

Two Logan Letters.

The accompanying letter from James Logan to William Penn is among a collection of valuable manuscripts recently presented to Haverford College by the Misses Howland, of Wilmington, Delaware, themselves descended from the writer.¹

James Logan, the famous Secretary for William Penn in Pennsylvania (b. Oct. 20th, 1674; d. Oct. 31st, 1751), the writer, refers to the many privateers and pirates then infesting Delaware Bay and the coasts of New Jersey and Maryland. He alludes in strong terms to the perfidy of Philip Ford and his family, who, as agent for Penn, had defrauded him of so much of his income. Edward Shippen, who is named, was the Mayor of Philadelphia, whose daughter married Thomas Story, and died after a short married life without having accompanied him to England. Correspondence shows that James Logan was also a suitor for her hand at one time, but the slight coolness that fell between the two Quaker rivals did not last long, and James Logan married Sarah Read. "D.Ll." is David Lloyd, described as the "Quaker Boss,"² in the politics of Pennsylvania. He was a violent opponent of the government, and a demagogue in plain clothes.

It will be noticed that James Logan is in favour of William Penn's resigning the government to the Crown. This was a measure not carried out for some years, and in fact only about to be accomplished at the time of the first paralytic stroke of the Founder in 1712. Logan's conclusion, "that a due administration of Government (especially in a time of war) under an English Constitution, is irreconcilable with our [Quaker] principles," is an

¹ These papers are to be called, in memory of their mother, "The Guelma M. Howland Collection." They contain many early letters of the Logan, Hill, Smith, Dillwyn, Emlen, Morris, Moore, and other families, and date well back into the eighteenth century, those few which are earlier belonging to James Logan, with one autograph copy of a letter of William Penn. Most of the collection forms an important study of a certain type of social life between 1750 and 1830, in both England and America.

² President Sharpless, in his studies of Pennsylvania History.

interesting and suggestive summing up of the administration of the Quakers in the Province of Pennsylvania. The letter concludes with an honest disclaimer of any charges made by his and Penn's enemies against his fair name.

The letter signed "William Logan" is from the grandson of Penn's Secretary. It gives such a thrilling account of his escape from shipwreck, and shows him in such a fine light, that no apology is needed for its publication. His father, the eldest surviving son of James Logan, William Logan, Senior, was born 5 mo. 14, 1718, and died 10 mo. 28, 1776.³ He was a member of the City Council in Philadelphia for thirty years, and in 1747 became a member of that of the Governor. Two years later he was one of the Commissioners to negotiate a Treaty with the Indians at the State House in Philadelphia in the summer of 1749, when two hundred and sixty Indians from various nations were in attendance.⁴ William Logan, Senior, married, March 24th, 1740, Hannah, daughter of George Emlen, of Philadelphia. His Quaker principles led him to decline to take any part in the Revolutionary struggle. William and Hannah Logan had six children, of whom the eldest son and daughter died young. The others married:—William (the writer of this letter), Sarah Portsmouth; Sarah married Thomas Fisher; George, also a physician, married Deborah Norris, of whom some account was given in the second volume of this JOURNAL. Charles, the youngest of the family, married Mary Pleasants.

The sons of William and Hannah Logan were educated in England. William, following the example of an uncle, William, who for years was a successful practitioner of medicine in Bristol, took up the same calling, and it was doubtless while visiting relatives there that this letter was written. He returned to Philadelphia, married, and was entering upon a successful career, when he was cut off by death in his prime. It was his persuasion, coupled with the evident talent in that direction shown by the lad, that finally determined

³ James Logan wrote a remarkable letter of advice to this son on going to England for his education, published in *Hazard's Register*. His uncle, William, left him his library of 1,300 books.

⁴ *The Burlington Smiths*, by R. Morris Smith, p. 159.

their father to permit the second son, George, his junior by only one year, to take up the study of medicine also ; and after his brother's early death, George went to Edinburgh and made the brilliant record in medicine which was never carried further, as the inheritance of " Stenton " determined him to take up the agricultural pursuits which engaged his attention for the rest of his life, when he was not immersed in politics and diplomacy.

Dr. William Logan was born in 1747, and was therefore twenty years of age when this letter was written. He graduated at Edinburgh in 1770, and married Sarah, the daughter of Dr. Portsmouth ; her death occurred in March, 1797. They had a daughter, who died young, and a son, William Portsmouth Logan, who lived at Plaistow, Essex, England, and died, unmarried, before his mother.

Dr. William Logan's death took place on January 17th, 1772, at the early age of twenty-five.

AMELIA M. GUMMERE.

Haverford, Pa.

I.

JAMES LOGAN TO WILLIAM PENN.

Pilhad^a 19th 5^{mo} 1708.

Hon^d Govern^r

At length I have rec^d thine by Ab. Scott & Rich^d Townsend who arrived here but 3 dayes agoe from Maryl^d All the Virginia fleet are come in safe only Young for this place falling in for the same Privateers who have done so much mischief on our Capes, is taken. All our outward bound Vessels have been stopt here for these 3 weeks not daring to venture out, & now sail under Convoy of a small Man of War from New York who comes round on purpose. 'Tis this gives me another opportunity by Hammerton.

The Acct^s I have had of thy Draughts on me could not but give me some uneasiness but the List I have now rec^d by thine of ye 16th 8^{mo} has removed great part of it. The total I perceive is 1746^{lbs} 19 :—w^{ch} tho' a large Sum, yet falling under 2000^{lbs} w^{ch} is still less than I fear'd I shall struggle hard, but by some means or other I'll

answer them so, as that thou shalt never hear of them again to thy dissatisfaction. Many even of thy fr^{ds} here are of opinion that nothing of that kind ought to be paid, untill we have assurances that the Countrey will be secured from the ffords, because otherwise the Comm^{es} are told that they will all be call'd into question for the Sales they have made under thee, but for my part I am too far engaged to look back. I am certainly ruin'd if the Countrey be lost, & cannot be more so. To be call'd on for 2 thous^d or 200 thous^d of my own makes no difference at all, & therefore I shall not stop at anything myself if not hindered by others, as 'tis very probable I shall, if there be not at least a great probability of thy keeping the Countrey at the time y^e Bills are to be p^d, but there is this further in it, that in case it prove otherwise, the Bonds I have will be good for nothing. However, I have a very great confidence that there is no danger but that some means or other will be found effectually to relieve thee. Yet I cannot think but there was a great Conveniency (not to say Necessity) in writing as I did to the fr^{ds} there in answer to their Lett^r, tho' I have ever since been jealous I should be taxed for too great plainness. Pray be pleased to furnish me with all the strength that is possible to obviate thy Enemies Endeavours to obstruct paym^t, otherwise I may fail whatever mine be.

The Ship *Diligence*, if she be arrived safe, will supply thee I hope wth 400^{lbs} sterl. and thy Son with half as much.

E. Shippen has been a long time fully restor'd among fr^{ds}, & therefore since he asks for thee as before, may claim y^e same regard as formerly.

'Tis in vain to propose to fr^{ds} here to deal with D. Ll. his party is so strong that it would occasion the greatest convulsions among them. I have frequently press'd it as a matter absolutely incumbent on them unless they would make themselves partners in his Villany, but tho' many would most gladly see it done, yet they dare not adventure on it, 'twould split them, they say, to pieces.

As for thy resigning all into the Queen's hands, if they fail to doe it, I think (as I have repeatedly wrote) that most of thy fr^{ds} here who have any thought about them are agreed that is the most advisable step thou

canst take, especially if some tolerable terms can be made, and anything can be gott for it. This last business of the Privateers upon our Coasts infesting us above others, because unarm'd, has brought friends to a pretty general Confession that a due administration of Government, (especially in a time of War), under an English Constitution, is irreconcilable with our Principles.

I am sorry any Packet of mine should cost 17/5^d, but I could not direct it to —— Lewis (whose first name I know not), because I never that I can remember heard of him before: first I directed to J. Ellis, but he falling into disgrace, I was ordered to J. Parker at Sr Cha: Hedge's office—who, being out himself, I desired to know whether Tucker stood, for the future I shall send to Lewis, when I have Pacquets, but cannot handsomely begin with a single Lett^r, as this is, I doubt.

The Inclosed will show that Rakestraw has at last mett with his deserts in part. I shall send an Authentick Copy with y^e Minutes of y^e meeting Sign'd, but cannot now. I have had some trouble with him but wish I had as fair a hearing with all our Enemies, for they are much alike.

Of the Lotts by Joseph Desborows, there is one laid out to Tho: Callowhill, the rest were disposed of to Purchasers by thy own Ord^r when here.

I know not what T: ff may doe by his Letters but neither his Service nor the contrary is of moment here. Yet I have alwayes kept very fair with him.

The last expression of thy Lett^r Desires me to be easy to all in general, & also Just to all not leaving thee out of that Direction. I am sensible that no man can be more obnoxious to censure & misrepresentations than myself, yet I know the Value of a good Reputation, but my Engagem^{ts} are too binding on me to dispense with any essential part of my Duty for y^e Sake of popular air. A good Conscience I have long resolved should be my only Dependence without much regard to the Sentim^{ts} or discourse of others w^{ch} not being in my power I must quitt the thoughts of them further than as they depend on the other & yet, I have an intire Confidence that one day they will (I mean a good Conscience & Reputation) tho'

not suddenly with me. Yet after all I find it a little Irksome, when I stand so much exposed for thy sake, to fall under Suspicion even with thee. But the same fortress will support me in this also. And all I shall desire is that my Justice may be tried. I hope now thou wilt not trust any man after so villanous an Abuse from fford, & for my own part I never thought it was for mine or any honest man's Advantage to be trusted further than necessity obliged, for when all men see for themselves none can be uneasy. I know there are some particulars in w^{ch} I could have wrong'd thee, because an Error could not easily have been discovered by the Sharpest eye, but I had the Character of honest before that of Sect^{ry} & hope its lustre will not be found tarnish'd after y^e other's gone.

I have enlarg'd thus because within these 2 years I have had divers hints to the same purpose for w^{ch} I am p'suaded I never gave occasion. I am y^e same as ever & without disguise

Thy faithful & obed^t Serv^t
J.L.

II.

WILLIAM LOGAN TO HIS PARENTS.

Bristol Nov^r 14th 1767.

My Dear and Honoured Parents :

I am glad that I have the pleasure of informing you that thro the Interposition of a most merciful Providence, I am arrived in England after a quick passage of about 4 weeks & 4 days, a passage which has been to me a school of much adversity, & I hope in the End will prove an awakening and instructive Lesson.

We sailed from the Capes^s I think the 8th of October, the first few Days were fair and flattering, but at length a violent Gale at N.E. obliged us to bring too under a ballanc'd Mainsail, which continued 24 hours, during this, the Vessel by reason of her deep Load, struck against her stern Counter in the most horrible Manner, at length the Captain casually heard a small Leak pour into her

^s Of the Delaware River.

about the Rudder Case. We instantly got down all our Lockers and Bulkheads, when dreadfull to relate a 2 in. plank near her Stern Post was Stove in about half an inch, and probably the next Stroke would have burst it in, & we must have presently sunk. This we secured and it lasted us throughout the Passage without further accident.

We had a fine strong Gale at S.W. from the Banks of Newfoundland, & got into Soundings the 11th of Nov^r off Ireland. On the 12th we had violent Gales at W. We ran in for the land till noon & then stood off. The next Day, the 12th [*sic*] the Wind blew a hurricane at S.W. About 8 it Cleared up & we found ourselves close in upon a small Island which we were unanimous was Lundy, accordingly we stood up Channel (as we thought) with Dreadful Squally thick weather. About 12 the sky Cleared a little & we found to our unspeakable horror that we were Embayed. We had but five fathom Water. Our Foresail and Foretopsail Split and tore to Pieces, the Sea runing Mountains high, & Rocks and Breakers all round us. Death Seemed now inevitable. We cleared out our Boat & put into her Provision, Oars, Compass, Papers and everything that was near and dear to us. the lashings were cut & every one Endeavoured to hoist her into the Sea, when all our Strength proved insufficient we were fatigued almost to Death. Seeing that we must die, I called all hands in the Cabbin & we all joined in Supplicating the Almighty to receive our dying Souls into his Mercy. While we were thus employed, a breaker Struck the side and wash'd the Boat overboard, the Stern Sunk & *our all* perished. The next shock broke the Painter & she went adrift, we were now cut off from all hope & therefore returned to prepare ourselves for the ensuing change. After some time spent in Prayer, we took a most affectionate leave of each other, & I went to my Birth and form'd a Sheet around me by way of Shroud & in much Silence and I hope resignation waited for the awful Moment. The Captⁿ & Sailors were at the Pumps & endeavouring to secure the Steerage and hatchway, that the Waves might not go down, when a Monstrous Wave wash'd our poor Mate and a Seaman overboard, & they were instantly drown'd. Our Men now absolutely

refused to stand the Deck, & indeed they could not with Safety; they came down distracted & beg'd me to joyn them again in Prayers, which I did in their behalf & my own, with Cries of Sincerity. We continued in this Situation until 10 O'clock at Night, as I imagine, & we then found the Impetuosity of the Wind and tide drive us fast on Shoar. As my last Refuge I had strip'd & made a hencoop ready with a Rope thro the Bars to hold me. About 11 She Struck on a Sand with a most dreadful Stroke, which broke her Chain Plates and tumbled everything up in her Cabbin. I seized my Coop & was going to jump into the Sea, when the Cap^t beg'd me to wait the determination of Providence & desist from the attempt. I stood in my Shirt with the Wind and Rain beating on me a Quarter of an Hour & then retir'd once more to supplicate the Lord to preserve us; all on a sudden, the Wind ceased & the Vessel ceased beating & presently we were surrounded by a Crew of wretches who live by Rapine and Plunder (the Tide had left her dry all round) which we did not know. I lost most of my Cloathes in the Boat & all that I sav'd in the World I put in my Book Trunk and Pillow Case & that night went to the house of a Welsh Smuggler who next day conducted me to Swansea, where some Friends assisted me in getting to this Place where I arrived in good health. I think the Vessel must be lost inevitably. She was a mere Wreck as to rigging in general. I spoke to the Collector of the Customs at Swansea to send some officers to keep the Country from ripping her up. I shall write more particularly by Cap^t Carr who is wind bound in King Road for your Port; in short I have had a most merciful Escape & I hope the Solemn Covenant we all made when the Terrors of Death hovered over us, will not be erased from my mind in the time of Prosperity, but may I ever rest assured that the same hand which delivered me from the Sea may punish my Ingratitude on Land.

My dear Friend Anna Fry is on a visit to Basingstoke. With love to my dear Sister and Brothers & all Relations I am thy most affectionate Son,

WILLIAM LOGAN.

P.S.—

The mate is drown'd.

Also Nicholas Stoops, a Seaman from Philadelphia.

All the Ships Papers are lost.

One Bag of Dollars and One of Gold.

All the Capt^{ns} Cloathes and all he has else.

The Boat ; I suppose may drive a Shoar.

The Vessel has lost : her Stern Rails, One Companion door ; a Spare fore-yard, her Sprit-sails and Yard from the Bowsprit ; her Foresail & Top-Sail, also her Main Chain Plates, & Tom James says there are some bolts drawn. I believe the Capt. protested in time, poor man, he is almost distracted & I think in every point of Seamanship he is as fine a man as I know, Carefull of his Owner's interest & ready to oblige all. his tenderness to me demands more than I can express & I hope his owners will be more humane than to let him suffer on Acct. of this inevitable Misfortune.

George Watson and I intend setting out in two Days for the Vessel to lend her all our Assistance & save all that we can.

W. LOGAN.

She is lost in a Bay on the Welsh Coast, which turns in abt 4 Leagues N.E. from Lundy, the place is call'd the *Worm head*. (She is hog'd, I think they call it.)

At Holbeach in Lincolnshire, Mr. Sam. Trotheringham [Frotheringham], one of the people call'd Quakers, but no bigot, a man of considerable fortune, and eminent for his learning in general, as well as mathematicks, more particularly algebra, and the doctrine of fluxions, and chances (tho' no gamester) : he was the first man in England who invented a clock with two minute hands ; one shewing the *true time*, and the other the apparent time at all seasons of the year, according to the eccentricity of the earth's orbit, and obliquity of the ecliptick, as settled by Dr. Flamstead ; which was made by Mr. John Berridge late of Boston, now of London ; he was affable, and charitable, of an engaging conversation, and courteous behaviour to people of all perswasions ; and is accordingly lamented by his acquaintance.—Newscutting in *D.*, 1745.

[Samuel Frotheringham died 1745, iv. 22, and was buried at Broad Gate, Gedney. ED.]