MINUTES

—OF—

IOWA YEARLY MEETING

—OF—

FRIENDS.

1879.

AT IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, held at Oskaloosa, commencing 9th month, 10th, 1879.

1. By reports received from the Quarterly Meetings, it appears the following representatives to this meeting have been appointed. They are present except twelve:

Salem.

Jonathan Ozbun, David Coulson, Milton J. Hampton, Jonathan Votaw, John M. Corsbie, Dorson Trueblood.

Pleasant Plain.

Thomas Charles, John Frazier, Ezra W. Hinshaw, Moses Mendenhall, Benjamin C. Andrews.

Springdale.

John Pearson, Clarkson T. Penrose, Dilworth Schooley, Gilbert P. Smith, James P. Pinkham, Charles L. Peasley.

Bangor.

William O. Thompson, Henry Pemberton, Hiram Hammond, Isom P. Wooton.

Ackworth.

Henry C. Lewis, John Michener, Elwood Stanley, Moses Stanley, Jacob Moon.

Oskaloosa.

Cyrus Beede, Jeptha W. Morgan, William Pickerell, William P. Sopher, Henry Cope, Isaiah Pickerell.

Winneshiek.

Moses Gove, Nicholas Battey, George E. Dillingham, William Cook.

Lynn Grove.

Jesse B. Jessup, Samuel Beals, Borden C. White, Isaac McCollum, Hiram Ellis.

Bear Creek.

Jesse W. Kenworthy, Alistus W. Lewis, James Hadley, B. B. Hiatt, William P. Smith.

Honey Creek.

Elias Jessup, Seneca Wildman, John S. Bond, Robert S. Titus.

Minneapolis.

William Pettit, Alfred H. Lindley, Richard D. Beede, Nathan H. Knowles, Silas Moffit, Josiah Hall.

List of Caretakers.

2. The following (who are present except 16) are the caretakers appointed by the Quarterly Meetings:

Nixon Lamb, David Crew, Stephen Moshier, John M. Hockett, Abel Trueblood, Joseph Ozbun, Wm. Hillerman, Smith James, P. Honeycutt, David Fry, Isaac N. Miles, Lindsey Jessup, Wm. Joseph Unthank, Samuel Newton, Wm. Marshall, Marion George, Dillingham, Richard H. Battey, Levan, Thomas Cook, George E. Terrell, John D. Yocum, John R. Hoover, Willets, Matthew Ter- Paxon, Elisha C. Jones, Abel Roberts, Noah N. Rich, Joel C. P. Hiatt, Clark Roberts, Chas. Farquhar, Linnæus Hadley, John Roberts.

3. Minutes have been read for Friends in attendance with us from other Yearly Meetings as follows:

George J. Bartlett, a minister, Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Margaret Ballinger, Julia Ann McCool, Sarah P. Morrison, Sarah C. Coate, Lindley M. Jackson, ministers, Indiana Yearly meeting.

Libbie J. Bogue, companion to Margaret Ballinger.

Willis Kenworthy, a minister, accompanied by his wife, Naomi Kenworthy; Jefferson Jackson, a minister; Elizabeth H. Mendenhall, an elder, Western Yearly Meeting.

Catherine Hammer, Elwood Haworth, Albert A. Bailey, ministers, Kansas Yearly Meeting.

Eliza S. Thompson, companion to Catherine Hammer.

A welcome has been extended to these Friends, and to others without minutes, in attendance with us.

4. The London General Epistle of this year has been read with great satisfaction, and a re-print of 3000 copies ordered for our members. The same number of copies of the minutes of this meeting is directed to be printed and forwarded to the Quarterly Meetings in their respective proportions. To attend to this service we appoint as a

Printing Committee.

Charles E. Tebbetts, Jeptha W. Morgan, Cyrus Beede, John H. Green, and Clarkson T. Penrose.

5. Acceptable epistles have been received and read from our brethren of London, Ireland, New England, New York, Baltimore, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Western, Canada, and Kansas Yearly Meetings; and one from friends in Norway of last year.

It is concluded to send this year one epistle in reply to all the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, the preparation of which is entrusted to the following

Committee on Correspondence.

6. David Hunt, Lawrie Tatum, A. W. Lewis, Wm. F. Harvey, A. H. Lindley, Benjamin Trueblood, Elisha Smith, Israel Negus, Thomas Charles, Isom P. Wooton, Wm. Pettit, C. T. Penrose, Elwood Stanley, Levi Roberts, Joseph Arnold, Elkanah S. Craven, B. C. Andrews, Hermon D. Williams, John Coffin and Joel Bean.

7. The following committees have also been appointed:

Committee on Returning Minutes.

David Hunt, Jesse W. Kenworthy, J. W. Morgan, Dilworth Schooley, John M. Corsbie, Caleb Baldwin, Elias Jessup, Aaron Symons, David Jones, Tristram Coggshell, Reuben H. Hartley.

Messengers.

Benjamin C. Andrews, Thomas Terrell.

8. It will be expected of the representatives, in accordance with discipline, and regulations adopted in former years,

1st. To propose to next sitting a clerk and two assistants for the ensuing year.

2d. To settle with the treasurer, propose a sum to be raised for the use of the meeting, and to nominate a treasurer.

3d. To name an auditing committee and to adjust the apportionment.

9. Adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FIFTH DAY MORNING, 9th Mo., 11th.

Met according to adjournment.

10. Cyrus Beede, on behalf of the representatives, proposed Barclay Hinchman for clerk, and Elias Jessup and Isaac T. Gibson for assistants. They were united with and appointed accordingly.

11. Three representatives were in attendance to-day who were not present yesterday.

12. The queries have been read and answers thereto from our quarterly meetings, of which the following is a

Summary.

1. Our regular established meetings have been kept up, with some exceptions, and several omissions in four quarters. Two reports mention a want of punctuality to the hour, and nearly all notice unbecoming behavior in meetings.

2. Tale-bearing and detraction are discouraged, but not wholly avoided. Seven quarters report a lack of christian love; the others say, Friends are mostly preserved in christian love.

3. Friends appear to be generally concerned to train their children and those under their care, in the knowledge of the precepts and the promises of the gospel. The reports note deficiency in guarding effectually against evil company, and corrupt conversation; and nearly all in teaching that conforming to the vain fashions and customs of the world are inconsistent with the christian religion.

4. A lack of promptness in dealing with transgressors is acknowledged by ten of the yearly meetings.

5. A few exceptions to the proper observance of the first day of the week in most of the quarters, by engaging in unnecessary manual labor, or secular business.

6. The poor are assisted as inquired after.

7. A few instances of a breach of our testimony against war; a few of judicial swearing; eight of the unnecessary use of intoxicating liquors; and one of the traffic therein.

8. Every family appears to be furnished with a copy of the holy scriptures. They are read daily in families as below: Salem quarter, 64 families; Pleasant Plain, 66; Springdale, 169; Bangor, 105; Ackworth, 53; Oskaloosa, 118; Winneshiek, 56; Lynn Grove, 79; Bear Creek, 123; Honey Creek, 103; Minneapolis, 57.

NEW MEETINGS SETTLED.

9. A meeting for worship and preparative, named Carlton, five miles north-east of Le Grand, in Bangor quarter. A preparative and meeting for worship in Des Moines in Ackworth quarter. A meeting for worship and preparative, name North River, in Adair county, three miles south-west of Stewart, in Bear Creek quarter.

MEETINGS DISCONTINUED.

Oak Ridge in Salem quarter. A meeting for worship and preparative in Honey Creek quarter.

MINISTERS RECORDED AND NUMBER OF MINISTERS.

Salem, none, ministers 9: Pleasant Plain, none, ministers 1; Springdale, none, ministers 17; Bangor, none, ministers, 17; Ackworth, Phebe Stanley of Smyrna, and Amy L. Trueblood of Waveland, ministers 16; Oskaloosa, none, ministers, 19; Winneshiek, Sarah E. Edmonds and Richard Satterly, ministers, 11; Lynn Grove, Elisha H. Janeway, ministers, 8; Bear Creek, Uriah Compton, and Reuben H. Hartley, ministers, 13; Honey Creek, Elijah C. Green, and William F. Harvey, ministers, 19; Minneapolis, none, ministers, 3. Whole number, 133.

11. **Statistics of Membership.**

Quarters.	Families	Parts of Families	Males	Females	Whole No.	Increase. By request	Increase. By birth	Increase. Certificates	Decrease. Dis'o'nmt's	Decrease. Resignation	Decrease. Death	Decrease. Removed
Salem	99	73	317	315	632	13	15	....	7	13	6	20
Pleasant Plain	119	75	325	341	666	...	15	4	2	6	11	46
Spingdale	198	156	554	623	1177	10	16	3	3	12	13	16
Bangor	208	107	568	586	1154	50	31	10	4	5	8	21
Ackworth	121	56	346	387	733	25	11	13		2	9	57
Oskaloosa	208	67	556	566	1122	13	19	15	19	3	14	29
Winneshiek	81	70	262	260	522	27	13	1		9	8	
Lynn Grove	117	60	336	224	560	2	13	3	1		6	8
Bear Creek	152	59	470	440	910	49	27	8	1	7	9	16
Honey Creek	193	108	560	547	1107	41	14	38		1	8	10
Minneapolis	55	48	136	167	303	1	4	5	1	3		3
Total	1151	879	4430	4456	8886	231	178	100	38	61	92	226

Answer 12.

Quarters.	No. Using Tobacco. Males.	No. Using Tobacco. Females.	Number who Sell it.	No. who Cultivate or Manufacture
Salem	59	11	0	0
Pleasant Plain	33	11	2	0
Springdale	62	7	10	0
Bangor	54	4	5	0
Ackworth	52	20	0	0
Oskaloosa	77	5	1	0
Winneshiek	22	7	2	1
Lynn Grove	45	8	1	4
Bear Creek	43	5	0	1
Honey Creek	61	12	3	1
Minneapolis	34	8	0	0
Total	541	98	24	7

CHANGES OF CORRESPONDENTS.

Dorson Trueblood in place of Matthew Trueblood, Cedar Creek monthly meeting; Salem quarterly. Address, Salem, Henry county, Iowa.

The following changes have been made in the time and place of holding meetings: Le Grand monthly meeting, for 9th month of each year, to 7th day following the 2d 1st day in that month. The time of holding Honey Creek quarterly meeting at Iowa Falls is changed from the 7th to the 10th month of each year. Smyrna monthly meeting, Ackworth quarter, is held at 10 o'clock instead of 11 as heretofore.

Minute on the State of Society.

The State of Society having been brought before us by the reading of the answers to the queries, interesting remarks were made by various friends. We were particularly exhorted to avoid tale-bearing and detraction. No one if inquired of would at all approve of them, but would give a decided sentiment against them, and yet many indulge therein partly from the force of habit. The grace of God in the heart, and walking in obedience to His will, are the best remedies for the breaking up of bad habits. As parents indulge in tale-bearing and detraction before their children, an influence is exerted on their characters which can but be prejudicial to their best welfare. This habit which the grace of God would remove has been the means of leanness to their own souls, and fathers have wondered why they have not attained to greater spiritual growth, when it may be that some of these little things that have become habits, have been the means of keeping up this leanness.

We were queried with as to what it is to deal with offenders seasonably. Is it to wait until they have committed some crime, have done something to bring disgrace upon themselves and the society of which they are members, and then to deal with them? Is it not rather to labor with them in a spirit of love whensoever there is reason to suppose they are in danger of falling, endeavoring to strengthen them to resist the beginning of evil, instead of waiting until they shall fall into open transgression.

The taking of legal oaths, or judicial swearing, was characterized as a flagrant, manifest, and altogether unnecessary breach of the commandments of our Lord and Savior. The law gives us our choice either to swear or affirm, and where friends so violate our discipline as to take an oath, prompt care should be extended. Our truthfulness should be such that neither oath nor affirmation should be required to attest it. May Christains so raise the gospel standard of truth that their yea shall be yea, and their nay, nay, in accordance with the Savior's commandment.

It was suggested that the love of God in the heart would be an effectual remedy for a want of Christian love toward each other, for tale-bearing, and also for Sabbath breaking. It is cause of mourning that any of our members should violate the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Knowing that every blessing that we receive, both spiritual and temporal, is bestowed upon us by the God and Father of all our sure mercies, recognizing our accountability to Him, and remembering that He can blast as well as bless, can we expect His blessing to rest upon us while engaged in the violation of any of his commandments? Let us remember that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth; and that where our treasure is there will our hearts be also.

The Christian church has two general duties to perform: 1st. To disciple all nations; to bring them not only to the church, but to Christ. 2d. To teach them all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded.

The object of answering the queries is not merely that our deficiencies may be brought to view, but that these deficiencies may as far as practicable be removed.

13. A satisfactory report was received from our printing committee.

14. By the report from our Quarters on Pastoral care it appears that labor has been extended in Pleasant Plain and Springdale Quarterly meetings; that in Bangor seventy-four families have been visited; in Ackworth about half of their members; in Oskaloosa, one hundred and two families; in Winneshiek, forty-five families; in Bear Creek nearly all of their families visited, and a number of meetings held; in Minneapolis, thirty families visited, and meetings held under the care of the committee.

15. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

SIXTH DAY MORNING, 9th Mo., 12th.

The meeting convened according to adjournment.

16. The committee on Indian Affairs report as follows: They are continued, and the meeting unites in raising our proportion of $200 as proposed. Our treasurer is authorized to pay the amount appropriated last year.

Report of Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Osage Agency has been assigned by the Associated Executive Committee on Indian Affairs to Iowa Yearly Meeting. The agent, Laban J. Miles, appears to be an efficient officer in his business affairs, as well as an earnest Christian, desiring to do what he can to advance the religious work among the Indians of that agency.

Benjamin and Elizabeth B. Miles have charge of the Osage school. During the past year it has averaged one hundred and forty scholars, and they had ten employes to assist them in the school. The government furnishes the provisions and material for clothing, which has to be made, washed and kept in repair by the school force, as well as the cooking for that large number. The children could render them but little help. It is the aim, however, to teach the children to do all kinds of work necessary for carrying on such an institution.

The religious work of the school is carefully attended to, in various ways, which will also apply to the Kaw school, of sixty-five scholars, in charge of Mahlon Stubbs.

There are many of the half breeds and some of the full bloods in this agency who appear anxious to know more about Christ and His religion. There is little hope of civilization being of much benefit to the Indians without the Christian religion. Therefore it should be the prominent feature in the work among the aborigines. A missionary among the Osages, as well as at some other points, would probably be of vast benefit to them. The Associated Executive Committee has thought of obtaining, if practicable, three or four missionaries to reside among the Indians, if sustained in this action by the various Yearly Meetings.

We recommend that the Yearly Meeting pay its quota of $2000.00 as recommended by said committee. On behalf of the committee,

LAWRIE TATUM.

17. An interesting report was read in regard to Whittier College, in Salem Quarter; also one in regard to Pleasant Plain Academy.

Report of Whittier College.

The attendance for the last year has been one hundred and thirty-four, and the progress of the majority has been considered satisfactory, both morally and mentally. Though tuition and other receipts did not suffice to repay our expenses, as could hardly be expected, yet by the kindness of friends the Institution is able to meet all demands, something of which few institutions of higher learning, can at the present hard times enjoy. This, thanks to the kindness of an all-wise Providence, and the energy of the members of the Board.

We are looking toward a better future of our Institution and although many of its Alumni are already doing good work in teaching and other associations of life we confidently expect to increase our already large sphere of usefulness, we pray that many may be directed to Whittier College that they may enjoy its advantages. Religious meetings for the moral advancement of the students are regularly sustained by them, and are liberally attended, even by those who do not already belong to some denomination, and many times the voice of praise is heard from those who in these meetings first learned that Christ was their Savior. Often it has been said by our best citizens that the good moral tone of our community is largely due to the influence of Whittier College. The Board have secured for the Faculty the following teachers: J. W. Coltrain, A. B., President, a graduate of Trinity College; C. F. Wahrer, M. S., and Eliza Bond, M. S., both graduates of Whittier College, and other necessary instructors in the common branches are secured.

JOHN H. PICKERING,
President of the Board.

LEVI GREGORY, Sec.
DAVID COULSON, Cor. Sec. } Salem, Iowa.

Report of Pleasant Plain Academy.

8th Mo., 15th, 1879.

This institution has been in successful operation the past year, with Nathan Rosenberger as Principal, and Lizzie Green, Assistant; the winter term having an enrollment of fifty-seven students. The Board has secured the services of the same teachers for the next year. The fall term to open 9th mo., 8th, next.

JAMES HARVEY, President.

B. C. ANDREWS, Secretary.

Adjourned for one hour to meet in joint session in the lower room.

Met in joint session.

18. The concern of Eliza Watson, a member of Springdale Monthly Meeting, to visit in gospel love Denmark, parts of Norway and Sweden, the mission field of Friends in Syria, some places in Russia and France, and also to attend the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London, having been laid before this meeting, claimed its serious and prayerful consideration. Much sympathy and unity was felt and expressed with our dear friend in the extensive and arduous service to which she is called, and believing the call to be of the Lord, we liberate her to attend thereto, commending her to the care of Israel's unslumbering shepherd. We appoint Joel Bean, Hannah Bean, Mary H. Tebbetts and Mary Andrews to prepare a certificate for her.

19. The subject of the appointment of a Missionary Board, as proposed in a minute received from Ohio Yearly Meeting, having been considered by us, full unity was expressed therewith. Jonathan Votaw, Jane B. Votaw, Benjamin Andrews, Mary Andrews, Lawrie Tatum, Melvina Peasley, Isom P. Wooton, Sarah D. Pemberton, John M. Coffin, Amy Trueblood, Jeptha W. Morgan, Sarah H. Morgan, William Cook, Lydia C. Cook, Calvin Macy, Martha Cook, Alistus W. Lewis, Martha Williams, John S. Bond, Matilda Baldwin, Abby G. Mendenhall and William Pettit, are appointed to propose to a future sitting the names of five Friends to represent this meeting in said Board.

A communication addressed to this meeting upon the above subject from our friend Stanley Pumphrey, was read and directed to be printed with our minutes.

The funds for the use of said board are to be raised in accordance with the following proposition:

"That the work be sustained by voluntary contributions, and that a corresponding secretary be appointed in and by every Quarterly Meeting, to collect subscriptions, and act in other respects as the recognized agent of the board."

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends:

DEAR FRIENDS.—As it will not be my privilege to meet with you this year, I ask to be allowed to bring before you in writing a few thoughts in connection with the proposal you are receiving from Ohio Yearly Meeting, for the formation of an American Friends' Missionary Board. When I attended your Yearly Meeting in 1877 a somewhat similar proposal came from Indiana, which met a large amount of sympathy from your members, but in the precise shape in which it came you were not prepared to take action upon it. I believe the proposition now brought before you will be found to be free from the obligations which weighed most strongly against the one you considered two years ago.

Of the duty resting upon us to do all in our power to spread the knowledge of the gospel where it is either not known at all, or known but very imperfectly, I need not say much. We have our "marching orders": "Go teach all nations," is the parting message of our Lord. So faithfully was that command obeyed, so earnest was the missionary spirit of the early church, that Paul, when writing about thirty years after Pentecost was able to say that the message of the gospel had come into all the world and was bearing fruit. This missionary spirit continued to characterize the church to a greater or less extent for several centuries, but the "dark ages" came, and the decline of evangelizing zeal accompanied the increase of ecclesiastical corruptions.

It has not been sufficiently remarked that the early Friends, pioneers in so many good reforms, were pioneers in this. Within ten or fifteen years from the time Geo. Fox began to preach we find Quaker missionaries in almost all Christian, and in some Mohamedan countries, in every continent, and in the islands of the sea. How deep and general was the interest among Friends in this work is shown by the fact that the collection taken up at Scalehouse in 1658 for the work of the Lord beyond the sea amounted to a sum which could hardly be represented in our currency by less than fifteen thousand dollars. After Geo. Fox's own visit to America and the West India islands, in 1671, his interest deepened, and he writes most earnestly to Friends to preach the gospel to blacks, Indians, and all others, telling them that they must be found doing it, if they are true Christians.

It would not be fitting that I should occupy your time in tracing either the decline or the revival of the missionary spirit among friends. That it is reviving I rejoice to know. Our Friends' Foreign Mission Association in England was established in 1865. We are now raising over thirty thousand dollars annually to support the missions we are carrying on in India, Madagascar and in the mountains of Lebanon. During the same period American Friends have done a large amount of work among the colored people of the South, among the Indians of the Central Superintendency, in Mexico, and in Syria; and I may also instance the work of Dr. Gardner among the mountaineers of Tennessee as being of the true missionary type. All these missions want sustaining and extending, and much more is needing to be done. The work is of that importance that it calls for the united strength of all the Yearly Meetings on the continent, and I am convinced that the time has come for all to undertake it. The Ohio proposal may, perhaps, be found to require some modification and its details will need filling up when the representatives from the different Yearly Meetings come together; but it is a safe basis to start upon, and the larger the number of Yearly Meetings that join at the outset, the more likely will it be that a plan will be agreed upon satisfactory to the whole.

When the secretary of the London Friends' Mission Association wrote to this country a few months ago, suggesting the formation of a Missionary Board for all the Yearly Meetings of America, he pointed out, that at present, in consequence of there being no such organization to which they can apply, your members are applying to us in England, and he showed conclusively that it would be better, both for them and for you, that your own churches should have the privilege of aiding them. This, though one of the most important, is far from being the only reason, for the formation of such a board. I have heard Friends in different Yearly Meetings when suffering from a temporary, and perhaps not altogether general financial depression, advocate the relinquishment of important missionary work; and I have seen the anxiety and embarassment of workers, as appropriations, already too small, were cut down to a scale inconsistent with maintainance of efficiency. Every worker should be able to feel that he has the whole of the Society of Friends at his back, and every member of the Society of Friends should feel that he has an interest in every worker. A board that has the oversight of many missions gains experience broader, and therefore more valuable, than that of those that have only the oversight of one.

The broad basis of the Ohio proposition strikes me very favorably. I should not be at all surprised if for some time the board finds the principal field for its operations within the limits of the United States; and if a part of its efforts are directed to districts where there is a special opening for Friends to work and to establish meetings, as I believe to now be the case in Tennessee, North Carolina and Kansas, it would seem to me a legitimate and wise application of some of the means, energy, and spiritual force, that I hope to see brought into the field. Another feature that I like in the proposal is that it puts the work on the voluntary system. We ought not to wish to take money for such a purpose except when given cheerfully, and as unto the Lord. We need to learn more of the privilege of giving to His cause. Carrying out the