

## Thirnbeck Manuscripts.

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### XIII.

#### WILLIAM CODDINGTON TO JOHN LEVERETT, AND JOHN LEVERETT'S REPLY, 1677.

So far as we are aware, these letters have never been printed before. Joseph Smith has a reference to "A Letter to William Coddington, 1677," under "Leverat, John," in his Adverse Catalogue, p. 275. It appears, however, as though our great bibliographer had taken all he knew from George Fox's printed reply, which is titled *Something in Answer to a Letter (which I have seen) of John Leverat, etc.*, in which title the words "which I have seen" might as readily apply to a written as to a printed document. It is satisfactory that Smith's unfinished entry, printed nearly forty years ago, can now be completed.

Coddington was at this time ex-governor of Rhode Island (see *Camb. Jnl.*). John Leverett was Governor of Boston, N.E. Leverett's reply seems very sane and sensible.

#### John Leveret Governour ffriend

For J am thy ffriend & was thy fathers ffriend J am about 14 yeares elder then thou, And thou hast said to me y<sup>t</sup> thou would not forsake thy ffriend & thy fathers ffriend (that is) thou would never psecute none of my ffriends; yet notwithstanding Roger Williams<sup>101</sup> of Providence hath writt a most slanderous lying book, & it is by thee patronized; ffor rather then it should not be printed, thou would give 25<sup>lbs</sup> to it, and did give 5<sup>lbs</sup>, & procured others to give & undertook for y<sup>e</sup> pap (as it is reported) which was hiring of him to slander y<sup>e</sup> Colonies & his neighbours, causing him to correct what concerned your selves that you disliked (as is said) but had

<sup>101</sup> For Roger Williams and his book, *George Fox Digg'd out of his Burrovves*, 1676, see *Camb. Jnl.*, ii. 438. It is interesting to note here how literature was financed for the printer.

no regard to others ; ffor in his very title page he lies, in w<sup>ch</sup> he speakes of 14 proposalls made in 1672 to George Fox then present on Road-Island and backs it with another lie that he sillily<sup>102</sup> departed y<sup>e</sup> dispute, whereas he was never present at it, and his proposalls came not to John Cranston's<sup>103</sup> hand to whom he sent them, before he was departed this Jsland, as by him & divers others may be proved, if his book was not a bundle of lies, what likelihood of Truth is there in it ? ffor G. F. was about 3 months in this Jurisdiction on this Jsland and at Providence where he preached & at Naraghansett where J (& divers others) was with him, he being willing to declare y<sup>e</sup> everlasting Gospell to y<sup>e</sup> Indians. And all his 14 proposalls are all lyes as hath ben manifested on this Jsland at y<sup>e</sup> three dayes dispute on this Jsland, & one day at Providence, there was many present, but none found that would own his proposalls they were so gross, the first day was spent to try who was willing but none found : so y<sup>t</sup> many spake and not to them as was desired. The second day w<sup>ch</sup> he calls Will<sup>m</sup> Edmonson's preaching folio 263 was his answering to his 7 proposalls, & a declaration of his faith with such power & Zeale that many of y<sup>e</sup> opposers came out of y<sup>e</sup> house, And John Cranston being then Dep<sup>tie</sup> Governour to whom he sent his 14 proposalls (as is said) was desired to be present to moderate y<sup>e</sup> Assembly, & was present, & thanked y<sup>e</sup> party that sent for him, & was glad to heare what he did & expressed himself much satisfied in what he heard as divers others. And in y<sup>e</sup> 119 & 120 fol. he saith John Burnyeat preached a sermon about Repentance towards God & faith in Christ, & that he had delivered many holy Truths of God, & againe he denyes what he had said—J do believe he knows not what he had said, nor yet one Quarter of his book is what he delivered in y<sup>e</sup> dispute, yet dedicated Jt to y<sup>e</sup> King for True ; And whereas he sayes in 59 fol : none of y<sup>e</sup> 3 gave him a positive answe<sup>r</sup> to Fox principles ; they will answer for themselves ; he never brought G. F.'s but y<sup>e</sup> Priest's principles as J. B. desired y<sup>e</sup> people to take notice

<sup>102</sup> Intended, doubtless, for *slily*, the word used in Williams's book in this connection.

<sup>103</sup> See Camb. *Jnl.*

of, & produced another book of G. F.'s to discover his deceite; John Burnyeat is known to be a man of Truth, And y<sup>e</sup> Governour of New Plymouth<sup>104</sup> hath heard him declare, & said he never heard so much of y<sup>e</sup> Gospell in all his life, before, or to that effect, yet thou hast procured him (as J am informed) to give 5<sup>lbs</sup> to print a book full of lies; But Truth will go over y<sup>e</sup> heads of all y<sup>t</sup> oppose it; Though Bryers & thornes do Joyne together ag<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Lord, yet will hee burne them up together; you will be manifest of what spirit you are of; ffor they y<sup>t</sup> walk in crooked wayes y<sup>e</sup> Lord will lead them forth with workers of Jniquity when Peace shall be upon God's Jsrael—Thou mightest have gon for a ffriendly Govern<sup>r</sup> had thou not manifested thy self in R. W.'s case against Truth; so likewise when ffriends come before thee in publick thou expressest thy self as much against them as any as in Margaret Brewster's<sup>105</sup> case & others; R. W. living in a peaceable government cannot psecute with his hands, therefore doth with his tongue Jshmael like ffor he that is borne after y<sup>e</sup> flesh psecuteth him that is borne after y<sup>e</sup> spirit, even so it is now; The 3d that he mentioneth was John Stubbs; ffor as he abused G. F. & his book; so would he y<sup>e</sup> original, Jf he had not confuted him & produced his book Lexicon against him; Jn fol: 30, where he speakes of y<sup>e</sup> trembling of Moses & others, that is false; for he denyed y<sup>t</sup> Moses trembled till that place of 12<sup>th</sup> of Heb: & 7<sup>th</sup> of Acts was by John Stubbs brought forth against him, and then he owned himself in an Errour; But now all his lies must pass for Truth, ffor y<sup>e</sup> Governour of y<sup>e</sup> Masathusets disposeth of his bookes.—Arthur Cooke (to whom thou would have given one of his bookes) at Providence went to him in love to have conferred or disputed but he sillily<sup>102</sup> departed saying, come, Let us go gather Apples &c: But G. F.

<sup>104</sup> This was Josias Winslow (c. 1628-1680). He succeeded Thomas Prince, 1673, and was followed in 1680 by Thomas Hinckley (*Supplement to New England's Memorial*).

<sup>105</sup> Margaret Brewster and her husband lived on the island of Barbados. In 1677 she visited Boston. Her appearance before Mr. Thatcher's congregation in the Old South Church was startling enough. See Besse, *Suff.* ii. 259ff.; Whittier, *In the "Old South,"* 1877; Jones, *Quakers in American Colonies*, 1911.

whom he reproacheth falsely, did not so depart this Island, but his departure was known sundry dayes, if not weeks before; And he came to our houses & solemnly took his leave of us, & so did of them y<sup>t</sup> were in Authority at Barbadoes, and they did not psecute him neither by word nor deed; but he had free liberty to preach amongst them: And whereas one of your Priests did scandalize him, they by their Certificates did cleare him; which Certificates J sent to thee & into y<sup>e</sup> other Jurisdictions; so y<sup>t</sup> R W<sup>ms</sup> had opportunity enough either at Providence this Island or at Narraganset to have spoken with him, or to have given him notice of his 14 proposalls; but after he was gone when J heard he had sent them to our Dep<sup>tie</sup> Governour, J heard out of y<sup>e</sup> Masathusets y<sup>t</sup> he had sent them to you that caused me to conceive your psecuting Priests might Joyne with him; but none was found y<sup>t</sup> did so far ingage w<sup>th</sup> him (as is said) as y<sup>e</sup> Governour of y<sup>e</sup> Masathusets.

And G. F. did send his Queries to y<sup>e</sup> Priests to answer he staying 2 or 3 mo<sup>n</sup>ths after; And they were to send their answer to me; but J never received any from them; though y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> of Connecticote did write he had them; And there were severall Coppies of them sent to all y<sup>e</sup> united Colonies, & he was ready to conferre or dispute with any that came to him; so y<sup>t</sup> his time was wholly taken up in declaring & writing &c: that he had scarsely time to sleep & eat: James Lancaster & Jn<sup>o</sup>: Stubbs came to Boston by his approbation & proffered your Priest a disputation, & did go to Oxenbridg<sup>106</sup>: And John Stubbs saluting him in Latine had a disputation w<sup>th</sup> him in Latine w<sup>ch</sup> he spake fluently: Oxenbridg said, he was informed by m<sup>r</sup> Tho: Hinkly<sup>104</sup> they denyed y<sup>e</sup> Jmputative Righteousness of Christ; John said Jf he would grant him y<sup>e</sup> Jmpartative Righteousness of Christ first, he would grant him y<sup>e</sup> Jmputative; And so they agreed that Jf any had not y<sup>e</sup> Lord Jesus they were none of his; but he y<sup>t</sup> had Christ had all; And so he prayed God to bless them, he would have no hand to psecute them; but said, you will not be borne here, And J am under sufferings here: but they could have no dispute w<sup>th</sup> your Priests.

<sup>106</sup> John Oxenbridge (1608-1674) was a minister in the Bermudas, later in Surinam and Barbados, and finally in Boston, N.E. (D.N.B.)

Also thou may'st remember y<sup>t</sup> John Tyso<sup>107</sup> was by Richard Bellingam<sup>108</sup> Governour comitted close prison<sup>r</sup> taking him & his goods from shipboard, for no other cause but that he was` a Quaker ; J complained of y<sup>e</sup> abuse first to thee thou being then Dep<sup>tie</sup> Governour, & then to him who promised me y<sup>t</sup> John should have a dispute with your Priests after your 5<sup>th</sup> day Lecture causing me to attend but pformed it not ; J therefore complained of it to thee, thou did go w<sup>th</sup> me to R. B. & was free J should have him out of Prison, but R. B. would not unless J would promise that he should not come there no more w<sup>ch</sup> J could not promise: J do believe the cause y<sup>t</sup> R. B. did not pforme what he had promised was y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Priests was not willing to come to y<sup>e</sup> Light lest their deeds should be reproved ; ffor John had told one of your Priests y<sup>t</sup> assisted R. B. to examine him who said there was nothing in him y<sup>t</sup> he hoped to be saved by &c : to whom John said, thou art a dark man & speakest Jgnorantly of y<sup>e</sup> things of God ; At which R. B. was in a rage & had forgotten John Cotton's<sup>109</sup> doctrine ; though he was a hearer of him (not knowing of it in himself) to prove Christ was in them or he would prove them Reprobates &c : And R. W<sup>ms</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> dispute, said, Jt was y<sup>e</sup> Quaker's fancy, y<sup>e</sup> Light within, And denying it proved himself a Reprobate : But J will draw to an end ; ffor J writ to thee a Letter about 2 years ago w<sup>ch</sup> thou promised to answer but never did ; for what do J rake in this filthy puddle of R W<sup>ms</sup> book, but to bring thee out of it y<sup>t</sup> his deeds of darkness may come to Light ! whereas he sayth in folio 41 y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> sun was eclipsed y<sup>e</sup> first day & y<sup>t</sup> it was very significant, this is another of his lies ; ffor y<sup>e</sup> first day it thundred ; so it was like to his thundring spirit ; but it ended in an Eclips w<sup>ch</sup> was y<sup>e</sup> last day of y<sup>e</sup> 3 days dispute at Newport ; so y<sup>e</sup> day was noteable & significant indeed ; so y<sup>t</sup> he was discovered by y<sup>e</sup> children of Light to be led by y<sup>e</sup> Prince

<sup>107</sup> John Tyso (c. 1626-1700), shoemaker, of London, suffered much persecution for his religious belief. There is little known of his visit to New England. Bowden states that he arrived in Boston in 1667, and was immediately arrested by Governor Bellingham (*Hist.* i. 266).

<sup>108</sup> Richard Bellingham (1592?-1672) was Governor of Massachusetts from 1665 to his death. (*D.N.B.*)

<sup>109</sup> John Cotton (1584-1652) was vicar of Boston, Lincs., and later minister of Boston, Mass. (*D.N.B.*)

of Darkness y<sup>e</sup> father of lies whose works he hath done ; here was none though many was present y<sup>t</sup> would own his 14 Charges ; but Jf there be any in y<sup>e</sup> Masathusets will, Let us have their names & grounds ! Oh horrid Jmpudency to invent so many lies, and to present them to y<sup>e</sup> King of England ! that except he had sold himself to work wickedness he could never have uttered so many abusive lies & slanders under a pretence of God & Godlyness : But Truth shall outlive them all, Jt shall stand y<sup>e</sup> last upon y<sup>e</sup> Earth, in whom even in y<sup>e</sup> God of Truth J am thy assured Loving ffriend

WM. CODDINGTON.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Road Jsland, 21: 8: m<sup>o</sup> 1677.

Mr Will<sup>m</sup> Coddington

Yors of 21 : 8<sup>mo</sup> J received 22 of y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>mo</sup>, wherin you charge me with unfriendlyness contrary to my promise to you my ffriend & my fathers ffriend in that thou sayest J psecute thy ffriends & for proof instantest two cases, y<sup>e</sup> first is about y<sup>e</sup> printing of m<sup>r</sup> Roger William's book, thy words are that you might have gon for a friendly Governour had'st not thou manifested thy self in R. W.'s case against Truth ; The other is my carriage to thy ffriends in publick when they come before me that J expresse my selfe against them as much as any, as in Margaret Brewster's case ; To both which J shall give you a brief & true answer, not counting it ptinent to ingage to respond your charges of falsehood upon m<sup>r</sup> Roger Williams, but shall leave that to him who is better able to answer thereto ; And for that end J transmitted that Letter (from you to me) unto him ; Though J must tell you untill J see more cleare demonstrations for what you say then yet appeares J look at those Charges but as Clamorous unbecoming your age, acquaintance, & alliance to him so long known by you.

J am not ashamed to owne my taking Care for & being at y<sup>e</sup> Charge of y<sup>e</sup> coming forth of m<sup>r</sup> Rogr William's book intitled George Fox digged out of his burroughs ; for that there is an ascerting of many great Truths of God in Christ Jesus usefull in this day wherein so many turne from it of those you call ffriends ; And for Margaret Brewster Jf you can patronize her carriage at

Boston in coming so publickly on y<sup>e</sup> Lord's day to y<sup>e</sup> publick assembly where y<sup>e</sup> Lord's people were peaceably, quietly & religiously worshipping him according to their understanding from his word according to his will, to give them disturbance by appearing in a diabolicall shape with her face black and haire spread abroad, powdered white, you are not what you sometimes were in old and new Boston; ffor then you would have punished such an uncomely peace breaking practice had it been acted upon any day to a civill assembly; And J must tell you Jf y<sup>e</sup> tie of your ffriendship be upon those termes that J must abate of God's comānd and my duty in my place to accomodate any you call ffriends in such practices or else J am accounted vile in your eyes; what J did therein was for y<sup>e</sup> Lord & by his Grace, J shall be yet more vile before you, & yet not be found in a crooked way to be led forth with workers of iniquity as you deeme me.

You see meet to charge me with breach of promise two years since in not answering a Letter you sent me; Jf J so promised Jt was with submission to y<sup>e</sup> Lord's will who was pleased to lay his hand so sharply upon me by fitts of y<sup>e</sup> stone in a time of great business w<sup>ch</sup> occasioned that Omission and will be sufficient excuse for me without being charged of neglecting to keep promise. S<sup>r</sup> the Firme of your last letter is yours, but y<sup>e</sup> style nor hand J cannot read to be yours; And therefore upon second thoughts J suppose you will see cause to forbear soe to impose upon me as to think J must take your Jpse dixit ffor what you so often assert about m<sup>r</sup> Williams to whose farther answer J shall referre you if he see meet to give it you; Jn y<sup>e</sup> mean time J desire you & J may be helped to number our dayes as that we may apply our heart to wisdom be we older or younger, Jn w<sup>ch</sup> way J desire to be your ffriend in & for y<sup>e</sup> Truth while J remaine

Yours JOHN LEVERETT.

Boston, 5 Decembr 1677.

These two letters are copied onto one sheet by a contemporary educated hand. The endorsement runs: "A Cobby of old Governour Coddingtons Letter of Road Island To Govern<sup>r</sup> Leveret's of Boston and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> Leverets answer to him againe."

## XIV.

## ELLIS HOOKES TO MARGARET FOX, 1678.

This letter appears in modernized form with slight omissions in *Fells*, p. 296. Of himself the writer reports, "J haue had a sore fitt of sicknes none that saw me thought J could haue lived. J am very weak still & can scarce go. J am so faint haueing a violent fflux followes me w<sup>ch</sup> weakens me sorely." At the close E. H. writes, "I am intended to Morrow to goe downe to S. Smith<sup>110</sup> who remaines very ill still ; but ebbs & flows being sometimes better."

The letter is written on half of a folio sheet ; it is addressed : " For My Lo : friend Margaret ffox at Swarthmore. W<sup>th</sup> a booke " ; endorsed by Sarah Fell : " Elis Hookes to M: F: the 13<sup>o</sup> : of the 6<sup>o</sup> : m<sup>th</sup>, 1678," and annotated by John Abraham : " This Excellent and very Servicable Man (Elis Hookes) I perceiue by this Letter, gave my Dr Grand Mother The Book, w<sup>ch</sup> hee was the Auther off Called y<sup>e</sup> Spiritt of y<sup>e</sup> Marters Revived w<sup>ch</sup> Book I haue still In my Closett."<sup>111</sup>

## XV.

## SARAH FELL'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECORDING THE BUSINESS OF THE WOMEN'S QUARTERLY MEETING, 1681.

The greater part of this manuscript was printed by Maria Webb in her *Fells* (p. 328), but the modern and abbreviated form in which it there appears detracts much from its lively character.

Instructions How you may order the  
businessse in the Quarterly Womens  
Meeting Booke, as ffollowes :—

When the Meettinge is ; what businessse as passes the meeting, & is to bee Recorded in the Booke : you must have A sheett of paper, & write it there first in y<sup>e</sup> time of y<sup>e</sup> Meettinge, while matt<sup>rs</sup> are in discourse, for then things are y<sup>e</sup> freshest upon y<sup>e</sup> minde, and words will rise

<sup>110</sup> That is, Stephen Smith, of Worplesdon, Surrey (see *Camb. Jnl.*). He died 22 vii. 1678.

<sup>111</sup> It is not yet evident at what date or dates John Abraham (1687-1771) wrote his numerous endorsements ; it was probably towards the middle of the eighteenth century.



most suitably to answer y<sup>e</sup> matter in hand.—And at leasure it may bee written faire in the Booke, obserueing my way & methodd, that J haue used formerly.—But the first businesse y<sup>t</sup> is to bee done ; is, to call over the Meettings, and see y<sup>t</sup> there bee some women from every pticular Meettinge in the County ; and in y<sup>e</sup> beginninge of y<sup>e</sup> Booke ; you will finde all the Meettings sett downe, by name, one after another ; by w<sup>ch</sup> you may call them over in ord<sup>r</sup>, as they are sett in the Booke.—And if there bee any Meettinge, y<sup>t</sup> there is noe women from ; y<sup>t</sup> must bee taken notice of, what Meettinge it is, that Neglects and enquiry made into the cause, of their neglect, and if it bee such as Requires it, they should bee reprovved for their slacknesse ; & desired to more care for the future.—

At the Meettinge, which is in the 7<sup>th</sup> month every yeare Enquiry must bee made ; how it is with the women, in every particular Meetinge in the County, as to the clearnesse of their Testimonies, against Tythes, and unrighteous demands touchinge y<sup>e</sup> Preists wages, & Steeplehouse Repaires, &c, at w<sup>ch</sup> Meettinge an Account is to bee brought from every pticular Meetinge in the County, by y<sup>e</sup> women from y<sup>e</sup> said meettings, either in word or writeinge, that soe you may bee satisfied, y<sup>t</sup> the Testimony is Generally kept to,—as formerly is recorded in y<sup>e</sup> Booke ; and the Lords truth & power kept up & over this oppression, & his people a cleare people before him, in truth & uprightnesse of heart.—And when any Meetinge giues Account, of any Testimonies, y<sup>t</sup> are brought in, of women y<sup>t</sup> are added to the Meettings, either by being convinced of late, or added by way of Marieinge into y<sup>e</sup> meettinge, &c : such womens Testimonies being not Recorded in y<sup>e</sup> Booke before, you must record in the Booke faire, at leasure, as J haue done before, mindeing what Meettinge, such women, as are added, belongs too ; and about y<sup>e</sup> middle of y<sup>e</sup> Booke, looke, & there you will finde y<sup>e</sup> Womens Testimonies in ord<sup>r</sup> Recorded, as y<sup>e</sup> Meettings are in y<sup>e</sup> Booke ; and minde, y<sup>t</sup> those testimonies y<sup>t</sup> are added, bee putt in at y<sup>e</sup> latt<sup>r</sup> end, of y<sup>e</sup> Meettinge they belonge too :—as you may see at y<sup>e</sup> Topp of every leafe, which Meettings testimonies followes : and when y<sup>t</sup> paper is all writt, y<sup>t</sup> is left in y<sup>t</sup> place for such A Meetinge :

Then you must beginn farther in y<sup>e</sup> Booke; setting the Meetings name, on topp of the leafe; and write all the Meettings in ord<sup>r</sup> one after another, as they are before, leaveing A leafe or 2: in space, for every Meetinge, for Roome to add such womens Testimonies in, as may come hereafter, w<sup>ch</sup> are to bee Recorded as before.—And if there bee any paper<sup>s</sup> of Condemnation brought from any, y<sup>t</sup> have fallen into any Transgression, if y<sup>e</sup> matter bee Recorded in y<sup>e</sup> Booke, & discoursed on at y<sup>e</sup> Meetinge, lett such paper bee fixed to y<sup>e</sup> booke, with A Wafer, as J have done before, as you may see; & putt it to, on y<sup>e</sup> same leafe side, where they matt<sup>r</sup> is Recorded; soe may such papers bee preserved, & kept, if there bee occasion for them hereafter.—

What good papers or Epistles, of my ffather<sup>s</sup> or other ffriends, as comes to you, may bee read in y<sup>e</sup> Meettings, from time to time, as there is occasion:—There are some loose in y<sup>e</sup> Booke, that have been read formerly; w<sup>ch</sup> you may gett Tho: Dockrey<sup>112</sup> to Record some of y<sup>e</sup> best & suitablest into the Booke, neare y<sup>e</sup> latt<sup>r</sup> end of y<sup>e</sup> Booke; J have often had it, in my minde, to Record some of them in y<sup>e</sup> Booke, but had soe much businesse &c: y<sup>t</sup> J could not gett it done; but would desire you, that it may not bee Neglected much longer.—This in short is what is in my minde at present; and its my beleife and confidence, that the Lord God, who supplies all his people, with what is needfull; will fitt and furnish you, in his holy wisdom, to pforme & manage, this his worke and service, As there shall bee A necessity; unto whom J co<sup>m</sup>itt you, for strength wisdom & councill; To whom bee Praises for evermore.

The 5<sup>o</sup> of 3<sup>d</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> 1681.

S. F.

ffor My Dr Sistr<sup>s</sup> Mary Lowe<sup>r</sup> Susannah ffell &  
Rachell ffell,  
Theise.

This very interesting manuscript is in the writing of the author of the *Instructions*, Sarah Fell. It was prepared a few days before her marriage with William Meade. It occupies one-and-a-half pages.

<sup>112</sup> See *Camb. Jnl.*

## XVI.

MARGARET FOX TO GEORGE FOX [1681].

This letter was probably written about the middle of the year 1681. The writer had recently arrived at the Hall from London. John Abraham's son referred to was Daniel, and Daniel's visit to Marsh Grange may have served to introduce him to his future wife, Rachel Fell. His spirits had revived considerably before he wrote, a few months later, the letter which follows! The letter reveals considerable lack of education. Had we not been definitely informed that it was written by Rachel Fell, we should not have supposed it the work of any of the Swarthmoor sisters. We do not prefer to think that the sister who was born after the family became Friends received less education than the older daughters of the house.

Deare Loue

Jn the blesed holy Euenity [unity] of the Seed of Life that Jndeuereth & Remeneth for Euer in this is my Eternell & Deare Loue Remembred un to thee & by this thou may know that wee gott well to Lancaster Jn about tene dayes after wee left London wee stayed some dayes in Cheshier & Lancashier & had 2 meeting amongst them, & then came to ouer quarterly meeting which was the largest that wee haue Euer had both for men & wemen & the lords powerfull precence was with us in a gloryes maner prayes to his name fore Euer—there is noething done yett agenest the ffrriends only the aduersaryes atorne [attorney] has Charged seuerall persons that is the ffrriends Creditorers not to Receue any of ther goods, hee makes greatt boasts whatt hee will doe againest them butt yett hee sath hee wants his atoretty which will com in a litle tim frome the King & Bishopes & then hee will Regaine his greatt Charges ; it weare well if Jnquiery weare mad wheder ther is any such thing or noe : hee has brought a Reportt frome London that thou ofered to agree with him & sentt for an accouent of his Charges : but noe body beeleues his Lyes but those that ar like him Selfe : ffrriends ar Jenaraly well & truth prospers & getts grouend in these parts blesed for Euer bee the Lords holy name ;—will:

Barnes<sup>112</sup> of Sanckey is ded all so John Badally of Chesher<sup>113</sup>, & John Abrame<sup>114</sup>: Roberd widers wentt that way to see him butt hee was Departed some houer beefore hee gott theder but hee stayed his ffunerall: hee has left a uery Sweett Sauer beehind him both amongst the world & ffriends hee was A sarusabel man in his life & his Death was uery comfortabell to all that was with him & hee left a liuing testimony for the truth, Jnded J was Refreshed to heare the accouent that ffriends gaue of him in the time of his siknes & at his Departuer; John hadacke<sup>112</sup> and seuerabell other minstering ffriends was at his buerall & had greatt Seruice; ther being meny of the greatt ones of the Contry & towne his sonn came to the quarterly meeting to take ffriends aduice about his ffather will. hee has left him & his mother Excecters & Tho: Ridgers & Rodger hadacke<sup>112</sup> & my sone Lower Trustey: it seemes hee uery much Disiered that his Sonn might bee alitle while with my Sonn Lower & trully the younge mane is so much Dedgectt & cast downe with his ffather Death that J doe not see how wee cane Denie him; & hee has beene for many month prety much Exerciesed in his minde & hauing noe body to bee with at home but what is noe ffriends it is pretty harde & it beeing all so his ffather greatt Disier to hau him alitle time with my sone wee Disier to know what thy minde is consarning it hee does Desier it but for alitle time for hee Jntends to undertake partt of his father trade—J was yester day at march granges to see my Daughter whoe is prety well & her Children my Sonn & shee Remembred there Deare loues un to thee—J haue spoken seuerall times to Leneard ffell aboutt cominge to thee but hee thinkes his bisnes will not admitt him to come this 2 month which J am afread will bee too longe for thee to wantt one to bee constantly with thee. J Desier thee lett us heare from thee & how thou artt in health & how euery thing is with thee: J should bee glade if thou woueld Jncline to come home, that thou might gett a litle Restt mee thinkes its the most Comfortabell when one has a home to bee ther but the lord giue us patience to beare all things this is the

<sup>113</sup> John Baddeley ( -1680) lived at Malpas, in Cheshire.

<sup>114</sup> John Abraham, Senr. (1629-1681), lived at Manchester. His wife was Rachel Owen. See THE JOURNAL, i. 32; *Camb. Jnl.*

most at presentt but my Deare Euerlasting unallterabell  
 loue which thinkes noe Euell J am thy  
 Deare louing and  
 ffathfull wife

Susan & Rachell Remembers M: ff:  
 there Dearest loue & Duty un to thee.

To Jssabell Yeamans  
 These D D to bee  
 Left at George Whittheds at the Sine of Wheat.

[Addressed]  
 To Jssabell yeamas  
 leaue this at Gorge  
 Whitthead at the  
 Sine of the Wheatsheaf  
 Jn Houndsdich—  
 this in Lond.

[Endorsed by John Abraham]

A Letter of my Dear Grandmothers to my Dear  
 and Honourd Grandffather ffox writt by my Dear  
 Mother when she was a Made where in there is an Acc<sup>t</sup>  
 of my Dear Grandfathers Abraham's Sickness and Death  
 with a Good Account of his excellent Life &c.

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## XVII.

DANIEL ABRAHAM TO RACHEL FELL, 1681.

This ancient love-letter was printed, in part only, in  
*Fells* (p. 347). It is here given in full.

The original letter is in good preservation, although  
 partly divided at the creases of the paper. The seal,  
 with heraldic device, is complete. The endorsement is  
 here reproduced. Note the use of the word "affected."  
 A letter of a similar, though rather less stilted and more  
 familiar character, written to Rachel's sister, Mary, by  
 Thomas Lower, is also in D. (printed in *Fells*, p. 248).

Jntirely Affected R: F:

Can any love be so firme, & Constant as y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup>  
 Originally, is Excited by, & derived from somthing w<sup>ch</sup>  
 in Jt self, is of an Jmmuteable Being: & therefore Jn Jts

Progress doth not Allow of any Mutability, or Wavering : w<sup>ch</sup> those are liable to : whose Basis in this so weighty Concerne is onely, & Alone, Laid upon some Outward preferment ; or Otherwise y<sup>e</sup> fire of their affection kindled ; from something y<sup>t</sup> is meerly superficiall : so y<sup>t</sup> these foregoing Objects they being removed from ; or Jn any Measure disappointed of : Consequently a coolness & a flatness must needs be y<sup>e</sup> sequall of their Attempts : w<sup>ch</sup> in no sort can betide y<sup>e</sup> former state & condition : y<sup>e</sup> Tranquility of w<sup>ch</sup> State being not wholeiy drawn from a superficial Center :

Dear Rachell : for to declare y<sup>e</sup> nature & full Extent of ; y<sup>t</sup> Centrinall, fixed, & abiding Love ; y<sup>e</sup> course & motion whereof is in no wise to be stopped ; Neither y<sup>e</sup> warmness of Jts stream refrigerated, by y<sup>e</sup> Jnterposition of lenght of time or distance of place : Jts Nature & Course to thee ward : for Mee to demonstrate : were for to render my self Extreemly prolix : or to go about to define y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> is more amply felt ; then for to allow of any definition : & although y<sup>e</sup> Enjoiment of y<sup>e</sup> company one of Another ; may possibly communicate more heat to y<sup>e</sup> already Quickned Affection : Yet Mee thinks J find a dayly Encrease of true & Ardent Affection : Tending to & pressing much for y<sup>e</sup> More full Enjoiment & Accomplishment of y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> at present may be but seen as at a distance : or thorough a Vaile : w<sup>ch</sup> when compleated there may be a slackning those raines w<sup>ch</sup> at present are More safely restrained.

Dear Rachell ; Jn y<sup>t</sup> J think it will be satisfactory to thee Jt is delightsome to Mee ; to give thee an Accompt y<sup>t</sup> J got well home & lodged at Preston y<sup>e</sup> first night after my departure from Swarthmoor Hall : & for thy Satisfaction onely J was willing y<sup>t</sup> Joseph should have accompanied Mee behind Lancaster : but was prevented thy horse Casting a shoo : J Cannot tell but J may see thee at Quarter Meeting :

So Jn y<sup>t</sup> Love w<sup>ch</sup> is firme & Abideing w<sup>th</sup> thee Deare Rachell J take my Leav untill Another Opportunity :

Thy Truly affected Friend,

D. A.

Manchester

y<sup>e</sup> 26 of 10<sup>br</sup> 81.

[Addressed ]

This  
 Nichol Bull  
 of  
 Swarthmoor Hall  
 In Burners  
 Lancashire  
 GDD

## XVIII.

GULIELMA PENN TO MARGARET FOX, 1684.

This is printed, in full, in *Fells* (p. 355). It is written in a good, educated hand, sundry strokes reminding us of the hand of Guli's tutor, Thomas Ellwood. Very few of her letters are now extant, so far as our knowledge extends.

## XIX.

WILLIAM PENN TO MARGARET FOX, 1684.

This is to be found in Maria Webb's *Fells* (p. 356). A few omissions are here printed.

London, 29<sup>th</sup>

Dr: M. Fox

8<sup>mo</sup> 1684.

. . . J. Simcock, C. Tayler, T. Janny, W<sup>m</sup> Yardly, T. Brassy, & James Harrison w<sup>th</sup> many more, J left well, & their famelys.<sup>115</sup> . . . Dr G: F: is well, but W. Gibson<sup>116</sup> nigh death; Ann Whithead ill. Y<sup>t</sup> day W<sup>m</sup> Welch was to leave y<sup>e</sup> place y<sup>t</sup> in regard to his low estate, J had putt him in to go to Jersy, he fell sick & in 3 or 4 days departed this life.

The letter is holograph, written on four pages of a folio sheet, in Penn's usual bold style.

## XX.

## MARGARET FOX TO KING CHARLES [1684].

This appeal is undated, but from internal and external evidence it was probably written in 1684. George Fox states in his *Journal* that his wife was with him in London in that year. We have not found this letter anywhere in print.

King Charles

Whom God has preserved Chief Governour over this Nation to this Day.

Be pleased to Remember, that at Thy first Coming to Reign in this Kingdom, I was here to Inform Thee concerning the State and Condition of the Lord's people called Quakers; and at that time the King was pleased to promise Liberty to Tender Consciences, so long as they lived peaceably under his Governm<sup>t</sup> And I then desired no more of the King, than that he would forbear persecuting of them, until he had Iust Cause for their Disloyalty; which I believe and hope, that there is none that can

<sup>115</sup> For Simcock, Taylor, Ann Whitehead, Harrison, see *Camb. Jnl.*; for Thomas Janney, see *F.P.T.*; William Yardley (c. 1632- ) was born at Leek, Staffordshire, and emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1682; Thomas Brassey ( -1691) "formerly dwelt at Wooleston near Nantwich in Cheshire, and had a solid Testimony" (Whiting, *Memoirs*, 1715, p. 219).

<sup>116</sup> William Gibson (c. 1629-1684) was a prominent Friend of London, and a considerable writer. See Whiting's *Memoirs*, 1715; *D.N.B.*; etc. For his son, of the same name, who aroused much opposition among Friends, see *THE JOURNAL*, i. 22ff.



Charge any of us, that shall be owned of us, found in any Disloyalty.

And yet we are now become very great Sufferers in this Nation, Insomuch that of all other people we are like to be Ruinated as to our outward Liberty and Estates, except the King will be pleased to put a stop to the Cruel proceedings, that are now against us.

I that am above Seventy years of Age, am come up above Twohundred miles in this wett, cold winter, to Lay before the King my Sufferings and some other poor people's, that meet with me in my own house and Country ; and the King was pleased to say to me when I was with him at that time, when he first came to Reign in this Kingdom (which is now almost 24 years since) God forbid, that he should hinder me to worship God in my own house.

Its now above a year ; Since we haue been Continually pursued by Roger Kirkby<sup>117</sup> and William Kirkby<sup>118</sup> Justices : they fined my house four times, whereas the Act against Conventicles fines the house but once ; one of which times they sent an High-Constable who drove away nine head of Cattel of mine, and sold them forthwith without giving me any Liberty for an Appeal : And also Charged him, as he Confessed, not to shew us his warrant, nor to give us a Copy of it : by which I was totally deprived of making my Defence within y<sup>e</sup> time limited by the Act ; and now I haue no outward Remedy left me but to Complain to the King.

And when that High-Constables year was out, his brother was made High-Constable the next year in his place. And he that was in the year before, came with his brother, and drove away fifteen head of Cattel of mine more, and sold them ; who then also denyed shewing the warrant, by which he Acted ; and refused to give any Copy thereof although often desired. And in the like manner drove many Cattel from several of my poor ffriends almost all they had. So that they haue taken from us above Twohundred & Twenty pounds worth of Cattel, &c.

They haue since fined us seven score pounds more ;

<sup>117</sup> Roger Kirkby (c. 1649-1708) was the son of Col. Richard Kirkby. He was Governor of Chester in 1693 and High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1708 (Cowper, *The Kirkbys of Kirkby-in-Furness*, 1906).

<sup>118</sup> For William Kirkby and his brother, Richard, see *Camb. Jnl.*

and none of this that we can hear of, is Converted to the Uses that the Act directs : ffor they send the Con<sup>bles</sup> and Church-wardens to our Meetings, and swear them, and make Informers of them ; they knowing, they will not take that part allowed to Informers by y<sup>e</sup> Act : So that the Informers part, the King's part and the poors part they keep themselves for anything we know. Thus we are sold for nought, and the King's Wealth is not Increased thereby. And those that were the first Informers before these, said, th[at] the Justices never gave them any thing, but the bare Charges they were put t[*paper torn*] that if this matter be not Amended, we shall be quickly Ruinated and spoiled. Some are almost Ruined already ; and there is none that can help or Relieve us in this matter but the King.

And although they haue taken 24 head of Cattel from me ; that doth not suffice them ; but they threaten to send the Officers to pull and hale me by force to prison : so that I was forced to come to Acquaint the King with these things.

Collonell Kirkby<sup>117</sup>, who was ffather to one of these Justices, and brother to the other of them, caused me to be Præmunired Twenty years since, and the King was pleased then to give my Estate to my Children, so that I might live peaceably and quietly with them. And I shewed them the King's Warrant for his Pardon under the broad seal, but they would take no notice of it. Thus haue they used me, although I haue always been their peaceable Neighbour, and never did any one Act to disoblidge them in al my life.

And now one of the said Justices and myself being in Town, I humbly desire the King would be pleased to cause the truth of this matter to be Examin'd face to face and afford us Relief according to y<sup>e</sup> Innocency of our Cause ; we being a people that desire nothing but the Kings and all his peoples good & happiness in this World and that which is to come.

MARGARETT FOX, of Swarthmore in Lancashire.

This manuscript is a copy made by Mark Swanner, assistant to Richard Richardson, the Friends' Clerk.

*To be concluded.*