

connotation, the evident tendency of which is, to invalidate some of the fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Religion: to undervalue the truths recorded in the Holy Scriptures; and to destroy a belief in the Aeternal Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; his mediation and intercession for us, as our Advocate with the Father; and in that most precious sacrifice, which he made of himself on the cross, without the gates of Jerusalem, whereby he became the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

These dangerous and Anti-Christian Opinions, having unhappily been adopted by many, under our name, both within and beyond the limits of this Yearly Meeting: produced an insubordination to that excellent Discipline which has been established amongst us in the Wisdom and Goodness of the Holy Head of the Church: which has resulted in some places, in a separation from our Religious Society, and the institution of Meetings, styled Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and set up in opposition to the good order, which Brethren have been hitherto been enabled to maintain.

At our Yearly Meeting in the 10. Month last Year, an Epistle from a Meeting of these Separatists, held in Philadelphia; was presented, and contrary to the Judgement of many concerned brethren and Sisters, was read and discussed. By this act, those amongst us, who had embraced the unsound principles to which we have alluded, evinced a disposition to identify our Yearly Meeting with the associations of the Separatists. This was a source of much sorrow and concern to us at that time, but these expressions of our conscientious dissent was disregarded: and the proceeding becoming known to many of our Brethren in other parts, several of the Yearly Meetings which remained firm in Support of the ancient Doctrines and order of the Society, either declined corresponding with us, or intimated the necessity of doing so, if an Epistolary intercourse between our Yearly Meeting and the Separatists was continued.

Previous, to the coming of the present Session of this Yearly Meeting, nearly all of the Yearly Meetings of Friends on this Continent, had officially testified their disunity with the Doctrines and Separate Meetings of those, who have seceded from our Religious communion: and in some places those had been regularly disowned from Society. At the Opening of this Meeting, Minutes were produced.

from irregular Meetings, of the Separatists, liberating persons who had been thus disowned, to attend Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which were read by the Clerk; a Minute made of their receipt, and a Committee appointed to prepare an Endorsement, to be placed upon them, contrary to the good order and discipline of our Yearly Meeting, which does not admit of persons sitting in Meetings for Business who have been disowned.

The Epistles addressed to this Meeting by Yearly Meetings, with whom we regularly correspond, were referred to the Representatives for examination, and to Report whether they were proper to be read, which is contrary to the Discipline and usage of this Meeting; which is to read without reference to any Committee, all such communications and to submit to previous examination and Decision, such documents only, as are from Assemblies or sources with whom we are not in the habit of a regular Correspondence. This Innovation upon our order was also testified against without effect.

At a subsequent sitting, the Representatives proposed, that all the Documents without reserve, should be read in the Meeting, which was accordingly done. Among them were Epistles, from Meetings of the Separatists in New York, Philadelphia and one purporting to be from the Indiana Yearly Meeting held at Whinesville Ohio, and a proposition being made that the Meeting should then distinctly declare, whether it would continue to hold communications and intercourse with the Ancient Yearly Meetings of the Society of Friends, or acknowledge and unite with those of the Separatists, a part of the Meeting, addressed the latter course, and the Clerk made a suitable expression of this determination and appointing a Committee to essay replies to those from New York, Philadelphia and Indiana above alluded to.

Friends viewed these proceedings with deep sorrow, and it being now abundantly evident that those amongst us, who had adopted the popular errors of the day, were resolved to break off all communication with the Ancient Body of Friends, and to identify themselves with those, who had departed from the long acknowledged Doctrines and Discipline of our Religious Society, we were brought to the painful necessity of meeting apart from them, in order to hold Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, according to its original constitution, to bear our faithful testimony in support