

The new standing committees were now appointed.

The minute to be sent down to the inferior meetings in relation to those friends who had withdrawn from us was produced and approved without a dissenting voice.

This minute may be found in the printed Extracts of this year.

One feature of this minute is that those who have withdrawn or hereafter may withdraw must be considered as having relinquished their rights. In relation to this Roger Brooke made the following observations:

"Some friends think this is a retrospective law, but my opinion is different. There is no acknowledgment required.

This is only a direction to our monthly meetings to record a fact which the friends who have separated have themselves announced. They have declared their relinquishment and we have either to accept it or bring trouble upon ourselves by dealing with them, which I think will be useless."

The business being now done some friends made remarks suggested by a review of our proceedings. Among these was Thomas Wetherald who spoke in a very affecting manner. He expressed gratitude to our Heavenly Father for enabling us to go with so much comfort through the trying scenes we have had to encounter. He thought we had been favoured with strength from a higher power than our own abilities.

A solemn pause followed these remarks and then the Yearly Meeting ended its session.

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Estimates of the number of persons who withdrew from us were made by several individuals, but their accounts vary. One states that there were 40 men and boys and 76 women and girls. Another account states that there were 135 altogether, and a third 136. It is known that several who attended their first sitting (when these enumerations were made) went from mere curiosity, and some who went with serious motives returned and took their seats with us.

The above was copied by Lindley D. Clark, January, 1935, from manuscript brought by Mary Magruder of Sandy Spring, the property of Florence Wetherald. Endeavor to make an exact copy of the somewhat faded, but carefully written ms. was the plan. At least a part of the account seems to have been based on stenographic report, (see p. 15, above; p. 20 of ms.), but to what extent is not indicated; (but see p. 7, etc.). The ms. is not dated.

*Lindley D. Clark,  
Sandy Spring, Md. Jan. 19, 1935.*

The following material was copied from the records in the vaults of the Meeting House at Park Avenue, as supplemental to the foregoing. L.D.C.

From the Minute on the State of Society, 1827:

Deep concern was expressed over the failure of the younger Friends to attend the week-day Meetings. Parents permit this for trivial reasons, and thus "become themselves the authors of the habitual neglect and indifference on the part of their children." P. 108.

"A renewed concern was likewise felt, that we might, as a religious community, be preserved in that near feeling of brotherly affection which so eminently prevailed amongst our predecessors, and which indeed has, in every age, been the distinguishing characteristick of the truly devoted followers of the Blessed Redeemer. This alone can preserve us from all strife, rendings and divisions; while the indulgence of a contrary disposition must, as it always has done, lead in the first instance, to the loss of our own individual peace and happiness, and end in the sore distress and injury of the Body." Pp. 108,109.

MINUTES of 1828.

At first session, 10th Month 27th. Philip Thomas, Clerk, Edward Stabler, Assistant.

"Several communications addressed to this meeting were produced, the import of which not being known, they were referred for examination to the Representatives, who were desired to report to a future sitting such as they deem suitable to be read in this Meeting." P. 116.

"A communication was received from the Representatives, which being read, after a time of consideration, was referred for further deliberation to a future sitting." P. 122.

Tenth Mo. 29th: Report of Representatives--To the Yearly Meeting now sitting: "The Representatives inform that they have had a further conference since their former Report and upon consideration they unite in the judgment that under all circumstances it will be best to read in the Meeting without reserve all the Epistles and communications which have been submitted for their examination." Thomas P. Stabler. P. 122.

"Epistles from several of the Yearly Meetings on this Continent were received and read. The Meeting was introduced into a feeling of deep distress under a view of the distracted situation of our once peaceful and highly favoured Society widely extended over this Continent as now exhibited in the Representations contained in some of these communications wherein many heavy and grievous accusations are made against a large body of our friends with whom this Meeting has long maintained the relations of brotherly kindness and is in full unity." Pp. 122,123.

A Committee was appointed to prepare answers to the Epistles received from our brethren of Philadelphia, New York and Indiana. P. 123.