

of this Committee united in forming what they denominate Monthly Meetings assuming to themselves the names of those Monthly Meetings respectively.

Thus dear friends a division in Society has taken place within the limits of Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting; but we are comforted in being able to state that the Great body of Friends remain united together, concerned for the support of the ancient principles, testimonies and discipline of our Religious Society.

The cause of this schism is we apprehend to be found in a spirit of disaffection and a desire for individual liberty that is not willing to submit to that necessary subordination, recognized in our discipline of inferior to superior meetings and of each member to the body which has ever been found essential to the welfare of our and preservation of our Religious Society.

Attempts are strenuously made ~~to fasten~~ by the separatists to fasten upon the Yearly Meeting, and those who do not unite with them a charge of unsoundness in our ^{principles} fundamental - an accusation which we are fully assured is entirely unfounded in fact - as we have abundant evidence of the unabated concern of Friends to maintain inviolate the ancient doctrines and testimonies of our Religious Society as professed and sustained by our worthy - prede-

-cessors in the truth and to support our Christian Discipline.

As a manifestation of the care of Friends to hold up to view those Gospel truths which we do most solemnly believe and which have ever been received by us as a people - we would refer to divers documents that have been issued - by the Yearly Meeting or meeting for sufferings within the past few years, in which Friends are exhorted not only to hold fast - to those ancient and established principles and testimonies of our Society but faithfully cautioned against giving any countenance to the receiving or spreading of unsound doctrines either by reading or circulating Books containing them, or otherwise - The documents to which we specially allude are a - minute of the Yearly Meeting - in 1836 - an Epistle to the members of the Society of Friends of New England Yearly Meeting, from the Meeting for sufferings in 1838 - the Introduction to the Memorials - of deceased Friends published in 1841, as well as the Appendix thereto being a reprint of - The Testimony of the Society of Friends on the Continent of America and an essay on some of the prominent doctrines and Testimonies of Friends issued by the Yearly Meeting in 1843.

These candid full and explicit declarations