

many parts of the document, and also in other publications of theirs, and which has been largely circulated by them, is, that the Society composing our yearly Meeting, is opposing the abolition of slavery: that it, by its measures, is countenancing & supporting slave holders, slaveholding, and Slavery and that our well known Christian testimony against Slavery is not maintained; in the place of which [they say] Apathy, and the fear of popular sentiment have been suffered to get possession; & that lukewarmness and the want of a disposition to do any thing for the slave, has been the consequence. Another is, that the proceedings of our yearly Meeting in its own acts, and of the subordinate meetings in carrying out its advice have been arbitrary, proscriptive, irregular, and contrary to discipline.

These and various other charges equally untrue & unfounded against the yearly and other meetings and their committees and individuals acceptably filling responsible stations in Society have been made and widely circulated. We have no expectation on the present occasion of going into an examination and refutation singly of the various charges that have come to our knowledge: but we think it right to take this opportunity to declare, that our Society in this yearly Meeting has not relaxed in its testimony against Slavery: that on the contrary it is the united belief of this

meeting that the testimony has been ~~growing~~ ^{growing} stronger and stronger amongst us for many years past and that our yearly meeting earnestly desires to improve every right opening under the influence of the Holy Spirit to advocate the cause of universal and unconditional Emancipation: and to manifest on all proper occasions our testimony against Slavery and oppression. Our members have also been desired in the advice issued by the yearly Meeting to do the same thing: notwithstanding it has been thought right to advise them not to mix for that purpose with the popular associations of the day. By reference to the proceedings of our yearly Meeting for the last five years or more, copies of which we believe have been sent you and to which we refer you, you will perceive that our yearly Meeting and meeting for sufferings, have been far from being idle on this important subject.

In reference to the second charge set out as a cause of separation, (that of proscription &c) we have only to remark that we have felt ourselves religiously concerned to proceed to do such duties as were required at our hands in mildness, tenderness, and under the influence of heavenly love and forbearance. And whilst it is still our concern and prayer to perform faithfully, firmly and promptly those duties required at our hands, in the proper support of our discipline and the good order of the