

Indiana, Western & Balt^o Meetings for Sufferings assembled in this city, the 7th inst. The full minutes of the Conference, which we herewith submit, will set forth its proceedings.

Balt^o 12.21. 1864.

On behalf of the Com^{tee} Jas Carey

(see annexed printed minutes, &c)

Then adjourned to the stated time in 3rd Mo next -

John Scott Clerk

At a Meeting for Sufferings held in Balt^o 3rd Mo 21. 1864 present 12 members.

This meeting confirms & adopts the proceedings of the previous meetings, which lacked one member of making a quorum; - they were called in an emergency, without time to notify our distant members.

A minute was read from Duncans Creek Quarterly Meeting informing that they had appointed Zachariah McHaul ^{a member of this meeting} in the place of Abram S. Valentine, dec^d - his name is directed to be placed on our list of members.

The Com^{tee} on the education of the colored people is continued to report to our next meeting.

Then adjourned to the stated time in the 10th Mo: next -

John Scott,
Clerk

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At a Conference of Friends, held in Baltimore, the 7th of 12th month, 1863, in pursuance of the following call from Baltimore Meeting for Sufferings, viz:

At a Meeting for Sufferings, held in Baltimore, the 21st of 11th month, 1863.

The Committee to have a care over the interests of our Religious Society, in relation to the military draft and other subjects connected with the war,

REPORT, that two of their number had a very full interview, yesterday, with the Secretary of War, on behalf of two conscripted Friends who are under arrest. The Secretary set forth with much feeling and stress the embarrassment which our position caused the Government and our own Society, as well as himself personally, in his efforts to grant us exemption unconditionally, for which he had no law. He spoke of a larger draft, which will soon be enforced, and the necessity of some definite settled course for him to pursue.

He wishes Friends to have a general Conference of their Committees, to consider a proposition from him, which he believes "will satisfy them, and relieve him and the Government," and that he "expects to hear from them in relation to it."

He proposes to create a special fund for the benefit of the Freedmen, and to exempt Friends from military service, upon the payment of \$800, into this fund, said payment not to be as in other cases to the District Provost Marshal, but to his fiscal agent at Washington, to be credited on his books to the Freedmen, and that Friends can have the disbursement of it through their own agents and laborers. He expressed deep interest in the organized and individual efforts of Friends to elevate the moral and physical condition of the manumitted slaves, and "was willing to accept this medium as relief for our members from the draft—the only legal mode in his power."

Our Committee informed him that they would convey the result of their interview to Friends generally.

After a time of serious deliberation, without entering upon the proposition itself, this Meeting concluded to lay the foregoing report before the several Meetings for Sufferings, on this continent, inviting them to appoint Committees to meet in Conference in this City, at 9 o'clock, A. M., 2nd day, 12th month 7th, 1863, to consider the whole subject, believing that the time has come for our widely-spread Society to have some definite and settled understanding, with the Government, in relation to the drafts that now are and soon will be ordered.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

FRANCIS T. KING, Clerk for the day.

After a time of deep religious exercise and feeling, in which the hearts of all were humbled under a sense of the weight and responsibility of the occasion, and our need of that heavenly wisdom which can alone direct and keep us, the Conference was organized by the appointment of Francis T. King, as Clerk.

Minutes were received and read from the Meetings for Sufferings of New England, New York, Baltimore, Ohio, Indiana and Western Yearly Meetings, appointing the following Committees to meet in Conference, in the City of Baltimore, to consider the proposition and general concern embraced in the Minute from Baltimore, viz:

New England—Samuel Boyd Tobey, John D. Lang, Samuel Boyce, Stephen A. Chase, Gilbert Congden and Wm. A. Robinson.

New York—James Congden, Benj. Tatham, John J. Thomas, William Wood and Robert Handley Murray.

Baltimore—Francis T. King, James C. Thomas, James Carey and Richard M. Janney.

Ohio—John D. Elliott, Ezra Cattell, Jonathan Binns and John Butler.

Indiana—Charles F. Coffin, Daniel Hill, Francis W. Thomas and Levi Jessup.

Western—Robert W. Hodson, James Kersey, William E. Morris and Jeremiah A. Grennell, who were present, except two from New England.