



From our General Spring Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held in Philadelphia, for Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, by Adjournments, from the 21st of the Third-month to the 24th of the same, inclusive, 1778
[Philadelphia]: (1778)

\$8000

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TO OUR FRIENDS and BRETHERN in Religious Profession.

DEAR FRIENDS,

AS we have, through Divine Favour, been permitted once more to meet together at the usual Season, our Minds have been dipped into a Sense of the Difficulties and Discouragements to which many are subjected in this time of outward Commotion; and a solemn Sympathy has been felt with and towards our Brethren and Sisters in their various Habitations; with desires that the true Mourners in Zion may be strengthened and encouraged, in these perilous Times, steadily to look unto and wait for Support and Succour from the Captain of our Salvation, even Jesus Christ, who is the Author and Finisher of the Saints Faith, the sure Rock and Foundation of all the Righteous Generation; that by a deep Indwelling with him, and a steady Attention to his Holy Counsel in the silence of all Flesh, we may witness his Power to bear rule in us, which is over all, and brings into subjection the Earthly Part, which is the changeable Part, and is full or empty, joyful or sorrowful, as Things go well or ill in this World. And as we become subject to his pure Government in us, we shall know him to keep us in his Holy Fear; which is not only Wisdom, but a Fountain of Life, that preserves from the Snares of Death.

Thus while Confusion is permitted to spread in the Earth, and amongst the Earthly-minded, those who become true Christians, by knowing his Kingdom to come and his will to be done in them, will be kept out of all Bittles and Noises, and Tumults and Parties, and be enabled to exalt the Pure Standard of the Prince of Peace, in and through an innocent Life and Conversation, seeking the Good of all Men.

And Dearly beloved FRIENDS,

We feel our Minds engaged to exhort and beseech, that all who have known the Operation and Virtue of Truth on their Minds, may join in a deep enquiry into the Causes why the present prevailing Calamities have been suffered to fall so heavy amongst us in this Land. Let a solemn Search pass through every Mind; and we trust as this comes to be the Case, each individual may be enabled to see and know their own Standing. Those of the foremost Rank in each Meeting will be instructed to lead the Way safely towards a real Reformation, and strengthened to unite in an Invitation to others, which will be moving and available, "Follow us as we follow Christ." Thus the Flock of our Heavenly Father, in whatever remote or difficult Situation, will be remembered and taken care of; yea, the Pastors will be enabled to feed the Flock of God which is among them, and preserved from scattering, or offering any thing as Food which is not wholesome and suitable. The Lambs will be nourished and brought forward, the feeble minded comforted, the weak strengthened, and those who are unruly faithfully warned.

A scarce, revolutionary war era Quaker letter, urging fellow Quakers to remain steadfast in their faith “in these perilous Times” and to uphold their position of neutrality during the war.

Folio (8.5" x 13"). Untrimmed. pp. [1]-2. Printed in letterpress on page 2: “Signed in and on Behalf of our said Meeting, by Nicholas Waln, Clerk.” Modest toning, a few scattered small tears to the left and right edges, very good. The letter outlines the position of neutrality during the War and the importance of becoming: “subject to [Christ’s] pure Government in us ... / Thus while Confusion is permitted to spread in the Earth, and amongst the Earthly-minded, those who become true Christians, by knowing his Kingdom ... will be kept out of all Bustles and Noise, and Tumults and Parties, and be enabled to exalt the Pure Standard of the Prince of Peace ...” A very good, untrimmed copy.

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