

## Against Running into Debt

From our Quarterly Meeting, the 30 of y<sup>e</sup> 10th month, 1674.

We understanding that Truth hath and doth suffer by many that have been amongst us, who have run into debts, and not been able to pay them, have considered and agreed at this meeting, that two or three friends of every meeting be very watchful over y<sup>e</sup> rest, & examine y<sup>e</sup> estates & way of trading of all such as there appear a ground to suspect their running into debts, that they may be advised and warned that these occasions may be prevented by w<sup>ch</sup> truth doth suffer, this we find to be according to truth, and that it will answer truth in y<sup>e</sup> generall, and therefore judge them to be out of truth which are unwilling to bring their deeds & dealings to light, that they may be manifested.

At the Quarterly Meeting at Samuel Pikes in Hingham, the 30<sup>th</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> month 1680

For the future preventing the many evils & Miscarriage w<sup>ch</sup> have too often hapned among many that have p<sup>f</sup>essed the truth with us, both in respect of their dealing & trading amongst men, & severall other wayes whereby the truth hath been Evill spoken of, & the honest hearted greatly burthened & grieved, Therefore this Meeting hath judged it of absolute necessity, that from this time forward If any suspition or cause of jealousie doe appeare to any friend in any meeting in this County. That forthwith that friend having such jealousie of any other walking not as becomes the truth, doe advise such friend to disist from going in such way, but if he refuse or will not be advised then to signify the same to two or three of the most honest and substantiall friends in the said meeting, who are desired and required as they tender the good & the p<sup>ro</sup>perity of the truth, to take a speedy & an exact Examination of every such suspected one amongst us, & if they find they have indeed been guilty & doe stand guilty of such miscarriage that p<sup>re</sup>sently (if it be by way of running into debt) they doe require to know his state and condition either by his bookes or as they think fitt & to report y<sup>e</sup> same to the next Monthly meeting who are forth with to take such care as to stop the said p<sup>er</sup>son soe miscarrying, in his further going on in such a way, and to give such counsell as the cause requires, & if such one shall refuse their counsell & advice that forthwith such one so walking be denyed and openly disowned, and that every monthly meeting doe chuse and nominate two or three friends to see this order put in Execution.

By the order of the said Quarterly Meeting,

SAMUELL PYKE.

*Minute Book of Norwich M.M.*