

George Fox to William Penn, 1674¹

Worcester goale this 28th of ye 6th moth 1674

Deare w p :

To whom is my loue & to thy wiffe & ffreinds J heare trouble thee with another letter Inclosed from Mary lande by w^{ch} thou maist see y^t an order vpon worde is entred in there assembly bookes: touchinge ffreinds yea & nea Instead of an oath: & they only stay for an order for confirmation from y^e olde Baltamoore when thou goest to speake with him thou may take Sam: Groome² with thee: hee knows y^e condition of Mary lande. & J desire thee to speake with Tho: moore³ concerneinge y^t w^{ch} thee & J had in discourse touching y^e errors in y^e Indictment: & thou gave mee a hint though J did not lay much stresse in y^e words: howe y^t J. Story & J: wilkison were willing to referr there matter to G. W: & A: P⁴ for they to make an end of y^e strife they have raised amongst ffreinds: wee let them Judge in truth & righteousness or it will be a fearfull thinge else without respect of person or favor shall be glad of it & begun with y^e originall cause whether Jt was not my letter y^t J writt to preserue y^e vnity of truth & glory of God Jn y^e north when they first fledd & y^e noise thereof fled ouer y^e nation & there answer & therer shewinge it to be quarterly meetinge & soe lett them goe doune into y^e north & with those auncient ministers there with every thing in order ffirst matters is [? of] fact then matters of words lett Jt be examined togeather with all y^e partye to y^e differens y^t Joynes with them: & had they donne this before J came into y^e lande: when they were both doune in y^e north. & in y^e midst off them especially G: ff: [ff is uncertain, having had two letters written one on top of the other, but looks

¹ From a copy of the original in the handwriting of Thomas Lower (H.S.P.—Penn Forbes MSS., ii. 49). For other letters of the Worcester imprisonment, see Camb. *Jnl.*

² Samuel Groome, a London Friend, living at Limehouse, was well acquainted with affairs in Maryland. There are several letters in D. written from that Colony, which make mention of him.

³ For Thomas Moore, J.P., see Camb. *Jnl.*

⁴ That is, George Whitehead and Alexander Parker.

most like ff] they had donne well : soe J shoulde be glad if they woulde take it upon them : & Judge righteously. & lett euery thing haue Jts Just weight measure & proportion : & when they haue donn lett them draw vpp an account of there Judgement : & recorde it in there book of there condemnation & Justification : that Coppys of it may be sent to the whome they haue troubled. butt keepe this to thy selfe : & lett Jt not bee seene except a seruice of ye thinge goes on : but thou maist make vse of ye words : J shall write a few words to A.P : soe noe more butt my loue. J ansed T:l to writt this being neare & not able to ly in bedd but risse about one in ye morninge : soe noe more butt my loue to thee & ffreinds

G : ff :

[On same sheet of paper Tho. Lower wrote to W. P.]

Deare w : p :

J haue been with ye high sheriffe, & vndersheriffe to obtaine from them ye graunt of ye priviledge of ye townde for my ffather to bee in & whome J founde very loueinge & ready to comply with our desires : butt yt ye vndersheriffe feared : yt some of ye Justices woulde call him in question for it hereafter : seeinge such stockes of Quakers did resort to him : w^{ch} was tolerable while in prison : butt woulde not when abroad or in townde for says hee they haue sent one preacher to prison : & nowe they haue 100 come into there Country : w^{ch} vexes them to thinke : yt truth is like to Jncrease butt Jn discourse with him & others : J finde yt there Judgement is : yt a writt of error : & an arrest of the Judgement of sentence of premunire : would undoe & ouer throwe all this worke of theres w^{ch} if soe woulde much more torment & plague them : then if my ffather were freed from his premunire by ye kinges graunt : butt whether this be as secible as they speak it : J would desire thee to be well aduiced therein ; with some able Councill : before thou enter ye doeings any thing therein : for if there be not a certainty of our throweinge there worke yt way & soe bringinge my ffather out of : prison ouer ther heads Jt were not wisdom to enter into it else : but if : vpon aduice with Councill : & mature consideration : Jt may be accomplished best : yt way : they thou may proceed to effect

it : as thee shalt be aduiced. butt if not then for Tho : moore & thee to pursue the kinges former promise to him : to free him whensouer hee was premunired & thou maist assist him, & accompany him : in y^t worke : if you both Judge it fitt : my ffather is still weakely & sicke : rather worse then better & wants aire very much to refresh him : but cannot gett downe staires & upp : hee is soe weake : we haue sent to one of y^e Justices today : caled Sr ffancis Russell : to try whether wee can gett him : & Coll Sands to Consent & Comply : with y^e sheriffes grauntinge of him to bee att some ffreinds house in townde : w^{ch} if they will doe then y^e sheriffe hath promised to doe it : what will be y^e Jssue of y^e endeauer wee leaue to y^e Lorde : whoe turnes y^e hearts of men as best pleases him : soe deseringe an account from thee of what thou does : or Can doe : in this affaire by y^e first opportunity : with y^e remembrance of my mothers mine & my sisters deare loue vnto thee : & ffreinds J rest

Thy dearely & truely loueinge

ffreinde THOMAS LOWER

If Tho Moore be not Jn townde my ffather woulde desire thee to ride ouer to Tho Moores : & Jnforme him about y^e errors : & what aduice thou receiues from Councell vpon it : Coun: Stroude was of Councell for vs : vpon his last removall Jt might not be amisse to aduise with him againe : Tho : Rudyarde^s can Jnforme thee w^{ch} of y^e Stroudes it was :

[Addressed :] ffor William Penn these
leaue this with : [Philip Ford]
att y^e signe of y^e hood & scarffe
in bowe lane neer cheape
syde these.

London

Men are too often the worse for their Wit, for their Learning, aye for their Religion too, if Charity does not humble and sanctify them.

WILLIAM PENN, *Address to Protestants*, Preface.

^s For Thomas Rudyard, see *Camb. Jnl.*