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140 N. SIXTEENTH ST.,

PHILADELPHIA.

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They have an
advertisement
in the Friends
Intelligencer

Rufus M. Jones,
718 Arch St.

Philadelphia

Pa.

I fought water baptism in
Ohio when it cost ^{on} me
a tremendous battle at
^{on} the time. Clark was
baptized and I told
Barthlett that I

had taken ^{up} some questions which
~~he~~ he had ^{or} failed to notice

140 N. 16th St., Philadelphia.

11ms. 27, 1898.

Refus M. Jones,

My dear friend:

I suppose, by Isaac Sharpless's withdrawing from the nominating Committee on Overseers, alleging that "the Committee as constituted would not be likely to bring in many new or younger overseers"; and from other language when he and I met later, that the editorial remark entitled a "rare exception" had in view our recent monthly meeting at 12th St.

And as the word "ring" is there employed, and my own name has elsewhere been used as of those in the ring who wished to control the composition of things in the meeting, I must, ^{say} it is a ring of non-intercourse on such things. That is, I do not remember any one to have conferred with me in advance, or any with each other, concerning the

desirable appointees for any committee, or the attitude to be assumed in a monthly meeting. Overseers as a body do sometimes form an understanding on subjects in their line for a monthly meeting. But my acquaintances outside of that body do not seem to think it right for them to determine matters except as one's judgment is freshly led in meeting.

So far from acting politically, I myself named one to be on that committee to whom I was in the opposite "section" when serving with him on that committee when it last acted. Each of the others I believe acted on his individual judgment at the moment. I have never witnessed any collusion beforehand to control appointments or policies, either in the monthly or the Yearly meeting.

Thou hast been told that "It seemed desirable to a certain section

of the meeting to control the appointment of overseers." It was not made evident that there was a section aiming at control, till one of the section could resign because it was not likely to control.

I myself applied to members of the committee to keep my name out of reconsideration, though I knew this was opening a door for doubtful admissions to the Overseers.

We view previous collusions as much of a heresy for appointments, as for sermons and orders of religious service in meetings. Can we say that this latter practice would be a "rare exception" in Yearly and other meetings? Have not thou and I been approached, I have in N.Y. & N. Eng. Yearly Mtgs, - on behalf of those in control of the agenda, for worship to prearrange place and time for our sermons? We make no distinction be-

Why time is too valuable to answer me. I merely want to remove an impression.

tween meetings for the business and
worship in regard to Christ being head
over "all things" in them. And so await-
ing his judgment for those who sit in
judgment, we could no more bring in
a pre-arranged appointment as individ-
als, than a prepared sermon.

Don't thou think every monthly
meeting on this continent has a con-
trolling party on some line of policy
or other, and that any monthly
meeting that did not would be "a
rare exception".

Everywhere we look abroad is not
business more and more prearranged
by the controlling element, and wor-
ship too? Why should 12th St mtg
where there was no prearrangement
or concerted move to manipulate, be the
first to be jumped on? For a century or
two there have been majorities in committees,
and there will be some more in the 20th.

I do not write for publication, and am not criticising
thee. — Sincerely thy friend, John C. Dillingham.