

## *Ancient Simplicity.*<sup>1</sup>

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John Camm and John Audland in the course of their ministerial service, passing through Barton in Oxfordshire in the year 1654, stopped at the Cross and preached to the people, after which they were walking along the street leading their Horses ; and being observed by a young woman named Maud Hiron, she went and told her father there had been two men preaching at the Cross and nobody had asked them to eat or drink, he therefore desired Maud to go and invite them to his house and to bring their Horses with them ; they accepted the invitation and were hospitably received and entertained, continuing there till the next day. During their visit they had much religious conversation with their host William Hiron, who was an aged man, a Baptist by profession ; he assented to their doctrine and said, “ It is the truth the very truth ; but what would my brethren say were I to change my religion ? ” While they were in conversation, Maud, placing herself at the back of John Audlands chair, listened attentively to their communication ; her mind was open to believe the principles they professed and for steady perseverance therein, she suffered much unkind treatment from her parents, her going to meeting being much obstructed, particularly by her mother who used to send her some distance in the fields to milk the cows, when she had several miles to walk to meeting. At length her diligent attention in the family awakened tenderness in the father towards her, so that addressing himself to his wife, he said, “ My dear, if Maud will be a quaker, let her be a quaker, she is the best of all the family, and she shall have a horse to go to meeting on. ” Her situation was now rendered much easier ; she attended the meeting at Milton to which also young Giles Tydmarsh used to go, who, taking a likeing to her, ventured to commence his addresses to her, with “ Maud, I want to speak to thee, ” to which she replied, “ Giles, if thou want to speak to me, come to my fathers house. ” He accordingly did so, and making matrimonial proposals, it met with the old man’s approbation, who thereupon said to his wife, “ My Dear,

<sup>1</sup> From a modern MS. in D.

if Maud will be a quaker, a quaker husband is best for her ; I like Giles very well, I'll go and speak to his father about it." Giles Tydmarsch was then a prisoner in Oxford Castle on an excommunication for not attending church. They met in the Castle with, "Oh, William, how dost do ?"—"How dost, Giles ? but to the matter in hand, thy son Giles has a mind to my daughter Maud, and I like it well, Giles, what wilt thou give thy son ?"—"I will give him the house in the nether row in Chipping Norton"—"Thats enough, Giles"—"And what wilt thou give thy daughter ?"—"I will give her 70 pounds"—"Thats enough, William." Matters being thus agreed on, the young people married and settled in the said house.

Old Giles Tydmarsch continued a prisoner 7 years, and was then released, with about 400 more in the nation, by letters patent by king Charles in the 1672. During his confinement he used to make shoes. His wife and son went owncce a fortnight to exchange the work. It does not appear, that after his release from prison he resumed his business, but went and settled with his wife with their Son and Daughter at Chipping Norton. They both lived to about 90 years of age ; the wife surviving the husband only one day. They were both buried in one grave at Milton. Several years previous to their decease, they were quite childish and in that state they were tenderly cherished by their daughter in law, Maud, who used to make it her daily practice before any other of the family were permitted to dine, to feed the old people by placing a stool between them and giving first one piece and then the other till they were both satisfied. The aforesaid Giles and Maud Tydmarsch had four Children, the eldest daughter married to Joseph French, whose daughter, Sarah, married to Thomas Wagstaffe, of Banbury, Father to Thomas Wagstaffe who lived many years in Grace Church street and John Wagstaffe of Norfolk, etc.

Thomas and Sarah Wagstaffe's eldest son removed with his family to Philadelphia, and his daughter, Sarah, married Joseph Lownds.