

ness of understanding; and that pleading for it in our meetings, set apart for the Lord's work, was not right: and in the heat of zeal, I once made reply to what an antient friend said, which when I sat down, I saw that my words were not enough seasoned with charity; and after this, I spake no more on the subject. At length a minute was made; a copy of which was agreed to be sent to their several quarterly-meetings, inciting friends to labour to discourage the practice amongst all professing with us.

Some time after this minute was made, I remaining uneasy with the manner of my speaking to the antient friend, could not see my way clear to conceal my uneasiness, but was concerned that I might say nothing to weaken the cause in which I had laboured; and then, after some close exercise and hearty repentance, for that I had not attended closely to the safe guide, I stood up, and reciting the passage, acquainted friends, that tho' I dare not go from what I had said as to the matter, yet I was uneasy with the manner of my speaking, as believing milder language would have been better. As this was uttered in some degree of creaturely abasement, it appeared to have a good favor amongst us, after a warm debate.

The yearly-meeting being now over, there yet remained on my mind a secret, though heavy, exercise in regard to some leading active members about Newport, being in the practice of slave-keeping. This I mentioned
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