

Arrived the samaritan
Hope for philadelphia
4th 21st to sail
John Gillis

AN
EPISTLE
FROM THE
YEARLY-MEETING
OF
IRELAND.
1807.

Standford Martin

Sam Larnahan

1
left- Anonymous donor

1807

Friends, Society of - Dublin Yearly Meeting,

AN

E P I S T L E

FROM THE

YEARLY-MEETING,

HELD IN

D U B L I N

By ADJOURNMENTS, from the 27th of the Fourth Month, to the
2nd of the Fifth Month, 1807, inclusive;

To the *QUARTERLY MONTHLY* and other *MEETINGS* of *FRIENDS*
in *IRELAND*.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I N this our Annual Assembly, met together to transact the weighty affairs of the Church, we have been humbled under a sense of the gracious extendings of divine regard; and remembering our beloved absent friends, desires have been raised that they also might be strengthened and encouraged: altho' we are sensible that "except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the City, the watchman waketh but in vain," yet feeling a warmth of love, we trust it warrants this our salutation of endeared affection and tender solitude.

We have been enabled, through divine help, to attend with calm deliberation to the important affairs that have come before us; but have been sorrowfully affected with the accounts received, of the coolness and indifferency of many, manifested by their neglecting the attendance of our religious meetings, particularly on first day afternoon, and on other days of the week; for it is only as we are concerned to wait upon the source of all sufficient help, that we can expect to be favoured with ability to come up in the faithful discharge of our religious duties.

Our

JOHN GOUGH, PRINTER.

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Our predecessors acknowledged, and we trust some in this day can also acknowledge, that even their outward affairs have not suffered, by giving up the time set apart for the performance of solemn worship; but on the contrary, their minds have been thereby greatly strengthened, to come up in a faithful discharge of the duties they owe to their Creator, to their families and to all mankind; but if by giving a portion of time from the fettering attraction of outward things, and nobly sacrificing some of the profits of this world, we obtain such view of the riches of eternity, as will encreasingly enamour with its superior excellency, and experience our attachment to visible pursuits weakened; how great will be our peace! And the oftener we wait to have the inward eye illuminated, the more likely we shall be, to have such a prospect opened to our view: give then, dear friends, the solemn subject due weight, be persuaded to increase in diligence in this most reasonable service, and add thereto fervency of spirit, that the Lord's work may go forward and prosper in this first branch, and in beautiful order in the other important branches of our Christian testimony.

And let not the smallness of your numbers, nor the want of outward ministry discourage any of you; place not your dependence on man, but on the Lord alone, who never fails to help those who put their trust in him, and who hath graciously assured us, that "where two or three are gathered together in his name, there is he in the midst of them."

And, dear friends, as we daily stand in need of that wisdom which is profitable to direct, of whom should we ask it but of God, and how can we ask aright, but by that assistance of his good Spirit, which is to be obtained by waiting upon him in humility and fear, with minds abstracted from the encumbering concerns of life.

And on the subject of the 4th query, our minds have been painfully exercised, on account of the departure of many of the beloved youth, from that plainness and simplicity, which the Truth leads into: and we tenderly entreat such friends as are parents, and heads of families who have youth under their care; to be early and firm, in endeavouring to habituate them to a due subjection of their wills, and not to indulge them in worldly liberties: let not any false and specious reasoning prevail on you, to suppose that it will be sufficiently soon for their wills to be subjected, when they shall have attained maturity of judgment; then alas! the practice of self gratification may be so confirmed, that the way of self denial, may seem to them much narrower than it really is; and you will have contributed, to increase the difficulties of those, whom it was your indispensable duty to protect, to guard from danger, and to train up in the way they should go.

And

And beloved young friends, many of you we are persuaded, are no strangers to the voice of Wisdom, speaking in secret, and saying when you are disposed to turn to the right hand or to the left, "this is the way, walk ye in it:" many inconveniences, evils and occasions for sorrow of heart, may be avoided; by hearing and obeying the holy Witness in yourselves; it will sometimes gently arrest you in the prosecution of your purpose, when you may not distinctly see the cause; but it is wiser than we; proceeding from that pure intelligence, to which all things and all events are known. O! then mind its secret checks. And we are at this time particularly engaged, to caution you respecting the perusal of the publications, with which this age abounds; many of which, tho' specious, are very pernicious: in this way; dear children, keep your hearts with all diligence, lest ye enter into temptation.

Finally, friends, let us bear in mind, that "God hath called us to peace;" it is a leading principle of our holy profession; let us therefore, on all occasions, evince that we are what we profess to be, let us not suffer our minds to be drawn after that, in which it is not our duty to be engaged; but let us trust in that Arm of Divine Power, which hath been the refuge of the righteous in all ages, and in which alone we can find safety.

Signed in, and on behalf of said Meeting,

SAMUEL ELLY

Clerk to the Meeting this Year.