

been for rendering mutual assistance, and tenderly taking care of the flock. To preserve the relation in which the several Yearly Meetings stand to each other, as making up one body, united by joint and bands, our Epistolary correspondence was instituted and has been maintained and at different periods, committees, by special invitation have been sent by one or more Yearly Meetings, to unite with the Meeting making the request, in the consideration of important subjects. And the separate Meeting of Committees, in the capacity in which we are now convened has been adopted as occasions have appeared to demand. We do not look to stated or frequent recurrences of Meetings of Committees of this Character, but we apprehend that the best interests of ~~the~~ our Society demand, that the necessity of mutual counsel and assistance, in cases of a general nature should be strongly impressed on the minds of Friends. While the Yearly Meetings must exercise their discretion in fulfilling these reciprocal obligations in such manner as the Wisdom of the Great Head of the Church may direct, whether by Epistolary communications or by Committees from the several Yearly Meetings

Mingling ^{with} the Meeting requesting assistance or by Committees in general conference, or whatever mode may be best adapted to the object.

Under these solemn impressions, we have approached the consideration of the specific subjects referred to us by the different Yearly Meetings. These may chiefly be comprehended in three divisions. First, the setting up and discontinuance of Yearly Meetings, with the different objects connected with or growing out of such proceedings. Second, A greater uniformity and agreement of the Discipline of the several Yearly Meetings, in their more important points. And Lastly, the examination and circulation of Books of a Doctrinal or Historical Character, affecting the reputation or interests of the Society; together with the presentation of Memorials to the General Government, on behalf of the African descendants.

In regard to setting up and laying down of Yearly Meetings, and what may be necessarily connected with such transactions, we apprehend there is a general assent throughout the Society, that some regulations touching these objects are