

“Every Tub must stand upon its own Bottom”

From *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan. 1st complete edit. 1679 :

At foot of the Hill Difficulty. “And Presumption said, ‘Every vat must stand upon its own bottom.’ And so they laid down to sleep again, and Christian went on his way.”

From *The Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Gazette*, July 31st, 1756 :

“Admiral Osborne went off to put Mr. Byng under an Arrest ; so that we shall soon see how matters will turn out, and what can be said for the Loss of that inestimable Jewel in our Crown, MINORCA. May we come at the Truth ! and as a Quaker said, when he tumbled his Tubs over one another, ‘Now let evry Tub stand upon its own Bottom’.”

From *Life and Letters of Elizabeth L. Comstock*, 1895 :

About 1825, School Life, pp. 12-18.

“. . . An aged minister, concerning whom, a tradition was current amongst us that he generally spoke from the text ‘Every tub must stand upon its own bottom’ We had sat for some time in silence when the minister mentioned before rose, and with his peculiar manner, . . . gave out his text, ‘Every tub must stand upon its own bottom’.”

Can any reader throw light upon the ascription of the above phrase to a Quaker, or give any further particulars regarding it ?

Quaker Bill-brokers

“1849. The first bill-brokers were Thomas Richardson, whose father and mother lived in Houndgate in this town, and John Overend, a clerk in Esdaile and Co.'s, bankers, in London ; they were both Quakers. The former was a clerk with Smith, a Quaker merchant in London, and married his cook. Smith recommended him and Overend to commence a new business, that of bill-brokers—the lending out of money for bankers and others on security of bills of exchange. They commenced in 1806, and in a few years were joined by Samuel Gurney.”—*Larchfield Diary*, p. 97, written by Francis Mewburn, of Darlington.

“Our history begins long before we are born. We represent the hereditary influences of our race, and our ancestors virtually live in us. The sentiment of ancestry seems to be inherent in human nature. . . . At all events we cannot help having a due regard for our forefathers. Our curiosity is stimulated by their immediate or indirect influence upon ourselves. . . .”

JAMES NASMITH, *Autobiography*, 1808-1890.