

I have felt great distress of mind, since I came on this island, on account of the members of our society being mixed with the world in various sorts of business and traffick, carried on in impure channels. Great is the trade to Africa for slaves! and in loading these ships, abundance of people are employed in the factories; amongst whom are many of our society. Friends, in early times, refused, on a religious principle, to make or trade in superfluities; of which, we have many large testimonies on record: but for want of faithfulness, some gave way; even some, whose examples were of note in our society; and from thence others took more liberty. Members of our society worked in superfluities, and bought and sold them; and thus dimness of sight came over many: at length, friends got into the use of some superfluities in dress, and in the furniture of their houses; and this hath spread from less to more, till superfluity of some kinds is common amongst us.

In this declining state, many look at the example one of another, and too much neglect the pure feeling of truth. Of late years, a deep exercise hath attended my mind, that friends may dig deep, may carefully cast forth the loose matter, and get down to the Rock, the sure foundation, and there hearken to that divine voice which gives a clear and certain sound; and I have felt in that which