

George Fox to William Penn, 1675¹

Deare William

J Receiued thy Letter; & my loue to thee & thy wife & ye rest of ffriends, G:W & A:P: & all the rest, yt Inquires after thee Now as Concerneing the things thou writes to me, about ye 2: Johns² and such as has great faith Concerneinge them; Then why would not they seeke them, this 3: or 4: years, & come downe & Joined with ye other ffriends, & haue had Meettings with them, which it is like they haue known, how things was; & not haue judged afarr off.—And as touchinge the Jury Men, J doe not vnderstande, yt they euer giue Judgement, or pronounce sentence, but onely try ye matter of fact; But Dr William J shall not striue with thee about matters of law, or Law points, but they made noe Exceptions against their Jury-men or Judges, nor yt they finde any fault with them, or the matters evidenced, onely one Article, as J heare from London, Jn^o Story protests against; And all they yt does thinke, ye John's are wronged, & all ye others are wronge in their Judgem^t, & proceedings ag^t them, in their Meettings, & yett has putt them upon those Meettings; they themselues has beene ye orderers, & setters on of these Meettings, some of them: Therefore it had beene well for them, to haue come downe, & done right at first, if they thinke these haue done wronge, & not complaine against yt which many Antient ffriends has done; For they haue not Concerned mee in the thing:—And as touchinge any application to them at London, J doe not see any such thinge is done, but onely Lett them see what was done, because their advice was followed, in ye former Meettings as they ordered; and upon their Complainte upon their Judgem^t, they did soe farr Condescend to them, that if they thought, the John's were wronged, they might come downe, & haue a Meettinge, with ye same persons, at the same place, and haue a Rehearseinge of ye matters againe; Not that they wanted Councill or Judgem^t or their Advice in ye things;

¹ From a copy of a contemporary copy (H.S.P.—Penn Forbes MSS. ii. 53).

² That is, John Wilkinson and John Story.

but had sound Judgem^t in themselues, J vnderstand though many of them, J did not see, y^e came aboue 40: Miles & waited upon them y^e best part of A weeke: And as for offerringe them another Meetinge, J never hearde they desire any such thing, or make any such complainte; Therefore lett them y^t dos complaine aboue, Come down, & not lie frettinge, & troubleinge themselues there; And for me to profferr A Meetinge, that has not beene Concerned, & time, & place for others, Except J was there my selfe; and to gather upp them y^t was there then off 100: miles Compasse; Jt would not bee soe proper for me, as them that did first Concerne themselues: and to doe such a thinge without their desireinge of it, is to bringe a Question upon y^e proceedings of them y^t gaue Judgement, who are farr dispersed abroad since, Jn^o Burnyett for Wales, Thomas Langhorne³ T Robertson & Jo^a Graues for London: And J: Burnyett & Rob: Lodge were lately amongst there Meetinges, & went through them; But the two Johns would not come neare them, to see them, nor to complaine of any wronge done them; But they haue had their seperate Meetinges from ffriends, before the Judgem^t was given Ag^t them; and haue drawne upp a paper, subscribed by about 84: names at it, some of w^{ch} such as were Married by Priests, & such as haue not come amongst ffriends, for seueral years past, & some boyes; and such are the party they are gatheringe: Neith^r doe J know, what y^e Complains are y^t y^e 2: Jn^os write to G: W: or A: P: about; — Jn^o Burnyett & Rob: Lodge were speakinge of writeinge upp to ffriends at London, to G: W: & J: Batt, & W: G:⁴ thou mayst enquire of them, for their Letter;—And to make A Nationall businesse of it, they haue not beene such publicke persons, in y^e Nation; But where y^e facts has been Committed is y^e fittest place, to heare it, or neare it;—And all such, as are dissatisfied, Whether in Citties, Townes, & Country Jts most proper for them, who are desireous to heare it againe; & they y^t ordered y^e Meetinge first; if they be not satisfied with y^e Judgem^t & proceedings off friends, of the Quarterly Meetinge, if they can get them out, & if all the others will agree to it to admitt of such A Meetinge, before they judge They Judge their

³ For Thomas Langhorne, see *F.P.T.*, and for others see *Camb. Jnl.*

⁴ That is, William Gibson.

former stubbornesse, Lett them doe as they see fitt, if they thinke others has not Judged Equally, they may come & mende y^e matter if they cann; But J doe not heare, y^t any of those dissatisfied ones, doe mention any thinge that y^e two Johns has done amisse, but onely complains of such as gaue Judgm^t:—But truly William, the Lords power Reigns ouer all these things, & his Euerlasting seed:—& J doe not understande that they might haue brought their 84: to y^e Meettinge if they woulde, y^t hath subscribed to them; But these subscriptions was not in y^e begininge, who brought people to haue their names written in the Lambs booke of life;—Now if any of them come to me to complaine, they was greiued in any of these things, then J knew what to say And such as does complaine without heareinge or seeinge, as eye and eare wittnesses, yett its like has heard; How they haue vindicated, fflyeinge in times of Persecution, and affirmed, that y^e paym^t of Tythes is not Antichristian, & womens Meetings are Rebuted Monsters, And Recording Condemnations giveinge y^e Deuill Advantage; and singeinge in Meettings whilst others are prayinge or speakeinge, Confusion, & delusion; & calls Monthly & Quarterly Meetings Courts & sessions:—And now these things are Judged, they call this hard measure: But lett all such as will stand by these things, Lett them subscribe their names in this List, & Joine with y^e rest of them, and make a short worke, & appear what they are, ffor these are the things J understand Friends has judged them for, and many other such like things, though J was not there to hear it: And soe with my Loue to all, in y^e power of God, that is ouer all these disquieted spiritts

G: F:

Swarthmor^e the 30th of y^e 7th moth

1675

[Addressed] ffor William Penn these
 Leave this with phillippe
 fforde at y^e signe off
 y^e hoode & scarfe in
 bow lane neere
 cheapsyde

London

these