

the meeting at Linlithgow to pay the rent of the meeting house there. Two months later ten pounds Scots was taken "out of the box for the payment of the kings stent," no doubt the tax on the meetinghouse at Edinburgh. In Seventh Month, 1700, two women Friends report that they have given Widow More £12 Scots and to Widow Hopkirk £4 and they are furer to be inguired after as they shall see need to suplee them as in the wisdom of God is thought fitt and are desired to inguire concerning the case of weadow fisher that no extremity of want may be seen.

*To be Continued*

---

## Joseph Pease and the House of Commons

---

Extracted from *The Larchfield Diary*, written by Francis Mewburn.

" Feb. 1833

" I accompanied Mr. Pease, the Quaker member for South Durham, to London. I had previously studied the subject of his eligibility to sit in Parliament. To me personally it was a matter of great importance that he should be declared eligible by the House, because I had given a most positive opinion on the question.

" I was extremely struck with the ignorance which prevailed among members on the subject. Everybody seemed to wish that he might get in, but few knew the law. Lord Althorpe admitted his ignorance, but he patiently waded through the acts with Mr Pease, and at last his lordship became convinced that the law was in his favour. A question then arose, what course was he to adopt? After much discussion it was at length determined that a Select Committee should be appointed to investigate and report the law of the case. A very interesting report was presented by the Committee, and on the 14th February (Valentines Day) the House unanimously decided that Mr Pease was entitled to be admitted on his affirmation. This was a glorious triumph, for it was the last conquest of civil and religious liberty.

" The next day, Mr Hodgkin, a Quaker barrister, and myself, waited on the Speaker to settle the terms of Mr Pease's affirmation. I was much struck with the Speaker's ignorance of the law on the question; he seemed utterly surprised that Quakers should be indulged with a Law for themselves, and was ignorant of the benefits conferred upon that body from time to time by the Legislature. However, after a great deal of discussion Mr Speaker assented to the form of the affirmation to be made by Mr Pease, and the next day he was admitted a member."