

John Whitehead¹ to William Dewsbury, 1658

DEARE bro :

in my measure of the spirit of Life J salut the and thy deare wife whose trialls comes neare me, when J thinke vpon them breathings to god passe through mee y^t shee may bee strengthened by his power through all to passe acording to his will to the praise of god and thy freedom in his greate worke y^t in y^e reserection of the just in Joy we may reape . to getther y^t for w^{ch} our souls travels

since J parted from thee J was at meetings as foloweth at H : Wadsworths² on the 1 day of the Last weeke past, and the 2 at bradford and the 4 at Clough bancke in Keighly parish and the 5 on the banke side neare halifax and on the 1 day of this weeke J was in mankinhoils and the 2 at rushworth and the pressence of god beeing with mee every where J Left frends sweete and Cleare in a savour of Life onely at rushworth there is one Caled E. romsdin y^t is much snared with the powers of darknesse w^{ch} J was made to rebuke and reached to y^e just yett her state is dangerous. from thence J came through my kindred hither where frends mett to day and nere where J was naturaly borne am J to be god willing the next first day Amongst a stiff naked people from whence beeing cleare J shall passe towards Rossendale and on as J have tould thee onely this is vpon mee to Lett thee know y^t my brother simion³ is released

¹ John Whitehead (1630-1696) was convinced when a soldier in Scarborough Castle in 1652. He resided in the Holderness district of Yorkshire till 1683, when he removed to Fiskerton, near Lincoln. His *Life and Writings* were brought out by Thomas Chalk in 1852 ; see also *D.N.B.*

² In *The Nonconformist Register*, compiled by Oliver Heywood and printed in 1881, we read (page 56) : " Mr. Henry Wadsworth near Luddingden was well and dead in an hours time, buried in his garden Apr. 10, 1678, aged 66, a great Quaker, very rich."

³ Simon (Simeon) Whitehead is mentioned several times in Besse's *Sufferings*. He was imprisoned in Lancashire in c. 1656 and had goods distrained for attendance at his home meeting in Leeds.

vpon this Acount to Apeare at the next sescions if he bee free, since which hee hath taken A wife heare in w^{ch} thing he hath bee[n] some what to forward and not waiteing for wisdome hath but done the thing rawly: yett J hope the truth cannot outerdly suffer thereby J have not seene his face yett for before J came hither hee was gone into Stafordshire darbyshire and Leastershire to minister which Comes very neare mee J knowing y^t many snares are in his way this J Lay bee fore the y^t if thou see him before me thou may acording to thee wisdome given thee warne him of the danger for it is much vpon me y^t hee should settle in his caling this J Comit in to thy bosome in hast

JOH WHITEHEAD

from manchester
the 24 of the 7 month, 1658

[Direction]

To Will: dewsbery
at Wakefeeld give
this safely

From a manuscript in the possession of J. Ernest Grubb.

"A Soft Answer . . ."

In xxiii. 24, we printed an extract giving an account of the rescue, by a ruse, of a Pennsylvanian home from British troops during the Revolutionary War. We here narrate another rescue on a different line:

"A member of the Greene family met a British attack in a characteristic Quaker way. Some American 'rebels' had annoyed the British vessels from the east shore of Conanicut by discharging firearms. Captain Wallace sent an officer with a squad of men to burn the culprits' houses. The husband of Abby Greene, who lived in the old Joseph Greene house (recently standing north of East Ferry), was a sympathiser, and his home also was marked for destruction. Mrs. Abigail Greene persuaded her excitable husband to keep in the background, and from the doorway addressed the officer: 'I hope you have not come to do us any harm. Come in, and I will get you something to eat.' A moment's pause, and the officer said: 'Dear old Mother, we won't hurt a hair of your head.' Stamping out the brand he held in his hand, he came in with all his men and had a cup of tea."

Quoted from T. R. Hazard, "Recollections of Old Times," in *The Quaker in the Forum*, by A. M. Gummere, 1910, p. 306.