

Thomas Curtis¹ to Mary Fisher² 1655

[Dear] hart

[In] my fathers loue doe J salute the[e] and my refreshment is in the, how good yea excedinge rich is his loue, who hath Counted the worthie to suffer for his name sake, bonds & imprisenments they were the porsion of our Lor Jesus who was the light of the worlde, & for the to Come to suffer for him is my joy, its truth noe affliction is joyous for the present, but the ende brings peace, with joy, into eternall life, & who will raine with Christ must suffer with him, the way to y^e Crowne is by y^e Cros, and who will liue faithfull in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution, my dear loue J am present in my sperit with the, although J ame apart from the in the bodie yea my joy in its mesuer is made vp in the when J doe but thinke of thie bonds, yea J doe bare apart with the as realy as if J were in bonds with the, blessed art thow that sufferest for rightuousnesse sake, for to them doth the Kingdom of heauen belonge, euen soe bee thou faithfull to y^e death that thou mayest receaue the Crowne of life, w^{ch} is tresured vp for all those that suffer afflictions with the people of god, eternall prayses be to him that sits vpon the throne rulinge in rituousness, my Deare sister, my loue is towards the Continually & the lord god eternall kepe the puer in thie mesuer vp to him selfe single in his loue from all

¹ THOMAS CURTIS was one of many men of prominence who united themselves with the Quaker cause. He was an Alderman and Justice of the Peace, and a woollen-draper, in Reading. He had seen service in the Puritan Army. "He formerly lived very high and very rich in apparel, but is stripped of all" (quoted in *A Quaker Saint of Cornwall*, where there is frequent mention of Curtis). He joined the opposition party about 1677.

Jnl. i. iii.-v. ix. xiii. xvii. xix. xx.

² Of MARY FISHER (c. 1623-1698) there is long note in *Camb. Jnl.* ii. 480. This imprisonment was prior to her voyage across the Atlantic. In 1662 she married William Bayly and in 1678, John Cross.

Jnl. iv. vi.-viii. x. xii. xiii. xv. ; Best, *Rebel Saints*, 1926.

the world that soe thow mayst stande stedfast treadinge & trampling ouer the Cros, & despisinge the shame, that thow maiest at last reioyce with that joy w^{ch} is vnspeakeable & full of glorie.

the last first day was with me Ann Adlande³ whose presence bares soe much of the Jmmage of the heauenly that J was mightilie reuiued to see her, heare was allsoe margarett Killam⁴ & barberie⁴ which two last are gon towards plimoth into y^e west wher Thomas Salthus⁵, & mihill Ahead⁵ is in prison, Ann Adlin went to banburie, we had a verie fin[e] meetinge heare with a manie serious harts, w^{ch} J hoape the father will in his goode time bring in, prayses be to his holy name, my earnest desier to y^e lorde is that J may if it shall soe please him to haue thee heare with me, that soe thow mayest be an instrument in the hands of the allmightie to doe goode in this place, that those w^{ch} set in darkness and see noe light, may haue the light of y^e lorde reueled in them, J should much reioyce if J should heare of thie inlargement that J mougst enioy the, & my joyes be full, J haue heare inclosed sent the a pap or two, if thou wantest anie thinge take it of my frinds it is thie owne, all my dear frinds salutes the, and J shall desier that thow wouldest doe soe much for me to all that thou findest faithfull in that place, farwell my deare hart the Eternall father of heauen water the with the dwe that neuer perisheth that soe thou beinge a plant w^{ch} his owne right hand hath planted thou maiest groe vp and

³ ANNE AUDLAND (1627-1705) was the wife and widow of John Audland. Later she married Thomas Camm, of Camsgill, Westmorland. *Jnl.* x. xix.; *F.P.T.*

⁴ The sufferings of MARGARET KILLAN and BARBARA PATTISON are narrated at the end of the tract: *The West Answering to the North*, 1657. Among Bristol MSS.v. there is a copy of a letter these two women wrote to Bristol Friends. In 1655 appears among financial statements of the Swarthmoor Fund: "It. to Barbery Pattyson for cloths & other Ness-essaries 01.05.00," probably for her mission into the West country. *Jnl.* vi. ix.; *F.P.T.*

⁵ In the Accounts of Friends' Travels and Sufferings, which appear at the end of George Fox's *Journal* of his life (Camb. *Jnl.* ii. 332, anno 1665), we read: "Miles Halheade & Thos: Salthouse were kept in prison in Exeter by a garde of souldyers upon y^m; whoe woulde suffer none y^t came to see y^m to come att y^m y^t were ffreindes: butt either Imprisoned y^m or kept y^m att ther garde: but y^e under officer confest they acted contrary to there Consciences but they were forct to it by there superiors."

bring forth frute to his glorie, to whome be prayses for euer,
we^{ch} is the desier of him who is Caled by y^e worlde

THOMAS CURTIS.

3 month 1655
from Readinge

[Endorsed] ffor Marie ffisher prisnor/in the Goale at
/Alseburie/thes/dd/

Copied from the original letter in the possession of J. Ernest Grubb,
of Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland, 1919.

A Pease Celebration

The following is taken from *The Larchfield Diary. Extracts from the Diary of the late Mr. Mewburn, first Railway Solicitor* (Darlington: Bailey, 1876, pp. 224). Francis Mewburn (d. 1867, aet. 81) was solicitor to the Pease family. His advent to Darlington was about the year 1809. The original Diary (1825-1867) consisted of ten closely-written quarto volumes.

"This day (June 23, 1849) Joseph Whitwell Pease, eldest son of Joseph Pease, Southend [Darlington], came of age. About 6 o'clock a.m. a band of music played divers airs at the north gate of Southend, and the church bells rang a merry peal in honour of the occasion! Music and church-bell ringing did seem to me singular for a Quaker celebration.

"On Monday (25th) all the pitmen in the employ of Joseph Pease were entertained at dinner in a field adjoining the Adelaide Colliery, 1600 sat down. Mr and Mrs. Joseph Pease and all their eleven children sat down also. After dinner there were speeches, but what was so curious—they had bands of music; and yet these Quakers will not allow music at our horticultural shows and other gatherings! The dinner consisted of bread, beef, and ale—13 cwt. each of the bread and beef, and 32 half barrels of ale. There were 500 mugs of which only 70 remained whole. When the ale was all drunk the pitmen amused themselves in shying the mugs at each other. But not a plate was broken."

A somewhat divergent account is given by Joseph Pease in his Diary for 1849: ". . . Above 1600 sat down to dinner conducted with the greatest order and propriety—men most civil and happy—multitudes of spectators—a fine sight—victuals rapidly disappeared—luncheon for visitors and countinghouse at colliery—then my speech to men.—J. W. Pease followed—then Charles Fox from Falmouth made an excellent speech—hearty cheering from time to time."

Copied by Sir Alfred Pease, Pinchinthorpe House, Guisbrough, Yorkshire, 1928, from Joseph Pease's Diary in his possession. The Diary gives the date as "Tuesday, 26th."