

committee met the second time ; and finding an inclination to sit with them, was, with some others, admitted ; and friends had a weighty conference on the subject : and soon after their next quarterly-meeting, I heard that the case was coming to our yearly-meeting ; which brought a weighty exercise upon me, and under a sense of my own infirmities, and the great danger I felt of turning aside from perfect purity, my mind was often drawn to retire alone, and put up my prayers to the Lord, that he would be graciously pleased to strengthen me ; that setting aside all views of self-interest and the friendship of this world, I might stand fully resigned to his holy will.

In this yearly-meeting, several weighty matters were considered ; and toward the last, that in relation to dealing with persons who purchase slaves. During the several sittings of the said meeting, my mind was frequently covered with inward prayer ; and I could say with David, “ that tears were my meat “ day and night.” The case of slave-keeping lay heavy upon me ; nor did I find any engagement to speak directly to any other matter before the meeting. Now when this case was opened, several faithful friends spake weightily thereto, with which I was comforted ; and feeling a concern to cast in my mite, I said, in substance, as follows :

“ In the difficulties attending us in this life, nothing is more precious than the mind of truth inwardly manifested ; and it is my earnest