142 THE LIFE AND TRAVELS

returned home, got a hat of the natural colour of the furr.

In attending meetings, this fingularity was a trial upon me, and more especially at this time, white hats being used by some who were fond of following the changeable modes of dress; and as some friends, who knew not on what motives I wore it, carried shy of me, I selt my way for a time shut up in the exercise of the ministry: and in this condition, my mind being turned toward my heavenly Father, with servent cries that I might be preserved to walk before him in the meekness of wisdom, my heart was often tender in meetings; and I selt an inward consolation, which to me was very precious under those difficulties.

I had several dyed garments fit for use, which I believed it best to wear, till I had occasion of new ones: and fome friends were apprehenfive, that my wearing fuch a hat favoured of an affected fingularity: and fuch who spake with me in a friendly way, I generally informed in a few words, that I believed my wearing it, was not in my own will. I had, at times, been fenfible, that a superficial friendship had been dangerous to me; and many friends being now uneafy with me. I had an inclination to acquaint fome with the manner of my being led into these things; yet, upon a deeper thought, I was for a time most easy to omit it, believing the present dispensation was profitable; and trusting, that