dissension and disunity which so unhappily exist among you; that everything like crimination and recrimination be strictly avoided; that great care be taken that the rights and privileges of no member be abridged in consequence of the lamentable state of things which, for some time, has existed among you; that the past, on the part of all concerned, be cheerfully forgiven, and, so far as may be, obliterated from memory; but that now, entering into renewed covenant with the Lord, every member of the body may be engaged to move in His fear and in His love, being clothed with that charity which seeketh not her own, but each preferring other to himself, you may be favored to be helpful one to another, bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ; and we earnestly desire that the authority of the Meeting be seasonably exercised, in the spirit of restoring love, to carry into effect the advice which we now tenderly offer. Remember, dear friends, at all times, the example left by our adorable Saviour, that we should follow his steps, ‘who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not; but committed himself to him who judgeth righteously; who his own self bare our sin, in his own body, on the tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness.’ ‘Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always, by all means.’

Portland, 10th month 24th, 1861.’

This document was signed by us all and presented to the Monthly Meeting, and one of like import to the Quarterly Meeting, by both of which meetings it was cordially received and entered upon their records.

While we trust that the labors of the Committee have not been wholly fruitless, it is our judgment that care should continue to be extended, through a committee, by the Yearly Meeting, to some branches of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting.

STEPHEN A. CHASE,
JOHN D. LANG,
SAMUEL BOYCE,
NEWELL HOXIE,
SAMUEL BOYD TOBEY,
CHARLES R. TUCKER,
GILBERT CONGDON,
JOHN PAIGE.

Newport, 6th mo. 16th, 1862."

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurer's account, and for other purposes, made the following report which is approved; and our Quarterly Meetings are requested to raise their respective quotas of twelve hundred dollars, and pay the same to our Friend David Buffum, whom we appoint our Treasurer for the ensuing year.

"TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Committee appointed to examine the account of the Treasurer, and for other purposes, report, they find due him one thousand and thirty-nine and $\frac{45}{100}$ dollars.

They propose twelve hundred dollars to be raised for the use of the Meeting, and the name of David Buffum for Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee,
W. A. ROBINSON.

Newport, R. I., 6th mo. 18th, 1862."

Adjourned to 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

FIFTH DAY AFTERNOON, the 19th, the Meeting again assembled, pursuant to adjournment. The Representatives present, except three.

The appointment of the following correspondents was reported from New York Yearly Meeting:

“Shappaqua Monthly Meeting:—Jesse H. Underhill, in place of Charles R. Underhill, deceased. Address, *Shappaqua, Westchester Co. N. Y.*

Amawalk Monthly Meeting:—William B. Collins, in place of James Brown, deceased. Address, *Peekskill, Westchester Co., N. Y.*

Scipio Monthly Meeting:—Robert B. Howland, in place of Humphrey Howland, released at his request. Address, *Union Springs, Cayuga Co., N. Y.*

Leeds Monthly Meeting:—Joseph Wiltse, in place of Joseph Wing, released. Address, *Farmersville, C. W.*

Taken from the Minutes,

WILLIAM WOOD, *Clerk.*”

The Committee appointed at our last sitting to propose the names of Friends to compose a Committee of this Meeting, on Education, presented the following, which are approved, and they are appointed accordingly, and requested to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the Women's Meeting, to report to this Meeting next year, viz :

Joseph E. Macomber, Solomon R. Knowles, Samuel Austin, Abel F. Collins, Samuel Gifford, Nathan Breed of Weare, John H. Crossman, Robert L. Brown, Edward W. Ewer, Nathan T. Shepherd, Matthew Barney, Isaac R. Potter, Adrian Davis, Charles Taber, Isaac Steere, Nathan Babcock, Timothy K. Earle, George Douglas, Henry M. Minott, Nathan Pope, Silas H. Cartland, Thomas B. Nichols, Eli Jones, Jedediah J. Varney, Amos D. Purinton, Albert C. Buffum, George Varney, George Richardson, Levi Jones and Joseph Winslow.

[Women's Committee.]—Cynthia Bowen, Gulielma Freeborn, Elizabeth A. Congdon, Mary D. Collins, Mary Slade, Lydia P. Chase, Elizabeth Page, Mary T. Gove, Elizabeth C. Wing, Ruth A. Shepherd, Lydia Swain, Huldah B. Gifford, Rebecca A. Church, Susan Taber, Abigail S. Hodges, Lydia B. Dow, Abigail Wheeler, Jane C. Minott, Salome J. Goddard, Lydia M. Pope, Anna H. Cartland, Rachel B. Nichols, Sybil

Jones, Jane H. Varney, Abigail M. Hanson, Eliza P. Varney, Sarah Hoag, Hannah R. Wing, Lavina M. Briggs and Eunice Winslow.

The Committee appointed at a former sitting, report that the required number of copies of the London General Epistle has been reprinted, and placed in the hands of the Representatives, or other Friends, to be conveyed to our subordinate Meetings.

The clerk is directed to sign on our behalf, the following certificate for our friend, William Green, viz :

* * * * *

The Clerk is directed to sign on our behalf, the following minute for our friend, William G. Johnson; and similar ones for our Friends, Joseph Hobson, John Henry Douglas, Abraham Morris, Phebe Ann Sands and Mary H. Thomas, viz :

“ Our beloved friend, William G. Johnson, attended this Meeting. His company, and religious services, have been acceptable to us.”

The clerk is also directed to sign, on our behalf, the following minute for our friend, John M. Macey, and similar ones for our friends, Eli Harvey, John J. Thomas, Jacob Mekeel, Isaac Stanley, Isaac Mekeel, Abby W. Underhill and Mehitable J. Morris, viz :

“ Our beloved friend, John M. Macey, attended this Meeting. His company and solid deportment have been acceptable and satisfactory to us.”

Essays of Epistles to our dear brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Ireland, New York, Baltimore, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana and Western, were laid before us by the Committee on Correspondence, and being approved, the Clerk is directed to sign them on our behalf, and forward them to those meetings respectively.

The Clerk is directed to cause three thousand copies of our minutes of the present year to be printed and furnished to the families of Friends.

The various important concerns of the Church that have claimed our attention having now been disposed of, in great harmony, with feelings of gratitude for the evidence we have had, during the whole course of this Yearly Meeting, of the Lord's goodness extended to us, we now separate in love; proposing to meet at this place, at the usual time, next year, if our Heavenly Father permit.

SAMUEL BOYD TOBEY, *Clerk.*

