

with power under this Prince as we may remember to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. His mind had been ardently concerned for the accomplishment of this object and I may say he had been marvelously qualified to be employed in it. And he left the Prince's court with those who accompanied him of the Jews bound to Jerusalem. They made their way as we may remember to the river Ahava and there he proclaimed a fast, a fast of three days, a solemn fast, and under this preparation he asked of the Almighty a right way for himself and the people and their little ones and for all their substance.

They were to enter the wilderness and be subjected to the incursions of those who might resist them. * * * They had no armed force though they had cause for fear, for they were assured the Lord would be with them. * * * As he followed his guide he became instrumental in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem."

A communication was received from the representatives in which they stated their judgment that under existing circumstances it would be right to read all the epistles without reserve.

Stillness for some time followed when the clerks read them.

The Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of London and Virginia and that from the orthodox Y.M. of Ohio expressed disunity with the Separatists (as they called the reorganized Y.M. of Phil^a and the Y.M. of New York). They stated that they could not hold communication with them nor any with whom they corresponded.

The Virginia Epistle spoke of some of the doctrines of Elias Hicks and those contained in an anonymous publication (The Berean) as directly repugnant to the Doctrines of Christianity.

The Ohio (orthodox) Epistle gave utterance to great concern at our Y. M. having received and answered an Epistle from the reorganized Y.M. of Philadelphia.

There were no Epistles from the Y.M. held at Mount Pleasant, Ohio, from Rhode Island Y. M. or the orthodox Y.M. of Phil^a. A friend who had attended the Y.M. at Mt. Pleasant informed us that a very affectionate Epistle was addressed to us by that Y.M.

Gerard T. Hopkins

Now rose and made some remarks to the following purport:

"The reading of these Epistles has, perhaps we can all say, furnished a mournful prospect and I have said in my heart, who is sufficient for these things? and this sensibility has been accompanied by a clear, a settled sentiment in my own mind, and that is "stand still." This last simple expression has its meaning and I trust it will be understood. "Stand still." "

John Jewett

followed him with words to the following effect--

"Let us stand still my friends until judgment is given us. From the Epistles before us it appears it has now become the business of this meeting to determine which meetings it is in unity with. The Epistle to us from Friends of Pennsylvania from that part of the Society which this Y.M. received an Epistle from last year and returned an answer has been read. We have all heard several from other Y. Meetings in relation to this body of Friends where they are termed Separatists from the Society of Friends. They are charged with disbelieving the Scriptures, Denying the Divinity of Christ, with insubordination, &c. Hence it appears to me to have become our business to take the subject of that Y.M. and its Epistle up and say how we will dispose of it. This is my settled judgment. This is a subject in the discussion of which there have been attempts made to throw this meeting into disorder.

There are here many members of that Y.M. whose minutes and certificates have been received and read. In consequence of this a friend attending from England declared his disunity with us in this thing and abruptly left us. After that one or two of our own members left us in the same manner,--individuals who issued their solemn protest against our judgment. Here it appears to me and it is my judgment that under existing circumstances it is the duty of this meeting to take up the subject of this Y.M. in Phil^a and determine in what relation we stand to them.

They are called Separatists and are charged with insubordination! Where have we this information from? I have no doubt they are the great body of that Yearly Meeting. I attended it. I saw and heard and can form a judgment, and am prepared to say that they are the great body of Phil^a Y.M. and are accountable to none but themselves, and that the charges laid against them of disbelieving the Scriptures and denying the Divinity of Christ I believe are utterly false. Therefore I think it will be right for us to take up this subject and say whether we united with that meeting or not."

Edward Stabler

spoke to the following purport [viz.]

"It is my judgment friends that it is right for us to take up this subject. And we all know my friends by individual experience the influence that passion has in obscuring the judgment. Let us all I entreat you be calm. Do not let charges which we know to be calumnious and unfounded disturb our peace of mind. We know individually that to charge with crime is not to convict of crime. On the contrary, our blessed leader has placed it on another ground in his Sermon on the Mount.--"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil of you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in Heaven." If it were possible for charges to con-