

4 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 Friends have hitherto been enabled to maintain.

At our Yearly Meeting in the 10th month last year, Epistles from a meeting of these Separatists held in Philadelphia were presented, and contrary to the judgement of many concerned brethren and sisters, were read and answered. 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 the expression 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 in 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, they had been regularly disowned from Society. - At the opening of this meeting, minutes were produced