

## Pioneers in Pennsylvania, 1685.

Dublin 13<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>m</sup> : 85 :

My dear & fatherly friend

Jn whom the tender love of my god, & compassionate bowells of mercy hath appeared to my soul beyond what J can expresse, who have bin a man of sorrow & deep & secrett exercises in most (if not almost in all) of my travell Zionwards, tho not so secrett but that the Lambs life gave thee a sence thereof in so much that the Lesser hath bin blessed by the greater.

Even as it was in my heart to acquaint thee when J was vnder som exercise in relation to my goeing to Pensilvania ; accordingly it is now in relation to my return ; and also to give thee so farr an account that the Lord hath bin good vnto me & mine ; & not only to vs but even vnto all his people, especially those who went in his fear & councill J desire we may never be vnmindfull of his goodnes ; And whereas J receaved then from thee som lines expressing thy judgm<sup>t</sup> & advice w<sup>ch</sup> tended to my freedom but w<sup>th</sup> som cautions as to be vpon a sure ground, signifying my service, and my being so well beloved in my countrey wth the like ; J kept these sayings in my heart & weighed all endeavouring to hould the scales as equall as J could, & to yeeld to what J had most peace w<sup>th</sup> god in w<sup>ch</sup> tends to the satisfaction of my soul to this day ; but never was so free to goe but in covenant w<sup>th</sup> my god, that if he would make my way J would visit my brethren in the land of my nativitie, w<sup>ch</sup> the Lord accordingly hath accomplished hitherto. And my eye is to him for the future, who is ever the same & changes not, J cam simply vpon truths account without limitation of time in relation to my return, J mean before J find my way cleer, & left a tender wife & a considerable family of children & servants well settled & ordered considering the time in a good neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup>

Ab<sup>t</sup> 15 families of vs have taken our Land to gether & are to be ab<sup>t</sup> 8 more that have not yet com ; we tooke

<sup>1</sup> *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 27 (1854), p. 188 states that Thomas Ellis "settled amongst the Welch Friends, west of the river Schuykill." For more respecting this Friend, see *F.P.T.* 323.

(to begin) 30 accres a piece w<sup>ch</sup> we built vpon & doe jmprove, & the other land we have for Range to our cattell, we have our buryng place where we jntend our meeting house as neer as we can to the Center, our first day & week dayes meetings well observed, beside our mens and womens meetings and another monthly meeting both in week dayes vnto w<sup>ch</sup> four townshippes at least belongs. And precious doe we find other opportunities that are given as free will offerings vnto the Lord in evenings, somtimes w<sup>n</sup> not jntended but friends coming simply to on another & sitting so together the Lord appeares, to his name be the glory.<sup>2</sup>

Though J cam but thus farr J am given to vnderstand that as it may fall out that som if not many may be overforward in letting out the mind to goe to forreigne parts, or to promise them selves more then either reason or wisdom could expect so likewise on the other hand there is an extream savouring of a prejudice ag<sup>st</sup> either p<sup>rs</sup>ons or Countrey or both ; & so much thwarting on ag<sup>st</sup> another that the path is narrow that leads between, but pleasant & peaceable to y<sup>m</sup> y<sup>t</sup> walk therin ; J wish those that have estates of their own & to leave fullnes to their posterity may not be offended at the Lords opening a door of mercy to thousands in England Especially in Wales & other nations who had no estates either for themselves or children, And that all their jndustry could not afford them the meanest food & Raym<sup>t</sup> that might properly be sayd to belong even to slaves or servants ; nor any visible ground of hope for a better condiçon for children or childrens children when they were gon hence ; J desire the god of my life that he may p<sup>rs</sup>erve his from having a hand in crucifying the jnocent between two evill doers, that in the blessed vnity of the spirit we may all wittnes our being bound to that peace & good behaviour that whether in prosperity or adversity we may all be found together, whether in suffering or otherwise ; it may be J may not at this time particularize the cause of these last expressions ; but however it is in subjection to that w<sup>ch</sup> J write to, even the spirit of true judgm<sup>t</sup> in thee that if thou find any thing amisse let it be as if it never had bin

<sup>2</sup> A noteworthy return to the simplicity of the gatherings of the early Christians.

written ; exepcting my portion whether by councill or reproofe.

J cam frō home since the 12 m<sup>o</sup> Jntending to be at the yearly meeting but could not have any shipping for 6 weekes being there was such winter weather the like was hardly known, & so no seasoning wether for their tobacco, and a sore visitation in Mariland in so much that many hundreds dyed there in this last falls & winter of all sorts of peepel, 3 or 4 doctors on the easter shore while J was there: dear Thomas Taylor & his wife,<sup>3</sup> & Bryan Mele,<sup>4</sup> & Thomas ffurby and many other serviceable friends, by a violent feaver, but it seemed to be well over before J cam thence J suppose you have had an account of Pensilvania affaires by new york as was jntended at the monthly meeting at Philadelphia ; the president was not then at home, but was expected from new york ; som young people continues to com over without certificates w<sup>ch</sup> is a trouble to friends.

J am like to continue in Wales a while where J would be glad to meet with W<sup>m</sup> Bingley or such ;

Thou knowest THO : ELLIS.

J would be glad to have a few lines frō W<sup>m</sup> Byngley being J know not how to direct to him or where he is ; J have sent a few lines for W : P : J know not whether he may have it, if not & this com to thee let him have part of it ; & glad would J hear frō him the least especially if mine to him miscaried, it is dated here ab<sup>t</sup> 4 dayes agoe : if any letter com for me J may have it by Penbrokeshire directed to Peregrine Musgrave clothier in Haverfford west in Penbrokeshire South Wales for Thomas Ellis.

John Burnyeat wrote to thee lately, his & his wifes love is to thee.

Endorsed: To Phillipp ffoord Living att Hood and Scarff in Bow Lane London, for G : ff. these delivr with Care.

*From the original in D. (A.R.B. MSS.)*

<sup>3</sup> For Thomas Taylor, of Maryland, see THE JOURNAL, ii. 130, 131, iii. 21, v. 99, 102.

<sup>4</sup> Or, perhaps, *Mole*. Is anything known of this Friend ?