

**AN ADDRESS OF THE
YEARLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS HELD
IN PHILADELPHIA**

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An Address of the Yearly Meeting of Friends Held in Philadelphia by Various

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TO ITS OWN MEMBERS, AND TO THE MEMBERS OF OTHER
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*At a Yearly Meeting held in Philadelphia, by adjournments
from the 20th of the 4th month to the 24th of the same,
inclusive, 1868.*

The Meeting for Sufferings, under a renewed religious concern for the welfare of the members of our Society, having prepared an Address to them, in which some of our long-established Christian doctrines and testimonies are reviewed, and counsel given on subjects connected with a consistent support of them, it was now read, and being deliberately considered, was fully united with and adopted, and the Clerk is directed to sign it on behalf of the Meeting.

JOSEPH SCATTERGOOD,
Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

ADDRESS.

IN considering the present condition of our beloved religious Society and the many changes taking place within it, we have been introduced into deep concern and solicitude, under the conviction that, in many respects, it is falling short of that spiritual standing and full exemplification of the doctrines and requirements of the gospel, which the blessed Head of the Church calls for at its hands, and for which it was once conspicuous.

Our hearts are saddened with the belief, that through unwillingness on the part of many of the members, to submit to the restraints and mortifications of the cross of Christ, and from the leavening influence of the love and spirit of the world, that clearness of vision which in time past was vouchsafed to us as a people, whereby the emptiness of an outside religion was plainly seen, has become dimmed, so that many are resting in a profession of truths, which, though sound and good in themselves, are not practically experienced by them. Many things have also crept in and found place in the Society, out of which our forefathers were led by the unerring and unchangeable Spirit of Truth, and against which, by the same Spirit, they were constrained to bear testimony.

This belief, and a sense of our own weakness and insufficiency, have led to searching of heart, and affectionate desires have been raised that not only among the members of this Yearly Meeting, but also among those composing our beloved society wherever scattered, there may be a true sight and sense of our shortcomings begotten, and a willingness manifested honestly and impartially to examine the principles and measures which are obtaining sanction among us, and the end to which they are tending. That so, under the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit—which will not be withheld if humbly and sincerely sought—we, as a united company of believers, may be enabled to promote and commend the doctrines and practices that have ever characterized Friends, and thus be brought to occupy that position in the militant Church, which He who first gathered the Society designed for us.

Under a lively feeling of Christian love we would tenderly exhort the members of this Yearly Meeting, in the language of the Apostle, “to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called;” beseeching them to remember there are but two paths pointed out by the Saviour of men as set before us, with the power of choice which to pursue. “Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” To go in at the strait gate and continue in the narrow way, there must be a renunciation of self, and a childlike dependence on the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit manifested in the heart; because the propensities of the natural man, his pride and unsanctified intellectual wisdom, combined with the temptations of his unwearied enemy, strongly urge and entice him to