

William Penn's Defence of his Wig.¹

London ye 25th of ye 3rd moth, 1677.

Dr Friend²

To whom is my love & all the rest of Friends in ye Truth of god, & my desire is, that thou & all the rest may be preserved in gods peacable Truth & in ye love of It.

Now Concerning the thing thou speakst to me of, that Sarah Harris³ should say to the that W^m Mead & W^m Penn did ware Perrywigs & Call them Periwigg men ; first concerning W^m Mead, he bid me putt my hand vpon his head, & feel, & said he never weare Perriwig in his life, & wonder'd at It ; & as for W^m Penn he did say that he did ware a little civil border because his hair was Come of his head, & since J have seen & spoak wth W^m Penn, his border is so thin, plain and short, y^t one Cannot well know it from his own hair. W. Penn when but 3 years ould so lost his hair by ye small Pox y^t he wear them then, long & about 6 years before his Convincent, he wear one, & after y^t he endeavrd to goe in his own hair, but when kept a close Prisoner in ye Towr next the leade, 9 monthe, & no bar ber suffer'd to come at him, his hair shed away ; & since he has worn a very short civil thing, & he has been in danger of his life after violent heats in meetings & rideing after y^m, & he wares them to keep his head & ears warm & not for pride ; w^{ch} is manifest in that his perriwigs Cost him many Pounds aplece, formerly when of ye world, & now his Border, but a five shillings ; & he has lay'd of more for Truth then her & her Relations and J am sorry the should speak such things, & the did not do well to discours of such things, J desire the may be wiser for the time to come.

And so wth my love to thee & thy wife & father & N. Newton.

G. ff

And hees more willing to fling it off if a little hair come, then ever he was to putt it on.

Let not anything straighten you when God moves.

WILLIAM DEWSBURY, *Epistle* from York Tower, 1660, quoted in *Little Book of Selections*.

¹ This is taken from a MS. in D. in the handwriting of William Penn. There are two other writings by other Friends on the same sheet. The sheet is endorsed "G ff to Henry Sidon, 1677, 25 3mo." On wigs, see THE JOURNAL, i. 67, v. 204 ; Gummere, *The Quaker*, p. 97, etc. ; Earle's *Costume*, chap. xi., esp. pp. 342, 343 ; Mulliner, *Testimony against Perriwigs*, 1677.

² Henry Sidon, of Baddesley, Warwickshire, mentioned in *Journal of George Fox* ; White's *Warwickshire* ; etc.

³ Probably of the family frequently alluded to in White's *Warwickshire*.