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Tuckett, Philip Debell.

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T H E
E P I S T L E
F R O M T H E
Y E A R L Y - M E E T I N G,
H E L D I N
L O N D O N,

By Adjournments, from the 16th to the 24th of the
Fifth Month, 1791, inclusive,

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends in
G R E A T - B R I T A I N, I R E L A N D, and elsewhere.

DEAR FRIENDS,

IN that love, which is the bond of religious fellowship, we affectionately salute you who profess the blessed truth, wherever scattered in your several allotments, and wish you health and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Brethren, we write not to you, as matter of form, but as having our minds impressed with a renewed sense of the state of the church.

WE have in humble gratitude to commemorate the continued kindness of Divine Providence, in enabling us once more to meet together, and to hold our annual assembly; which hath been large, and in a good degree owned by the gracious regard of Him, without whom no religious act can be acceptably performed. Under a lively sense of the necessity of waiting for this holy help, and, we trust, under some experience of it, the affairs of our religious society have been transacted at this time.

THE

THE accounts of sufferings brought in this year, principally for tithes, and those called church-rates, in Great-Britain, amount to five thousand two hundred and eighty-four pounds, and in Ireland, to one thousand four hundred and ninety-one pounds. We greatly desire that all professing with us may see the nature and ground of our testimony for the free gospel of Christ, and against the great evil of endeavouring to make gain thereof; that so, being closely and feelingly united in principle and practice, all may be of the same mind, all speak the same thing.

WE have received at this time accounts of the state of our religious society in this nation, and Ireland; and also epistles from New-England, New-York, Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia; whereby we are informed of the prevalence of love throughout the society, and that (notwithstanding the sorrowful declension of many professing with us) divers, from time to time, join it by conviction.

WE find it our concern at this time to remind you, dear friends, that though a sound form be requisite, it is essentially necessary that we should wait for a divine power to quicken and animate it. Our forefathers turned away from such as had a form of godliness, but who denied the power thereof. Let not us then, their successors in the same faith, settle down in formality, or rest content with any thing short of feeling the life and power of truth in our religious movements.

As a Christian society, we have found it our duty to promote the abolition of the Slave-trade; and, although the Legislature of this country hath not yet done away this evil, it still remains our steady concern to discourage so iniquitous a traffic; and, at the present affecting juncture, we think it particularly incumbent on every individual deeply to ponder his own particular share in the testimony, which we have so long believed it to be our duty to bear, and to be careful not to stifle the smallest conviction of duty; more especially, that the prospect of gain may not lead any to countenance a trade, of which the immediate and unavoidable consequence is, the miseries of men.

INASMUCH as we are sensible, that the Lord Almighty is still graciously caring for, and visiting his church; and that his forming, qualifying hand, is preparing, and leading forth, many of the rising generation into the service of the day; it is the earnest travail of our spirits, that these may be preserved in watchfulness, fidelity and obedience. It is not enough, that the eye hath been once opened, to see the beauty and excellence which are in the Truth: It is not enough, to have walked well for a time, or even to have been rightly engaged in some religious services;—that eye may again close, and that capacity for service may decay. There is a necessity to follow on

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to know the Lord, and to experience the renewing of a right spirit, in order to be preserved in a state of safety, and of ability to labour in the cause of Christ. And may those who are advanced in years, and in religious growth, not trust to their former experiences of good, and to the sense and understanding which they have had in spiritual things; but may they diligently wait for the arising of that power in their hearts, which reneweth the mind, and preserveth in a freshness and liveness of spirit, even in old age; that so they may have their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. All are called to purity and holiness; without which, it is said, "No man shall see the Lord." Heb. xii. 14.

LET us, beloved friends, in the strength of Gospel-love, entreat all, both old and young, to walk as becometh our high and holy profession; so that our Christian simplicity of manners, uprightness of conduct, and universal charity, may answer the just witness in all; and that serious persons of other professions, who are thoughtful about a future state, being induced, by observing our lives and conversation, to enquire into our principles, may, through the Divine blessing on their honest and impartial search, be brought to the experience and acknowledgment of the Truth, as it is in Jesus.

BE not discouraged, by the smallness of numbers in any place, from attending with diligence your week-day meetings. We need to have our spiritual strength often renewed, and it was esteemed by our forefathers and elders in the truth, to be a profitable as well as necessary duty. When any then are negligent in this part of our testimony, let it be the care of those who remain livingly sensible of the benefit of these opportunities, to stir up such to their duty; and let the deficient seriously consider, whether, by a neglect of this part of our religious duty, they are not in danger of gradually declining from a life of faith and holiness, and falling into evils which at present they may hold in abhorrence.

FINALLY, brethren, in the fresh feeling of that uniting love, which is the mark of discipleship; that universal love which reaches over sea and land, and anxiously desires the welfare and happiness of the whole mass of mankind; in that love, and in the words of the apostle, "We commend you to God, and to the word of his Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts xx. 32.

Signed in and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, by

PHILIP DEBELL TUCKETT,

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

London 1791

MS. A. 10. 1. 1. 1.

PHILIP D. TACKETT

Epistle yearly
Heating London
1791