

Truth's Affairs in America, 1709

4 mo. 17th 1709: Thomas Chalkley's Brief Account of Truth's Affaires in America, but more p^ticularly of Pensilvania.

Truth prospers in the General, in a blessed manner, the f^rriends of it are in love and Unity one with another, it has great Credit amongst those of the best fashion and highest Rank, and its loved Received & Jmbraced by many of y^e poor (the Lord our God be praised) a Good spring of Disciplin and wholesom order is Growing and Jncreasing in y^e American Quarter of y^e World (among friends) viz^t in Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pensilvania, the Jarseys, and in some parts of New England, p^ticularly Road-Island, in all w^{ch} provinces there are some large meetings of friends, but Especially in Pensilvania, in this Province there are 30 setled meetings, and above Twenty Meeting houses, most of y^e largest Built of Brick, and Stone, here are also a Great many young people w^{ch} have been bro^t up in Plainness, and Industry, and are not acquainted with the Corruptions of the Times, and Almighty God is concerning faithfull Elders on their behalfe, y^t they might be Nortured & bro^t up in y^e fear of y^e Lord God, and in y^e faith of Christ.

As to Philadelphia, the Chief City in this Province, there are two large Meets^s therein, and a large Remnant of faithfull friends, But some of our youth as in other Cityes are too apt to Run out into pride and Extravagant Trading, which wounds and brings Barrenness on y^e soul, and Grieves the faithfull, who are concerned to warr agst^t it, here is no Tithes in this province soe no sufferings on y^t account, But in Maryland friends bear a faithfull Testimony agst^t y^e Hireling Priests, Friends in those parts of y^e World Generally bear a living Testimoney agst^t all manner of outward War, there are no manner of Preparations for it in this province, and not with standing the Enemy on one hand and y^e Jndians on y^e other

yet there hath not been any Warr or Bloodshed in this province, since it hath been settled by friends, w^{ch} hath been in y^e other Provinces, soe y^t friends have good cause to be faithfull in y^t Noble Testimony & peaceable Principle of not meddleing with, nor learning warr, w^{ch} tends to y^e Destroying men and Countrys, and in the maine it may truly be said that Truth prevails in a good degree in this Quarter of y^e World, and y^e blessing of y^e most high is among his people, w^{ch} is life for ever more in w^{ch} divers are Raised Audably to bless and praise the Lord for all his mercies, who in Christ is worthy forever.

From the Minutes of London Y.M. iv. 65.

How Elizabeth Pike Outwitted the Highwayman

YEARS ago, before the days of railroads, one stormy night, an Irish woman Friend—Elizabeth Pike¹—the wife of a well-known banker, was travelling by stage-coach up to Dublin. The only other occupant of the compartment was a man. Suddenly the vehicle stopped and an altercation was heard outside. The man exclaimed “Robbers! I have three hundred pounds, and will put it into my boot where it will not be seen.” He just had time to do so when the door was torn open and a clumsy gun was pointed at them, accompanied by a demand for money. “I have none,” said the man. “Yes thou hast some, because I saw thee put three hundred pounds into thy boot just a moment ago,” interposed Elizabeth Pike. The crestfallen victim had to pass over the money, the coach door was banged to, and they proceeded on their way.

The unhappy man was loud in his denunciation of his fellow-traveller the rest of the journey. But she held her peace. The next morning he very early received a communication from her, at his hotel, enclosing three hundred pounds and explaining that she at the time of the adventure was sitting on six thousand pounds in banknotes and had acted as she had to protect the larger sum.

For quick mother wit that is hard to beat. But it would seem to prove that if people are opposed to lying and physical violence they have to use their brains instead, and that is much better.

WILLIAM C. ALLEN, in *The Westonian*, 11 mo., 1913.

¹ Perhaps the Friend of that name mentioned in Leadbeater's *Biographical Notices* (c. 1726-1797), *née* Pim, wife of Joseph Pike, of Dublin.