

## Fatherly Solícitude

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TO THE MEN AND WOMENS MEETING IN BRISTOLL

Dear Friends

Tis now aboute forty years when your acquaintance was first dear to me, among Whome haue often beheld that comlynnes w<sup>ch</sup> more & more engaged my Soul to Seek & loue the Lord the auther thereof, y<sup>t</sup> he might Stamp his Jmage vpon me, who was pleas<sup>d</sup> comfortably to apear & vnite me nearer & nearer to his People & Raised Suplycatiō that as Good Joshua Resolued, So J & my house might Serue the Lord among you to the end of my days, And it was to my Great Satisfaction w<sup>a</sup> J Setled my daughter Mary amongst you whose care J knew was Great over the Church, and J hoped that it would haue been her care not to Offend the Lord nor Griue his people at any time, for vnto the protection of the one & the care of the other J had in my heart recommended her, But now by an vnexpected Occation am to acquaint you that J fear She hath Some Jnclynations contrary to the order of truth to marry one Richard Dolton who hath not had comunion with us. J am therefore constrain<sup>d</sup> also to acq<sup>t</sup> you both to clear my Selfe & Satisfie you y<sup>t</sup> there might be no hard thought of me, J haue no hand in it, but always adviced her to Obserue yo<sup>r</sup> Councill who were as fathers & mothers In Jsraell, belieueing that Some among you would be made as Instruem<sup>ts</sup> to Effect those things for her y<sup>t</sup> might be a comfort to yo<sup>r</sup>selues, her & me, both in her Spirituall & temporall affairs & the Experience alredy had of Seuerall of you confirms the same, so that if she were minded to alter her condition (as indeed J thought there would be Occation for it in her way of trade) your abrobation [*i.e.*, approbation] therein should be mine and now as my Child is placed among you & my selfe & others that wish her well being so remote, J desire yo<sup>r</sup> tender care over her as Nurses over the young Generation, hoping the Lord will so Extend yo<sup>r</sup> adminitions y<sup>t</sup> she may Keepe her unity w<sup>th</sup> the Lord & his people, as to the man J can say but litle being a stranger but his Relations haue been reputed a sober honest people, & thō he p<sup>r</sup>tends

that this acquaintance w<sup>th</sup> her & so w<sup>th</sup> friends declarations in meetings hath brought him to see how falcelly fr<sup>ds</sup> were asperst by the black coverings others threw on them, & y<sup>t</sup> he is now affected w<sup>th</sup> truth & the good ord<sup>r</sup> of it, but as this Seems not to me as yet to be Grounded on a sure foundation, J leaue you to Judge & must Still Comitt her to y<sup>r</sup> Care & tender loue to keepe truth, yo<sup>r</sup>selues & her unspotted from the World, and if she hath alre<sup>d</sup> ap<sup>e</sup>ard to any of your Griefes J hope she may be Restored by your tender Gentle leadings. So with dear loue J salute you all & Remaine your Loueing friend

WM. BEVAN

Receud & deliued to y<sup>e</sup> meeting  
y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> month 1699.

[Addressed] For Edward Loyd  
merch<sup>t</sup> in Corne Street  
Bristol.

[Endorsed] ffor the Mens Meting there  
p William Beuan of Swansey.

From Bristol MSS. v. 120.

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### "Going out for a Husband and Wife"

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Dolgyn, 16 ii. 1732. Went to meeting with Masters<sup>1</sup> and most of my Family where were our Friends Agnes Tomlinson<sup>2</sup> Hannah Stevenson<sup>3</sup> and Arthur Jones.<sup>4</sup> Agnes was closely concerned to advise

<sup>1</sup> John Kelsall was employed by several members of the Payton family in their ironworks.

<sup>2</sup> For Agnes Tomlinson (c. 1692-1756), of Preston, afterwards Hagger, of London, see THE JOURNAL, v. 191.

These three visitors had been at the Wales Y.M. recently held at Bala.

<sup>3</sup> The births of several children of Daniel and Hannah Stevenson, of Kendal, are recorded in the Westmorland Registers between 1715 and 1725, but Hannah is not among them. She was probably an earlier, unregistered daughter. The Burial Register records the death of Hannah, daughter of Daniel and Hannah Stevenson, in 1739, but does not state age at death.

<sup>4</sup> Arthur Jones (1690-1742) was born near Bala, North Wales. He settled in Pa. in early life. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lightfoot, in 1717. The writer of "Biographical Sketches," which