

Letters to William Penn, from Worcester Prison,
1674.¹

I.

Worcester this 10th of y^e 8th mo: 1674.

Deare William P:

I receiued thy letters, & another from Tho: Moore, wherein hee signifyes y^t it was thy desire hee shoulde be still in moueing the Kinge as touching my release, thou beinge pretty confident off effectinge of it by another hande, & as for Mudd & his wiffe I woulde not have them any ways concerned with them for they are false: butt I desire thee to acquainte thy selfe with y^e Earle of Salsburrys younger Son,² who commands y^e troope y^t L^d ffretwell had y^e commande off, whoe is much familiar with y^e Duke of Munmuth: hee was with mee heere to visitt mee in prison, & staid about two houres: he tooke a Coppy of y^e errors in my Indictment, & is convinced in his judgement off y^e truth: hee goes often to bull and mouth meetinge & his lodgeinges is in Bartholemew Close. Hee is of a pretty naturall disposition, & knew thee formerly. It may be thou maist informe thy selfe off some off y^e officers of his troope & troopes y^t quarters in y^e townde where thou liest, & some other off them in Gilforde where hee is. ffor I woulde haue thee acquainte thy selfe with him vpon truths account & what euer other lesuire may occasionally offer. It may be improved as thou sees [me]ete. And soe if thou canst effect my release without y^e title of a [par]don thou maist: (Concerninge w^{ch} I haue written to thee formerly) Soe I leaue it to y^e orderinge of y^e Lords power & wisdom, & soe remember my loue to thy wiffe, & J W & A. P.³ if in townde & y^e rest of ffreinds that enquiries after mee,

¹ Printed from copies recently deposited in D. These copies are written on paper water-marked 1847, and seem very carefully done. It is evident from such words as *wiffe* and *townde* that the original was written by Thomas Lower.

² This visit to Worcester of "the Earl of Salisbury's son" is referred to in *The Journal of George Fox* (ii. 225). The above information respecting him is very valuable.

³ Perhaps, John Whitehead and Alexander Parker.

& to J. P. & his wiffe & R. R.⁴ when thou sees them, & Th: Lawson if y^t waye: & it might doe well if Tho: L. & R. R. did sett vpp a schoole in y^e country neere London: ffor if thou didst discourse with Tho: L. thee wouldst vnderstande farther: ffor I doe not vnderstande y^t ffreinds at London can aunswer R. R^s. way of teachinge, whoe is a man fitt to perfect scollars, rather then to pupill them: butt these thinges I shall leaue to themselves: & soe noe more butt myloue to thee. I am not very well to write but my desire is you may be preserued in y^e power of God & in his seede. In w^{ch} dominion wisdom & life is. G. ff.

And Keepe ouer all those contentious spiritts with there disputes: w^{ch} are men of corrupt minds: whoe are out of y^e light life & power of Christ, y^t y^e prophetts & Apostles was in. with it they all shoulde be judged & kept out with y^e sharpe pointe of y^e sworde of y^e spiritt w^{ch} is as a hammer on y^e heads of them.

My Mother mine & my sister Susans deare loue is remembred vnto thee & thy wiffe & ffreinds y^t may aske after vs:

& vnto G. W.⁵ & A. P. whose letter my ffather receiued last weeke.

ffor William Penn these
Leaue this with philippe
fforde att y^e signe off
y^e hoode & scarffe
In bowe lane
neere Cheape syde
these

T. L.

London.

II.

Deare William P.

My loue to thee & thy wiffe & y^e rest of y^e faithfull ffreindes. I am glad to heare of y^e prosperity of truth I receiued thy last letter: wherein thou signifys y^t y^e Kinge has graunted my release vnder his hande: & y^t it stickes with y^e Keeper. Heere was a ffreinde of

⁴ Richard Richardson. See THE JOURNAL, i. 62.

⁵ George Whitehead.

Banbury with mee y^t saide If y^e matter sticke with y^e Keeper hee coulde improue some interest by some ffreindes of his to remoue y^t obstacle : his name is Edwarde Viuers of Banbary w^{ch} if thou write to Ed. Viuers hee may come vpp about it : or make vse off his ffreindes with y^e Keeper in this busnesse. I thinke to write or sende to him alsoe assoone as I can : & as for the other proceedings in the Courts, I leaue it to you. It is much if the Kinge haue signed my release y^t the Keeper shoulde stoppe it : what reason doth hee pretende for it : for if y^e Kinge hath graunted such a thinge : there needs noe more then a warrant to y^e Sheriffe to set mee at liberty : soe I can say litle to these thinges : soe noe more butt my loue.

G. ff.

D^r Williã Penn

If thou thinke y^t my comeinge vpp concerneinge this busnesse of my husbands y^t stickes with y^e Keeper, if I coulde be any way seruiceable in it, I am willing to come vpp although I haue stayed heere soe longe yett I am willinge to doe my vtmost endeavors before I returne backe home if it bee thought convenient & requisite : though I doe thinge in my minde there might be an order obtained from y^e Kinge & Councill for y^e settinge of him att liberty. If it cannott be gotten through this way that thou hast already begunn. Deare Williã lett mee knowe thy Aunswer by the next post : for if I come I woulde doe soe by the first opportunity : & so with my deare & eternall loue to thee & thy deare wiffe & all deare & ffaithfull ffreindes, I remaine

Thy deare & truely loueinge
ffreinde in y^e Lorde

M. ff.

Worcester this 25th of y^e 9th moth : 1674.

My son Lower & daughter Susans deare loue is vnto thee & thy wiffe.

Enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers.—*Job* viii. 8.