

At a Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Baltimore, for the Western Shore of Maryland, &c., by adjournments from the 23d of the Tenth Month to the 26th of the same, inclusive, 1854.

TENTH MONTH, 23d.

"Two Epistles were now produced, both purporting to come from Ohio Yearly Meeting, one signed by Benjamin Hoyle, as Clerk, and the other by Jonathan Binns, as Clerk, thus affording evidence of the painful occurrence of a separation having taken place in that Yearly Meeting. Whereupon the meeting concluded to appoint a Committee to examine and read the Epistles, and make such a careful examination of the whole subject as would enable it to recommend to the Yearly Meeting the course proper to be pursued by it in relation to the Epistles and the bodies from which they emanate—viz: Hugh Balderston, Richard H. Thomas, Jonah Sands, Isaac Moore, Joseph Ballance, Wm. Waring, William A. Thomas, Bond Valentine, John Irwin, N. C. Crenshaw, John Hare and George F. Terrell,—who are left at liberty to unite with a similar Committee of Women Friends, if they should appoint one, and were directed to report to a future sitting."

Names of the Women's Committee: Dorothy Hopkins, Margaret Cheston, Julia Valentine, Elizabeth R. Balderston, Lydia Waring, Elizabeth Smith, Hannah Bates, Sarah Sands, Mary Wright, Mary Irwin, Eliza M. Thomas, Zella Ballance, Eliza H. Crenshaw, and Hannah Bates.

REPORT:

The joint Committee to whom was referred the Epistles coming from the two bodies, each claiming the name and authority of Ohio Yearly Meeting; Report, that they have carefully examined and considered the respective documents, and we, the undersigned members of the Committee are united in the conclusion that the Epistles signed by Jonathan Binns and Jane M. Plummer as Clerks, should be received and acknowledged as coming from Ohio Yearly Meeting with which we have unity; and that the Epistles signed by Benjamin Hoyle and Rachel E. Patterson should not be received, inasmuch as we have sorrowfully to believe that they have been issued by a body with whose proceedings we cannot have unity.

In coming to this conclusion the Committee have believed it right to take a review of the position in which Ohio Yearly Meeting has been placed by a portion of its members.

They have refused to receive and acknowledge the Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting for seven or eight years.

They have subverted the established order of Society by an abridgment of the rights of members, by refusing to receive the credentials issued by Meetings belonging to another Yearly Meeting.

They have conferred or attempted to confer upon individuals, privileges which they had forfeited in their own meetings, and to sustain them in assumed rights to which they are not entitled, by allowing them to sit in their meetings for Discipline.

They have persevered in the neglect and violation of these important and vital practices and usages of our Society, which are essential to our prosperity as a people, although they have been earnestly and affectionately entreated in the Epistles from our own Yearly Meeting, and by their Brethren of Five Yearly Meetings on this Continent, to return to our established order.

They have refused to hear an Address adopted and sanctioned by our Yearly Meeting, and four other Yearly Meetings, and sent to them by a Committee of this Yearly Meeting, warning them of the consequences which appeared to us inevitable, and beseeching them to unite

with other Yearly Meetings in pursuing that course which we believed could alone prevent results that would be deeply to be deplored.

And finally, a seat in the Minister's gallery in the Yearly Meeting of the present year was allowed Thomas B. Gould, who acted as Clerk to the Separatists in New England in 1845, though at that time disowned by the Society, thus virtually owning and acknowledging the seceders of New England Yearly Meeting; and we may add that after the appointment of Jonathan Binns as Clerk, he, the said Thomas B. Gould, became the companion and associate of the body of which Benjamin Hoyle is Clerk.

It will not be denied that these departures from the discipline and usages of our Society, and these breaches of unity, as well as others which might be mentioned, were committed by the body who have now Benjamin Hoyle for Clerk; and that the Friends who have placed Jonathan Binns at the Clerk's table have steadily and earnestly advocated the ancient usages of our Society, and the course indicated by the discipline, and so affectionately and earnestly recommended by our Yearly Meeting, and others; that they have borne the lamentable state of disorder, which had existed for several years, as long as they could do so, without identifying themselves with the members of a meeting which had been testified against by all the Yearly Meetings of Friends except their own and Philadelphia, and not acknowledged by any; that believing that the time for their release had come, they were favored to be found "the friends of good order, and the supporters of our Christian doctrines and testimonies and discipline," and therefore they truly constitute Ohio Yearly Meeting, and are justly entitled to all the privileges which belong to that body.

But, whilst we cannot unite with the body of which Benjamin Hoyle and Rachel E. Patterson are Clerks, we earnestly desire for the members who are now attached to it, that they may put away from them all that separates and again come into that unity which formerly existed and is now so seriously interrupted.

DOROTHY HOPKINS,
SARAH SANDS,
MARGARET CHESTON,
MARY WRIGHT,
JULIA VALENTINE,
MARY IRWIN,
ELIZA M. THOMAS,
ELIZA H. CRENSHAW,
HANNAH BATES.

HUGH BALDERSTON,
RICHARD H. THOMAS,
JONAH SANDS,
ISAAC MOORE,
WM. A. THOMAS,
BOND VALENTINE,
JNO. IRWIN,
JOHN HARE,
NATH'L C. CRENSHAW,
GEO. F. TERRELL.

Tenth Month, 24th.

Which having been read and fully considered, is approved by the meeting, whereupon the Epistle signed by Jonathan Binns, as Clerk, was read and referred to the Committee on Epistles.

We feel it a duty to our absent members and to our Friends of other Yearly Meetings, to inform them that after the adoption of the above minute, and the reading of the Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting, when the meeting adjourned, six Friends, five of whom were from Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, kept their seats, and have since absented themselves from our Meetings. We are informed that they have, in connection with six women Friends, all from Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, attempted the organization of a Yearly Meeting, and that they have addressed Epistles to other Yearly Meetings in the name of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Baltimore.

In this disorder, they are associated with and encouraged by four members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, one of whom is a minister, and another an elder, with minutes directed to Baltimore Yearly Meeting.