

## The Defection of John Scanfield.

Of the early days and convincement of John Scanfield<sup>1</sup> nothing is, at present, known. The earliest reference to him yet discovered intimates that he was among the 164 Friends, who, in 1659, offered to take the places, "body for body," of other Friends in gaol,<sup>2</sup> and Besse states<sup>3</sup> that he was imprisoned in London in 1660 and in Canterbury in 1670.

From a batch of ancient documents<sup>4</sup> respecting Scanfield, recently brought to light at Devonshire House, and here printed, it appears that he removed from Kent to London about the year 1679, and that at that time his conduct was far from satisfactory. The first document, dated London, 1686, appears to be the result of local inquiries, made at the request of James Lewis :—

London, y<sup>e</sup> 18 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>mo</sub>, 1686.

Memorand fro a meeting of a few faithfull frds.

As Concerning Jn<sup>o</sup> Scantfield, y<sup>e</sup> General Acco<sup>t</sup> that divers frds who knew him & his Conversation can give of him from this City, is that frds had not unity with his spirit, nor with his Conversa<sup>o</sup>n in divers respects ; but many were very Cautious of him, being lookd upon as having a great deal of Confidence & apt to be busy in too high matters. And frds there that know this widow that he is about, should manifest their Godly Care towards her for her preservation, y<sup>t</sup> she may not be ensnared nor hurt by him.

This should be Communicated to some frds of Devonshire house Quart<sup>r</sup> & Westminstr<sup>r</sup>, with Ja Lewis's Letter. Some women frds are able to give Acco<sup>t</sup> of him, who if free might do well to write to this widow concern'd, or to Jam Lewis to Com<sup>u</sup>nicate to her.

The intent of y<sup>e</sup> foregoing m<sup>d</sup> is That Those frds in London that knew y<sup>e</sup> sd Scantfield & what litle vnity frds had with him here, & here he was un[der]<sup>s</sup>[ad]monition & reproof & particularly about his tampering with seuerall [?wome]n,<sup>5</sup> should give some acco<sup>t</sup> thereof as in Westm<sup>r</sup> Quart<sup>r</sup>, & Jts supposed in Devonshire house Q<sup>r</sup>.

Jn y<sup>e</sup> mean while this is sent to frds concernd, to whom thou mayst communicate it.

signed in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> sd frds,

R. R. [RICHARD RICHARDSON.]

<sup>1</sup> Also written Scansfield, Scantfield, and in other ways.

<sup>2</sup> *Declaration of Present Sufferings*, 1659.

<sup>3</sup> *Collection of Sufferings*, i. 294 (not 194, as given in the index), 366.

<sup>4</sup> D. Portfolio 15. 127-137.

<sup>5</sup> Paper worn away here.

(endorsement)

To Char Bathurst, Rd Whitpain, W<sup>m</sup> Crouch, Theod Eccleston, W<sup>m</sup> Ingram, Jn<sup>o</sup> Pantling, Tho Minks, &c.

And to Gilb. Latye, Jn<sup>o</sup> Vaughton, W<sup>m</sup> Lothwaite, Josiah Ellis, W<sup>m</sup> Beech.

To be Comunicated also to some of our Antient women ffrds in both quart<sup>rs</sup>, Eliz Gibson & Eliz Vaughton, Mary Woolley, Grace Bathurst, Anne Whitehead, Bridget Austil, &c.

Apparently, Scanfield was travelling over the country, as a Minister, for some years before his manner of life became generally known, but the following letters illustrate the increasing uneasiness of Friends respecting him, towards the close of 1687 :—

Dear ffreind.

Thine J Recd, being glad to hear of thy being in health, but myself w<sup>th</sup> some frds here are much Concernd to hear of things not being well w<sup>th</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Scanfeild. Considering y<sup>e</sup> many meetings, w<sup>th</sup> good acceptance, he has had hereaway amongst frds in generall, & alsoe the strong invitations for his Company againe in all places where he has once been, J may say vnwelcomer news Could not well haue Come to my Eares. The trouble & sorrow of heart w<sup>ch</sup> some beares vpon this acc<sup>tt</sup>, is at this time very great, because of his being soe lately amongst vs, & had 2 meetings at our town, & by some of vs accompaned to a meeting at Gainsbro (w<sup>th</sup> another traueiling frd), where seaverall Came in, & such a Testimony he bore both with vs & there, & y<sup>t</sup> with such tendernes & zeall, as J must needs say was very acceptable to them y<sup>t</sup> heard him, Besides, his Testimony in all places (against dissenting frds, & y<sup>e</sup> spirit w<sup>ch</sup> led them into Seperation) being soe plaine & prevalent as in y<sup>e</sup> generall he is admired, alsoe his being Jmployed for y<sup>e</sup> King<sup>o</sup> makes him more noted, & people in many places very desirous to hear him, soe y<sup>t</sup> what ever frds knows, or has to lay to his Charge, wee Judge, it ought to be done w<sup>th</sup> as much Secrisy as possible (& y<sup>t</sup> to such frds as will keep it priuate & Can well bear it), for we are sencible wh[at] advantage truths Enemies will get thereby if they here of it, both dissenting [people] & ye worlds people.

However we Jntreat the to informe thy self what his failein[gs] or miscarriages has been, & the time when, either of o<sup>r</sup> dear frd, W<sup>m</sup> Bin[gley], or any other faithfull frd, yt has known him, & giue vs a naked acc<sup>tt</sup> of things the first oppertunity, for till then we shall remaine vnder exercise, not knowing w<sup>tt</sup> to think of it, but desires y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>tt</sup> is signified may be w<sup>th</sup> as much Caution as possible, for y<sup>e</sup> reasons aforesd. My soule is sorrowfull in y<sup>e</sup> Consideration of these things, y<sup>t</sup> the enemy should soe prevaile vpon many in divers Respects, in this o<sup>r</sup> day, y<sup>t</sup> if possible he might hinder y<sup>e</sup> prosperity & spreading abroad of y<sup>e</sup> ever blessed truth, but herein J am satisfied that tho some perticulars may be drawn aside by his many wiles & strong temptations, & many may be

<sup>6</sup> See note 8.

snared & taken therein, yet y<sup>e</sup> Lord has a faithfull people, y<sup>t</sup> are sincere hearted, whome he will bless & prosper, & Cause y<sup>e</sup> dewes from on high to often drop down vpon them, & the sweet streames of life to refresh them, whereby they will grow & be well thriueing plants in his vineyard, notwithstandinge all those things that has or may happen amongst vs.

My dear frd, it warmes my heart to Consider the loue & life w<sup>ch</sup> we haue often felt together, & y<sup>t</sup> is still Continued to the faithfull in all places, soe y<sup>t</sup> we haue Cause to say theres none like vnto him, the word of Eternall life Comes from him & is felt & witnessed by a remnant ; glory to god for Evermore, saith my soule.

Thou art desired to hasten y<sup>e</sup> answer to what is requested, with a particular acco<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> miscarriages of J. S., & y<sup>e</sup> time when, for he is to be at Brigg againe shortly,

I am thy faithfull frd in y<sup>e</sup> Truth,

Brigg, y<sup>e</sup> 29th of 8<sup>br</sup> 87.  
(addressed to)

JOS. RICHARDSON.

This

ffor David Crosby, shipp  
master at y<sup>e</sup> Redhouse  
by Porters Key,  
London. dd.

(endorsement)

London 1. 9<sup>m</sup> 87

ag<sup>t</sup> J. Scantfield

To be read at y<sup>e</sup> secound dayes morning meeting. David Crosbee desires friends to giue an Answer thereto To Joseph Richardson.

Read y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>  $\frac{9}{mo}$ . 1687.

London y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>  $\frac{9}{mo}$  : 1687.

Divers Antient ffriends being together and having Read thy Letter to David Crosbee about John Scanfield, and as many as formerly knew him were not Satisfied with him, and did not receive him as a ffriend, & y<sup>t</sup> his conversation was not savory, but if it be better w<sup>th</sup> him & if he be come into y<sup>t</sup> savory Life to minister it in Publick meetings, and into a Savory Life & Conversation, it is well, And ffriends will be glad to find it soe ; but since he has formerly been dealt w<sup>th</sup> by some ffriends, and then did not Satisfy them, it is Judged Strange y<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> first place, he should not have Cleared those things w<sup>ch</sup> noe doubt himself knows pticulars, and those y<sup>t</sup> dealt w<sup>th</sup> him.

However, ffriends are tender over the man, and y<sup>t</sup> he may be tenderly dealt with, and y<sup>t</sup> it's expected wherein he is Conscious to himself y<sup>t</sup> he may, in a few Lines under his hand, own wherein he was amiss, w<sup>ch</sup> will be to his owne Advantage and make way for him in the hearts of ffriends here. And ffriends are tender towards him, in not mentioning pticulars, hoping if it be soe w<sup>th</sup> him, as is Reported by thee, y<sup>t</sup> he will, of his owne Accord, Clear Truth, & ffriends, as to former things.

Thus far after it was written, and Read, & Approved, to be sent, w<sup>ch</sup>, if it Satisfie not, if he demand it, he may have pticulars, but in

omitting them at present he may take it in kindness to him, y<sup>t</sup> if soe be y<sup>t</sup> he will Condemn form<sup>r</sup> things under his hand, ffrriends will make noe ill use of it, and may prevent Spreading of pticulars further against him where they are not known; and it is not onely at London but alsoe at Canterbury and else where y<sup>t</sup> ffrriends have been much dissatisfied w<sup>th</sup> him. But ffrriends desires things y<sup>t</sup> are past may be Cleared, and then, being well in time to come, will be acceptable to all y<sup>t</sup> knows him and his form<sup>r</sup> Conversation, &c.

Thou art desired to take two good ffrriends w<sup>th</sup> thee, and shew him this, and know his mind in it, y<sup>t</sup> ffrriends here may understand it; for untill things be Cleared, he will have small Reception here, & alsoe ffrriends will be concerned to take Notice of his Travelling else where among ffrriends upon a publick Account.

DAVID CROSBY  
PATRICK LIVINGSTONE

Endorsed:—

1. 9<sup>m</sup> 87

Dav. Crosby & Pa Levingston  
letter about Scantfield.

About a month later, as the result of a letter from John Gratton, Devonshire House M.M. prepares a statement respecting Scanfield and gives an abstract of debts contracted by him, as follows:—

The 14<sup>th</sup>  $\frac{10}{mo}$  1687.

A Letter being now read from our dear freind, John Gratton, amongst severall freinds of the Monthly Meeting att Devonshire house; where in itt is desired, that an account may be given hence of our Knowledge of John Skannfeild, whoe for some time rezided in our quarter; wee have thought meet for the serviss of Truth, and freinds in the country, to certifie as followeth; that about the year 1679 hee coming to inhabitt in our quarter, wee found our selves weightily concerned, on Truths account, to make inquirie concerning him; accordinly some persons were appointed to write to freinds in Kent, where hee dwelt formerly; from whence wee received information, that he was there of a Scandeluss conversation, to such a degree as is not fitt to be named, to the great greife of faithfull freinds there, and hurt to Truth; and our sence of him then was that hee could not be owned as a person in the Truth; and the following fruits that he brought forth whilst amongst us, too much demonstrated him to be such, his conversation in generall being such as is not according to Truth; and particukarly wee think meet to mention as matters of fact, his borrowing money, and contracting depts, and not making satisfaction, as is certified by an Inclosed List, which with other Scandeluss matt<sup>rs</sup> that by other freinds hee is charged with, doth fully demonstrate him to haue been for a long time a very euill man.

Sighned on the behalf of the Monthly Meeting

Endorsement:—

A Cobby of these were sent to Jn<sup>o</sup> Gratton p W. Bingley



JOHN SCANFIELD.

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An Abstract of Debtes Contracted by John Scansfeild, not yet satisfied, as we are Informed by some of ye Credito<sup>rs</sup> themselves, which doe Apeare as followeth :—

	li.	s.	d.
Impmis hee went Away from his Howse Jn Peticocate lane by night in his Lanlord Thomas Recueses debt ffor Rent .. .. .	05	00	00
And for Goodes hee bought of him .. .. .	40	00	00
hee oweth to Anne Cross Widdow in old Gravell Lane in Peticocate lane 90li. vpon bond for howses hee bought of her, sinc hee sould ye Howses & Converted them into money & never Pd : the Widdow on peny but 10li. ..	90	00	00
To Willm: Vincent Aboute 4li. for repayering those Howses which hee had or haue A bill of	04	00	00
To John Hollis vpon bond .. .. .	10	00	00
To Richard Haggard A brewer vpon bond ..	03	00	00
To John ffox .. .. .	02	00	00
To John Hankes A Wine Cooper Aboute ..	02	00	00
To A Poore Milke woman .. .. .	00	07	00
To Sarah Tomson A Chanler sinc Sarah Lee ..	01	05	00
To George Day A Poore Cobler for mending off shooes	00	04	00
To James Gallaway Throster in Winford street vpwardes of 100li. .. .. .	100	00	00
To Paull Duckmanee Aboute .. .. .	100	00	00
To Katherine Abbott his servant maide for wages	02	05	00
To the same maide sinc shee went from him for Washing his Clothes which shee makes her Liuelyhood .. .. .	00	10	00
To Hannah Warde Widdow 10li. .. .. .	10	06	07
To on Cluterbuck A silkman Att the Plowgh in soaper Lane in Cheape side .. .. .	50	07	04
To John Baker Mercer 50li. which hee lent him oute of his pocket which hee had A bond for, with Aboute 6 or 7 Yeares Interest.. ..	50	00	00
	<u>471</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>11</u>

We whose names are subscribed are informed from the creditors themselves of the truth of what is above written. Wittness our hands ye 16. 10 mo. 1687 : 7

JOHN PANTLING	JOHN HICKES
THO: MINCKS	JOHN TOMKINS
JOSEPH NORTH	JOHN HOLLIS.

Written from Kendal, in Fourth Month, 1688, we have a letter from John Scanfield himself, owning his misdemeanours but professing repentance :—

7 The signatures to this paper are in autograph.

Kendall in westmoreland

y<sup>e</sup> 20 of ye 4<sup>moth</sup> 188

Clement Plumsted

My loue in y<sup>e</sup> truth to thee the paper sent by thee and otheres against mee hath made noe small noyes in the seueall counteyes whare J am concerned. maney tender hartes are Concerned that things should bee repeted and Agrevated to that hight that weare maney yeares sence Condemned; it semeth to them that the Good order of thruth nor the nature theare of hath soe Apeared as it ought to have don, which is to seeck the lost sheepe and bring it back to the ninety and nine, and not to Jndeuer to driue a way whare the Lord is Gathering nor to bee throwing durt whare the Lord is washing, say they. J doe Confess my Excercies hath bene maney my destresses greate and for wont of Giueing vp to be guided by Gods Grace weacknesses many haue ovuer tacken mee that haue Given occatione of Griefe to maney, but the Lord in his Judgments and marcyeshath vizeded my soule and made mee a wittness of the first Resurdrection in a good mesure, wharby the seed that was buryed vnder neth in darckness is Risen and towarde the firmament of Gods Eternall power whare the comings of his Glory that Jnamers the soule is felte and that which Reciues Life from him blesses his name; and in this J am Redy to doe what euer truth and the frends of it shall Requiere of mee and in A litle time (viz.) in aboue 2<sup>mt</sup>hs time J hope to see thee whth the Rest of the faithfull flock in London and believe J shall be brought neare to y<sup>ou</sup> in the Love of God; at which time Jf J Can Recieve my salery which will be dew to me for my yeares traule among the mines<sup>s</sup> J shall giue An Euidence to my Credittors of my Jtegrity. Jn the mene time Jntend to trauel on in the kings hygh way and Jndure with patience what shall or doe happon as knowing who can deliuer mee out of all my trobles. Jn whos Good will J rest in Loue to thee and the famyly or flock who are at Rest in the fold of the true sheppard he is becom the Lott of my Jnhery and the portion of my Cup for euer for which my soule bows before him and magnifieth his Eternall name

*John Scanfield*

Jf thou think fitt to send a line to mee, derect it to Bryon Lancaster in Kendall, and it will be conuaed to mee

Addressed :—

ffor his Estemed frend

Clement Plumsted

Jeronmung [Ironmonger] neare

Tower Hill in the

Minorys,

London.

\* The writing is not clear. We suggest "travel among the mines," but we do not know what the words imply. Perhaps they may bear some relation to the reference, in a previous letter, of Scanfield "being Employed for y<sup>e</sup> King." See note 6.

In this same year, 1688, Thomas Story relates in his *Journal*<sup>9</sup> that one of the earliest meetings of Quakers which he attended was called at the request of John Scansfield, and held in the Town Hall, Carlisle. He thus describes it :—

About this Time, the Power of King James the Second was at the Height, and all Sects were indulged with great Liberty ; when John Scansfield (a noted Quaker) having, by Leave, a Meeting on a First Day in the Town-Hall, several young Men, amongst whom I was one, went thither to hear what those Quakers had to say. There was a mix'd Multitude, and some of our Sort and Company rude enough ; but others, and myself, were resolved to give the best Attention we could, in order to form a right Judgment. Two Cumberland Preachers spoke before John Scansfield, whom several of us knew ; but their Preaching had no other Effect upon me, than to confirm an Opinion, which I had conceived when I was a Boy, that, as a sort of People I had heard of, called Baptists, imitated John the Baptist, in washing or plunging their Followers in Water, who, I believed, had not any Authority from God for that Practice, so the Quakers only imitated the Apostles, in going about Preaching, as they did, but without that Power which the Apostles were accompanied with and travelled in ; and I thought it was great Pity they were not so endued, since I heard they took Pains as if they were. One of these Preachers (to me) had only a little dry, empty Talk, and the other was more lively ; but straining his Voice to be heard over the Multitude, he quickly grew hoarse, lost his Voice, and so sat down.

And then Scansfield, the Stranger, from whom we had greater Expectations, stood up, and made a more manly Appearance than either of the former. The first thing he did was to reprove the Rudeness of some of the Company ; and, in his Preaching, falling upon Baptism, amongst other things, and alledging there was no Foundation for the Practice of the Church of England, in all the Scripture, concerning that, he advanced this Query : “ Suppose,” said he, “ I were a Turk or a Jew, and should ask thee, ‘ What is the Rule of thy Practice in that Point ? ’ and thou should say, ‘ The Scripture ’ ; and if I should desire to see that Scripture, thou not being able to produce any, What could I conclude other than that thou hadst no Foundation for thy Religion but thy own Imagination, and so go away offended and prejudiced against the Christian Religion ? ” This agreed with my own former Sentiments, and gave me occasion to give further Attention. But in the rest of his Speech, he first run down the National Church at a great Rate, and then likewise the Church of Rome : And there being many Irish, Popish, Military Officers present, and a Couple of Musketeers placed at the Door and the Officers behaving so tamely, as no Shew of Dislike appeared in any of them, many suspected Scansfield to be a Jesuit,<sup>10</sup> and that his Aim was to expose and run

<sup>9</sup> Page 6.

<sup>10</sup> All his relations are said to have been Roman Catholics. See THE JOURNAL, v. 67.

down the Church ; and what he said, against the Church of Rome, was only the better to cloak his Design : For the King, and his Friends and Accomplices, could support their Religion by the Power of the Sword, and other cruel and forcible Means ; that being their usual Method and Practice : but there was nothing then to support the Church of England but the Truth of her own Principles, and the Fortitude and Stability of her Members, in the Time of an impending Danger and approaching Trial.

Probably the reference in the following letter from John Banks is to the same visit of Scanfield to the North as above described :—

Rodgerskale<sup>11</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 88

Dear G : ff whome J dearely loue and hath an honourable esteem & respect for in my harth & soule as one whome The Lord hath honoured aboue many Brethren ; who made thee his Choyse in the begining to declare & proçame his acceptable day vnto many that were waiteing for the dawning of it ; which was nearer vnto them then the looked ffor.

My loue in our Lord Jesus Christ dearely sallutes thee And all the ffaithfull ffreinds & Brethren in that Citty And doth hereby lett thee know that J with ffriends here in this Country are for the most part Generally well & in the Antient loue & vnity doth remaine & Continue & truth prospers Amongst vs.

Yett neuerthelesse there is one thing most Cheifely wherefore J am Conserned or rather Constraned to write vnto thee, Conserning one John Scanfeild, that hath preached & yett doth vp & downe in our County at a great rate in soe much that many ffriends of the younger sort w<sup>th</sup> many people doe Cry him vp exceedingly, yett notwithstanding his good words & ffair speches & seeming zeall his Carriage & behauior here hath been such ; beside what accountt wee haue had ffrom some ffriends at London by letters Conserning him ; that wee haue occasion enough to haue stopt him ffrom preaching, But in that here is a report gott to Among ffriends which wee know not what way it Came, That ffriends att the yearely meetting had it vnder there Consideration what should be done about this J : S., and that at last it was requested of thee to know thy sence Conserning him, And that thou should say, lett him alone, lett him alone, the lord is with him.

Soe the thing J request Cheifly is to know the truth of This Conserning thee, whether thou said soe or noe, & what is thy present sence & Judgment Conserning him and all soe ffriends there with thee with some thing matteriall ; signified to vs that wee may deale w<sup>th</sup> him as he deserues ; ffor there is a great Jumble Among ffriends about him, J doe not write this onely of my selfe but that which is greatly desired, by many of our Antient & weighty ffriends, for Jn deed the matter to vs is become weighty, because wee see that the greatest effect his preaching hath wrought that wee can mention, it hath drawn ffriends more in to sides & parlyes in there Judgment More then J beleue euer was in our

<sup>11</sup> In Cumberland. T. Story calls it *Rogersgill*.



County by reason of one man since truth appeared, soe that wee had dealt with him er now but in that he hath said at seuerall times he was ready to goe ffor London ; and the last time J spooke to him my selfe, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> day was too weeke, he said he was sent ffor to London in all hast, and had but two weeke to stay ; (but wee see noe appeareance of his goeing, soe that in this he hath deceiued vs) And when J shewed him my owne dissatisfaction Concerning him and how J had been writt to ffrom ffriends at London about him, his Answer was not withstanding how things had been with him, which he did not deny, he did not att all question but all would be made vp betwixt him & ffriends, when he Came there, ffor seuerall good ffriends he said had writt to London on his behalfe, as Jo : Blaykline and others, and he hoped he had left such a Testimony Among ffriends as would Answer gods wittnesse in there Consciences ; soe he goes on w<sup>th</sup> great Corrage, pleaseing, strengthening, and satisfying himselfe w<sup>th</sup> these & such like things.

J desire that thou would vse what dilligence in thee layes, together with ffriends there Conscerned, that J may haue an Answer returned hereunto the ffirst post after this Comes to hand, for the matter hath been to Long deferred.

J desire that ffriends would vse all dilligence in what the may or can Concerning that matter of our ffriend, Arthur Skelton, that was remoued to London at the suite of John Lowther for tythes, that if posibly a stopp may be put to his wicked intent Concerning our ffriend, for if not, there is little question but they will driue there Designe that way against vs all, that is Conscerned as prisoners for matter of Tyth ; and many more that may not yett be Conscerned.

Thy ffriend and Brother in the truth that is Liueing and precious,  
JOHN BANCKS.

News having reached London that Scanfield had been entertained at Swarthmore towards the end of the same year, 1688, Margaret Fox is asked to clear herself of implications that she had given him her support ; this she does as follows<sup>12</sup> :—

An Accompt taken out of A Letter from Margarett Fox to Sarah Meade ; as ffollowes :—

Whereas thou desires mee to cleare my selfe Concerneinge Scam-fielde, J am noe way guilty Concerneing him, but that J cann cleare my selfe ;—ffor hee had been both in Cumberland & Westmorland, before hee came to us, and J neither knew, nor had heard any thinge of him, till J saw him in the Meettinge ; & hee did but dine with us, at that time, and soe went away.

And after this, wee heard of his ill behaviour from London, and wee were cautioned at that time, to carry wisely towards him, least hee should become an open Enemy to Truth. After this hee came againe,

<sup>12</sup> This document is in the handwriting of Sarah Meade, formerly Fell.

And J tould him, what J heard of him ; Somethings hee confessed and some things hee denied. Wee did see him, not to bee A seasoned Man in the Truth ; And J dealt very plainely with him, wherein J heard his Conversation was not Answerable thereto.—And whereas hee hath told ffriends, that J bad him goe on with his Ministry, J am satisfied, J never said such A word to him, ffor hee had been thorough much of the North, before J saw him. Wee were civill to him, beinge A stranger, but hee had noe ground of support from mee, in any thinge, wherein hee doth not Accordinge to Truth.

Swarthmore, y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> 1688.

In Seventh Month, 1688, Scanfield was preaching in Ireland as stated in the last issue of THE JOURNAL (v. 67).

In consequence of a letter from George Fox, the Morning Meeting now takes up the matter. Here is the letter,<sup>13</sup> followed by the minutes of the Morning Meeting :—

Dear ffriends

With my Love to you all in y<sup>e</sup> Seed of Life that Reigns over all, and hath all power in heaven & earth to order & Sway, & that your ffaith may all bee in him & his power.

Now the occasion of my Writeing unto you is there is one Scanfield Come to y<sup>e</sup> towne ; he was with me, and J told him J had Little Acquaintance with him, But J understood that Severall Letters had Come out of the Country Concerning him as Wales, Darbysh<sup>r</sup>, Yorksh<sup>r</sup>, Westmorland, Cumberland, Lancashire, & Lincolnsh<sup>r</sup>, And Severall Certificates have been writt into y<sup>e</sup> Countrys by y<sup>m</sup> that knew him to ffrds, as ffrids at y<sup>e</sup> Savoy, G : Latye, J : Vaughton, Geo : Satchell, & others, what he hath done att that end of y<sup>e</sup> Towne, and att Devensh<sup>r</sup> house & Spittle ffields, & that awayes, they knew him, & Somethings he had done in Kent, And G Whitehead, its like he knew of things that hee had done & hee may Speak to him, & A : Parker, and have a Meeting w<sup>th</sup> ffrids Concerning the things Charged ag<sup>t</sup> him ; & he Said hee was willing to doe any thing & Lye att y<sup>e</sup> ffoot of truth. J told him that J understood y<sup>t</sup> he Broke, and went away in Debt, & he might very well think that those & other things would ffollow him. Soe that if you had a Meeting w<sup>th</sup> him that knew him, & knew those things, & bring truth over him, itt may doe well.

Soe with my Love in y<sup>e</sup> Lord unto you all,

G : ff :

Endorsement :—

This  
For the 2<sup>d</sup> Dayes  
Morning Meeting  
to bee Read among them.

<sup>13</sup> This letter is not in the handwriting of G. F.

Morning Meeting, 10. 10<sup>mo</sup> 1688.

J. Scantfield being here this day, & spoke to about his miscarriages & infamous behaviour; he promiseth to condemn them, & endeavour to make satisfaction to his Creditors; & in y<sup>e</sup> mean time it is y<sup>e</sup> advice of ffrds, & their sense, that he should not appear as a public Preacher till he haue giuen satisfaction to ffrds, & they feel him in that he professeth.

31. 10<sup>mo</sup> 1688.

John Scantfield having brought in a paper of Condemnation, But he having not giuen ffrinds satisfaction, the matter is to be considered next meeting, he having produced fresh charges ag<sup>t</sup> seuerall ffrds of this Meeting, desired then to be cleared.

7. 11<sup>mo</sup> 1688.

ffrds remaining dissatisfyed concerning John Scantfield, giueliberty to him, if he haue any thing vpon him towards y<sup>e</sup> giuing ffrinds further satisfaction, to repair to this meeting, in order thereto. And he to haue a copy giuen him of his s<sup>d</sup> paper, & he to giue notice when he intends to come hither.

We trust that the closing words of the following pathetic document were realised, and that the rest of the days of John Scanfield were "spent whith out grieueing the Lord or his people."

Whare as J haue Bene Conuincd of the Blessed truth of God which leads and presarues All those who walk thearein and keep thear untoo in the path of holyness and purity, But J. being begiled by y<sup>e</sup> subtilty of the Eniny, for want of wachfull and diligent attention to this heuenly light and Grace of God, haue to the wonding of my own soule, as well to the dishoner of the blessed truth as to the Grife of his people, bene Lead into maney by paths to the Commiting seurall Euells, for which my soule is boued down & in the sence of the Just Judgments of the lord to which my soule is Joyned, doc J testifie against tat spritt, and freely own Shame and Condemnation as dew, and Jn the Liueing scence thear of J feele A hope spring that the feare of God will be my Gard that soe the Rest of my days may be spent thearin whith out Grieueing the Lord or his people as formerly J haue don.

JOHN SCANFIELD.

London y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 10 month,  
1688.

There is greater likelihood of finding truth when all have Liberty to seek after it, then where it is denyed to all but a few Grandees, and those too as short-sighted as their Neighbours.

WILLIAM PENN, *Address to Protestants*, 1679, p. 190.