

were of note in 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 doth not deceive, that if friends who have known the truth, keep in that tenderness of heart, where all views of outward gain are given up, and their trust is only on the Lord, he will graciously lead some to be patterns of deep self-denial, in things relating to trade, and handicraft labour; and that some who have plenty of the treasures of this world, will example in a plain frugal life, and pay wages to such whom they may hire, more liberally than is now customary in some places.

The prophet, speaking of the true church, said, "Thy people also shall be all righteous."

Of the depth of this divine work several have spoken.

John