THE MINUTE BOOK
OF THE
MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
FOR THE UPPERSIDE OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
1669–1690

Transcribed, with Introduction & Notes, by
BEATRICE SAXON SNELL, M.A. (Lond.)

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NOTES ON TRANSCRIPTION

(a) Symbols used

1. Words underlined, underdotted, or crossed through, for deletion from the original manuscript, which form no part of the final record, are enclosed in braces {unity}.

2. Additions and interlineations, which form part of the final record, are in half-round parentheses, and marked by a † dagger † (were).

3. Marginal notes by the scribe are similarly in ( ), but are marked by an asterisk in addition * (see 6: mo: 71).

4. Interpolations and additions by the transcriber, other than the usual expansions, are in crotchets [given].

5. Letters, words, and phrases, of which the reading is uncertain, are enclosed in square crotchets with a query [ ? refuse].

(b) Superior letters

In the manuscript, superior letters are used in such words as ye, yt, wch, but, principally for reasons of economy, this usage has not been retained in the printed book.

(c) Marginal notes

In the margin, opposite the beginning of the entry for each Meeting, the scribe has entered the date. As this information is precisely repeated in the heading to each Meeting entry, the marginal date has been omitted. All other marginal notes have been incorporated in the text and indicated by the symbol described in No. 3 above.

(d) Marriage formulas

The formulary words relating to intentions of marriage and assents to marriage have not, after the initial entries, been printed verbatim. The essential information has been inserted in crotchets, the original spelling of personal names and place-names being retained.
PREFACE

In the history of Nonconformity in this country, the Quaker movement holds an honourable and important place, and no plea of justification need be entered for making some part of the records of that movement the subject of a volume issued in this County, so closely associated with the early history of the Society of Friends. To the student of religious history, the genealogist, the topographer, and even the general reader, the present volume should provide material of interest and importance. That the Records Branch of the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society has been able to produce this work so soon after its formation is due entirely to the enthusiasm and energy of our editor, Miss Beatrice Saxon Snell, and to her we are greatly indebted.

To those who have helped us in various ways our thanks must be offered, notably to the Jordans Monthly Meeting and the Luton and Leighton Monthly Meeting for permission, readily given, to publish the Minute Book, and to Mr Bertram Crosfield, the Clerk of the Jordans Monthly Meeting, for the generous interest he has shown towards the project. A special word of gratitude is due to Miss Nina Saxon Snell for her compilation of the Index, and also to Mr John Nickalls, the Librarian at Friends' House, whose valuable advice and help have been always at our service.

J. G. Jenkins

Secretary

Twitchells End
Jordans
Bucks
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The Upperside Minute Book

THE earliest known Minute Book of the Upperside Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends is a parchment-bound volume 11⅝ in. × 7½ in. × 1 in., tied with leather strings. It is in very good preservation, only one word in the whole volume being illegible owing to wear; the back cover is slightly worn at the bottom edge, leaving the paper lining exposed. Eight leaves are missing at the front; it is possible that they contained the earliest minutes of the Meeting, which was founded, according to George Fox’s Journal, in 1668. At the back of the book are copied various letters, papers and minutes from other Meetings.

So far as can be ascertained the Minute Book remained in the custody of the successive Clerks of Upperside Monthly Meeting until it was amalgamated with Leighton Monthly Meeting in 1857, the Clerk of which took over the Upperside records. In December 1899 the Minute Book was deposited, along with other records belonging to Leighton Monthly Meeting, in the Library at Devonshire House, which was removed to Friends House, Euston Road, in 1925.

The handwriting is almost entirely that of Thomas Ellwood, the first Clerk of the Meeting. A few of the preliminary entries are in a hand which somewhat resembles the signature of Nicholas Noy. He came originally from Bradenham, where, in 1648, he married a woman with the remarkable name of Philocrista or Filia-Christi Fish. He subsequently became a Quaker and settled at High Wycombe as a bodice-maker.

Thomas Ellwood, who was thirty in 1669, when the Minute Book begins, had been educated at Thame Grammar School, and his handwriting does the school credit, being legible and full of character. The old-fashioned, precise and rather legalistic style of the minutes reflects the early life of their author, who was the son of a Puritan Justice of the Peace, and often transacted legal business for his father. He was considered one of the best Quaker writers by his contemporaries—even an avowed opponent like Henry Pickworth writes of him as “their most dexterous Scribe”—and his autobiography holds a high place among works of that kind in the English language.
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Quaker Organization

The organization of the Society of Friends was developed during the five years preceding the period covered by the Minute Book, and, with a few modifications, has remained unchanged up to the present day. The framework of the Society consists of—

1. Particular Meetings—groups which assemble regularly for worship in a settled place, generally at least once a week. Every Quaker Meeting, whether for business or worship, is held in the belief that the Holy Spirit, present in the hearts of its members, is at the head of the Meeting, presiding over and directing their deliberations. When meeting for business, in preparation for Monthly Meeting, the Particular Meeting is now known as a “Preparative Meeting,” and has a secretary or “Clerk” who announces and records the business, and also gives out notices at the close of a Meeting for Worship. At the period of the Minute Book this would be done by some Friend of standing—“weighty” is the traditional term; e.g. when Monthly Meeting gave conditional consent to the marriage of Richard Hawks and Hannah Parret, (vide Minutes for 1.iii.72) “yt if, upon publication made at the next Meeting in Amersham, no Objection or cause of Obstruction arise, they may in convenient time proceed,” it was ordered that “ye care of this business be committed to William Cooper.” At the present time an announcement ordered by Monthly Meeting would be sent in writing to the Preparative Meeting Clerk.

2. Monthly Meetings for business, attended by members specially appointed by each Preparative Meeting, by those who have business to bring forward, and by any other Friends who are able to go. These are held in some convenient meeting-place in the district covered by the Particular Meetings belonging to them; sometimes in different places by rotation. They have their own Clerk, and deal with any questions of finance which are beyond the powers of Preparative Meetings, (e.g. the continual assistance given by Upperside to Amersham Meeting “burdened with poor”); organize collections for the work of the Society both in their own district and at large; authorize intended marriages; take disciplinary action against offenders; hear any business brought to them from Preparative Meetings;
send forward matters they are unable to deal with to Quarterly Meeting, and deal with such matters as Quarterly Meeting and Yearly Meeting send down to them.

3. Quarterly Meetings for business, consisting of representatives and others from the Monthly Meetings belonging to them. A Quarterly Meeting generally covers at least one county. Here is heard any business from Monthly Meetings, and business sent down from Yearly Meeting is sifted and sent on if necessary.


5. Meeting for Sufferings, (vide under Persecution infra,) now the national standing executive Committee of the Society in Great Britain.

Position of the Upperside Monthly Meeting

The exact meaning of the term “Upperside” is not altogether free from doubt, but it is reasonable to suppose that it signified the high part of Bucks in the Chiltern Hills, as contrasted with the “lowserside,” which covered the Vale of Aylesbury.

The “Particular Meetings” belonging to Upperside Monthly Meeting were as follows: Amersham, Aylesbury, Burnham, Chalfont, (= Jordans), Chesham, Chorleywood (Herts), Farnham Royal (= Tiler’s), Meadle, Missenden, Owlswick, Rickmansworth (Herts), Watford-with-Flaunden (Herts), Weston Turville, Wingrave, Wooburn and Wycombe.

The Meeting, after its establishment in 1668, fluctuated between the houses of Henry Ball, Thomas Lane and Ralph Trumper, and finally settled at the house of Thomas Ellwood—“Hunger Hill”—in the parish of Coleshill. The house is now destroyed, but its position is defined by Ellwood in a set of rhymed directions written to a friend.

“Two miles from Beconsfield, upon the Road To Amersham, just where the Way grows broad, A little Spot there is call’d Larkins-Green, Where, one a bank, some Fruit-trees may be seen, In midst of which, on the Sinister hand, A little Cottage covertly doth stand.
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So-ho the People out, and there inquire
For Hunger-Hill, it lies a little higher,
But if the People should from home be gon,
Ride up the Bank, some twenty paces on,
And at the Orchard's End thou mayst perceive
Two Gates together hang. The nearest leave,
The furthest take, and strait the Hill ascend,
That Path leads to the House where dwells thy Friend.*

The "little Cottage," perhaps belonging to John Mannock, is still in existence.

Hunger Hill was chosen because, while central for Upperside, it was actually in an outlying portion of Herts, and therefore could not be disturbed by the Buckinghamshire authorities. (Vide under Persecution, infra.)

Lowerside Monthly Meeting

This was generally held at Biddlesden, and known by its members as "Biddlesden and Hogshaw Monthly Meeting," though Upperside Minutes frequently refer to it as "Lowerside." It consisted of Biddlesden (transferred from Northants Quarterly Meeting in 1679), Chackmore, Crendon, Haddenham, Hogshaw, Hogsty End (Beds.), Papermill and Sherrington Meetings; these were much smaller and less prosperous than those of Upperside.

Eighteen Meetings were registered for the County under the Toleration Act of 1689. Quarter Sessions Records for 10th October, 1689, give them as follows:

- Part of the barn of John Jennings in the "Wood Liberty," in Burnham
- A meeting place called New Jordens,, Chalfont St. Gyles
- A meeting place called Tiler's (not inhabited) at Sear Green,, Farnham Royall
- Part of Joseph Winch's house,, Amersham
- Part of John How's house,, Chesham
- The house of Joseph Graveny at Prestwood,, Great Missenden

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The house of John White, senior, at Meadle
The house of Henry Costard, Guleswick (= Owlswick)
The house of Edmund Belson, Haddenham
The house of Thomas West, Long Crendon
Part of the house of Sarah Lamburn, widow, Aylesbury
The orchard of George Brill's house, Weston Turville
A meeting place at Hogsty End, Wavendon,
A meeting place at Water Lane, in Sherrington,
The house of Elizabeth Glidwell, widow, Newport Pagnell,
The house of James Brierly, Olney,
The house of Francis Warre, Biddlesden,
Part of John Grove's house at Chackmore, Ratcliffe.*

It therefore appears that Papermill, Hogshaw, Wingrave and Wooburn Meetings had lapsed. John Raunce's Separatist Meeting at Wycombe was registered at the Midsummer Sessions, 1689.

The Women's Monthly Meeting

Although from the beginning of the Quaker movement men and women met together for worship, there were at first no business Meetings for women, Monthly Meeting being attended by men only. Upperside Minute Book records the formation of a Women's Meeting in 1675. The Women's Minute Book describes an abortive attempt to found a Women's Meeting in 1671, and they appear to have met for worship only from 1675 to 1677, when the Men's Meeting entrusted them with inquiry into rumours concerning the misconduct of Elizabeth Crouch, "inasmuch as the matters charged against her was judged more proper and comely for women to examine than for men." Next year the men decided to share with the women the business of authorizing intentions of marriage. This caused a good deal of trouble at first, as several of the young men considered it beneath them to be beholden to a Women's Meeting.

for permission to marry, and were supported by John Raunce and his Separatist party, *(vide infra).* This prejudice, however, seems to have disappeared by the time the Minute Book closes. The women met first at the house of John Mannock at Larkin’s Green, and subsequently at Ralph Trumper’s house at Hunger Hill. Eventually they also dealt with the relief of individual cases of hardship, sometimes giving help to non-Quakers. Like the London Women’s Meeting, they took in hand the finding of places for Quaker maids, and the minutes of one Meeting read simply, “Little business but enquirey about Servants.”

**Personnel of the Monthly Meeting**

The pioneers of Quakerism rejoiced, like St. Paul, in the fact that “not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble” were called to adorn their Society; but Upperside Monthly Meeting was unusually representative, and included, besides three or four gentlemen of private means, eleven yeoman-farmers, some very wealthy, three doctors, a schoolmaster, and a private tutor.

Trades mentioned in these minutes and in other Quaker records which refer to the members of this Meeting, are as follows:

- Blacksmith (3)  Husbandman (7)  Salter
- Bricklayer (2)  Labourer (3)  Sheepkeeper
- Bodicemakeh  Maid servant (4)  Shoemaker (3)
- Butcher (5)  Maker of Laces (3)  Tailor (5)
- Carpenter  Maltster (3)  Turner
- Chandler  Manservant  Weaver
- Clothworker  Mealman (4)  Wheeler (4)
- Flaxdresser  Miller (2)  Woollendraper (2)
- Glover  Salesman (2)

Thomas Ellwood and Isaac Penington were men of note within the Society itself, but William Penn, John Archdale and Samuel Jennings had a wider reputation, on account of their connexion with America.

William Penn, the founder and first Governor of Pennsylvania, which was called after him, and which he received in settlement of the Crown’s debts to his father, Admiral Sir William Penn, only resided for a short while within the limits of Upperside. His marriage...
with Gulielma Springett, the stepdaughter of Isaac Penington, is recorded in the Minutes as authorized on the 6th of March, 1672½. Her curious name—she was called Gulielma Maria Posthuma—was a Latinisation of “William,” the name of her father, Sir William Springett, a young Parliamentarian who died some weeks before she was born. She was a noted beauty with a good estate, and, as Ellwood says, “was openly and secretly sought and solicited by many, and some of them almost of every Rank and Condition,” before giving her hand to William Penn, who took no small pride in being her choice. Her character and charm were extraordinary. Some fifteen years after she and her husband had left the district, she fell ill and sent for her friend Thomas Ellwood. Ellwood was in trouble with two local Justices of the Peace at the moment; he had published a pamphlet entitled “A Caution to Constables,” which blandly informed officers of the Law how to evade their duties under the Conventicle Act; but when he mentioned that Gulielma was expecting him, the justices dismissed him “with their good wishes for a good journey, desiring me to give their hearty respects and service to Madam Penn.”*

John Archdale was the first Quaker to be elected a Member of Parliament, though he was unable to take his seat, because it would have involved taking an oath, which is against Friends’ principles. He became one of the proprietors of the Carolinas in 1680. In 1685 he acted for a short time as Vice-Governor, and went out again at the request of the retiring Governor in 1695, to settle grievances and establish a constitution. During his two-years term as Governor he achieved this so successfully that the settlers wrote to him when he left, “By your wisdom, patience and labour you have laid a firm foundation for a most glorious superstructure.”

Samuel Jennings, the minute for whose removal to West-New-Jersey is dated 26th May 1680, went out as Deputy-Governor of the province, and settled at Burlington, becoming Governor in 1683. When the provinces were united under a Royal Governor in 1703 Jennings became Speaker of the Assembly, holding this office till the year before his death in 1709. He left £20 to Thomas Ellwood “my long-acquainted, worthy and endeared friend,” to buy “a gelding or otherwise as he shall think fit.”

Of the Upperside Friends well known in Quaker history, Isaac Penington, Thomas Ellwood and Thomas Zachary are the chief.

Isaac Penington’s father, who bore the same name, was a City knight and Alderman and one of Charles I’s judges, though he did not sign the death-warrant. It was upon this account, as well as for his Quakerism, that the younger Isaac underwent such persistent persecution. He suffered five imprisonments at Aylesbury and one at Reading, one of which was without any legal warrant. He was a prolific author and his writings are still read and quoted by Friends of to-day. He married Gulielma’s mother, Lady Springett, and had five children, two of whom, John and Mary, appear in the Minute Book; a third, Isaac, was lost at sea before the Minutes begin. The youngest, Edward, settled in Pennsylvania and became Surveyor-General; he married Sarah, the daughter of Samuel Jennings, in 1695.

Thomas Ellwood, born in 1639, was cast off almost penniless by his father for becoming a Quaker. He was taken in by the Peningtons, who sent him to London to complete an education cut short by his father, who had spent too much on his elder son, Walter, and found it necessary to retrench. Ellwood studied for a time with Milton, and became a personal friend of the poet, for whom, at a later date, he took the well-known cottage at Chalfont St. Giles. His criticism of “Paradise Lost” suggested to Milton the writing of “Paradise Regained.” In 1662 the Peningtons asked young Ellwood to become tutor to their children at a “premium without compact.” He occupied this position for seven years, acting, in addition, as estate-manager and watch-dog to Guli Springett, with whom, like so many others, he fell in love. He realized, however, that she was not for him, and in 1669 married Mary Ellis, a Friend sixteen years older than himself, who brought him a moderate income. They settled at Hunger Hill, and, for the next forty-four years, until his death in 1713, Ellwood occupied himself entirely with the affairs of the Society, acting as Clerk of both Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, and being much in request at Yearly Meeting, though he was not one of its officers. He wrote a vivid but incomplete autobiography; seventy-five poems, undistinguished for the most part in both matter and style; a number of controversial pamphlets, all
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of which are vigorous and some witty as well; a rhymed life of David, and a two-volume "Sacred History of the Old and New Testament digested into due method with respect to order of time and place," which was a very popular book in the Society and ran into several editions. The "testimonies" published by Friends after his death state that "He was a man of comely aspect, of a free and generous disposition, of a courteous and affable temper and pleasant conversation; a gentleman born and bred, a scholar, a true Christian, an eminent author, a good neighbour and a kind friend. . . .

He was greatly respected by his neighbours for his services among them; his heart and doors were open to the poor; both sick and lame, who wanted help had it freely; taking care to provide useful things for such occasions—blest also with good success; often saying, 'he mattered not what cost he was at to do good.' " There is a pleasant touch in the testimony from the Women's Meeting, which records that "the Monthly Meeting was held at his house about forty years, and he always looked very kind and courteous on Friends when they came there."*

Thomas Zachary was a Quaker physician who was involved in the Aris-Lacy episode. (Vide Persecution, infra.)

Quaker Customs and Principles illustrated by the Minute Book

(a) Exact Truthfulness

The application of the principle of "exact truthfulness" led the Quakers to insist on the use of the singular "thou" to an individual, instead of the plural "you," on the ground that the latter was incorrect and fostered pride in the individuals who believed themselves entitled to it. As "thou" was only used at this time to enemies, servants, children, and intimates, the Quaker usage caused much offence and led to the persecution of Friends; Ellwood, Penn and Penington all got into trouble with their respective fathers on this account. We see the usage in the letter to Francis Holden, recorded in the minutes for 1. vii. 8o, in which the plural would undoubtedly have been employed had it been written in the same circumstances by the Secretary of an ordinary Committee. The (to us) abrupt commencement of this letter—"Friend"—is another example of the care

* Testimonies in Wyeth’s edition of The History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood, 1714.
for exact truthfulness; Holden was not known personally to the Meeting, so that he is not addressed as “Dear”; but when writing, on 2.xii.75, to Reading Friends, many of whom were personally known to the members of Upperside, the address is “Dear Friends and brethren.”

Numerals were substituted for the days of the week and the months, because under a Christian dispensation it was no longer considered truthful or Christian to ascribe them to heathen gods. The year began in March at this period, so that a typical reference to “the third of fifth month, being a first-day,” means “Sunday the third of July.”

Monthly Meeting at Upperside was normally held on the first Wednesday of each month.

The records are full of characteristic Quaker understatement caused by the desire for exact truthfulness; e.g. such phrases as “we do not find but that A. B. is free and clear from any Engagement relating to marriage”—after careful personal inquiry by members of the Meeting; “understanding that he took that visit kindly”—upon a full personal report by the visitor; “according to the best of their understanding the Accompt is fairly and justly stated”—report of auditors appointed by the Meeting. The effect of such understatement is occasionally humorous, as, for instance, when an abusive letter from the Separatists at Wycombe is described as “appearing to be of a contentious purport,” (unless Ellwood is using the phrase loosely in the sense of “becoming evident;” N. E. D. gives no example of this.)

(b) Quaker Marriages

At the period covered by the Minute Book marriages between Friends had to conform to a definite and formal procedure. A couple who wished to be married came in person to the Monthly Meeting and said so; this was called “proposing an intention of marriage.” The Meeting, unless it had immediate grounds for disapproval, then appointed two or more Friends to inquire into the character of the applicants, (their “orderly walking” or “conversation in Truth;”) and to ascertain their “clearness”—i.e., whether they had contracted any previous engagement which had not been broken off to the
satisfaction of the other party. (Even outside the Society a betrothal at this period was a much more binding affair than it is to-day.) If the Friends appointed reported satisfactorily at the next Monthly Meeting, that Meeting declared that the couple were "left to their liberty" or "given consent and approbation" to take each other in marriage at a public Meeting for Worship. When the report was not to the satisfaction of the Meeting, the proceedings were delayed until the good conduct of the applicants could be vouched for, or until they could produce evidence, preferably in writing, that all previous engagements were at an end. Sometimes the character and behaviour of the applicants were not altogether good, but not sufficiently bad to warrant delaying the marriage. In this case "Friends condescended to the weakness" of the couple, which appears sometimes to have implied that the couple were given permission to take each other in marriage in the presence of their family, but not at a Meeting for Worship representative of the whole local community of Friends. We learn from Ellwood's "Account from Wickham Examin'd," that this was the case in the marriage of David Bodingdon and Elizabeth Crutch, authorised 6.xii.77; but see also the minutes for 1.i.85, relating to William Eburne and Mary Dean.

At the present time Friends report their intentions in writing to the Monthly Meeting Clerk, and Friends are not appointed to inquire; instead, the "intention" is read at the close of a Meeting for Worship by the Clerk of the Particular Meeting or Meetings to which the couple belong, as well as in Monthly Meeting. (There is one case of publication of intention in a Particular Meeting recorded in the Minutes; that of Richard Hawks and Hannah Parret, authorised 1.iii.72.) The marriage formula is, to all intents and purposes, unchanged. After a period of worship the couple rise, and the man, taking the woman by the hand, says, "Friends, I take this my friend, A. B. to be my wife, promising, through Divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful husband, until it shall please the Lord by death to separate us." The woman then repeats a reciprocal promise, after which the marriage certificate is signed.

Marriage outside the Society was strictly forbidden at this date, and, if accompanied with defiance of the Meeting's authority, generally ended in disownment, i.e. denial of membership. Nor was the
marriage of first cousins generally permitted, though a case occurs at Reading in 1679.

Since a Quaker marriage was conducted neither before a priest nor a magistrate, there was division among lawyers as to whether it was, in fact, a legal marriage, though it was upheld as such at Nottingham in 1661.* Ellwood’s father refused him a marriage settlement for marrying in the manner of Friends, and in 1686, a member of Lowerside Monthly Meeting, Joseph Cook of Edgborough, was “Long imprisoned for marrying otherwise than according to the liturgy of the Church of England,”* this on a writ of de excommunicato capiendo, the charge being the withholding of marriage fees, not of illegal marriage.

(c) Discipline

An individual who transgressed the Quaker code of conduct was visited by two or more Friends appointed by Monthly Meeting and reproved. If repeated visits did not produce any reform, a “testimony” was drawn up by the Meeting stating that the culprit was acting “contrary to Truth” and did not receive any countenance from the community in his misconduct; sometimes the testimony was one of “disownment”—i.e. the community denied him to be a member of the Society. The testimony was sent to the culprit and to any other persons concerned in or witnesses of his offence.

Offences against which testimonies were given recorded in these minutes include drunkenness, adultery, theft, marriage “to one of the world’s people by a priest,” and apostasy.

If, on the other hand, the culprit showed signs of repentance, he or she might be required to produce a written confession of the offence and to clear the Society from any hand in it to those who had witnessed it, either in writing or by word of mouth. At the present time Friends are not appointed to look into matters of discipline at Monthly Meeting, but a standing body of “overseers” is charged with all preliminary business of this nature.

A Meeting in danger of lapsing through negligence was written to by Monthly Meeting or visited and exhorted by a group of Friends.

* Joseph Besse, Sufferings of the People called Quakers. 1753. I. 83.
Groups wishing to found a new Meeting or to alter its date and place applied to Monthly Meeting for authorisation and advice.

The Monthly Meeting also issued certificates of good conduct to Friends going abroad.

This scrupulous care for the good name of the Society was particularly necessary at a time when Quakers were bearing the full brunt of religious persecution and were subject to every kind of misrepresentation, slander and abuse.

(d) Finance

Collections are recorded for the general work of the Society, for the ransom of prisoners taken by Moorish pirates, for the assistance of poor Meetings and for individual cases of hardship, Thomas Ellwood generally acting as Treasurer. In 1682 there is a collection, repeated at intervals, for the supply of hay to the Meeting’s horses, and the payment of John Mannock, who looked after them; presumably up to this time Ellwood had been out of pocket. The large sums collected bear witness to the ungrudging support given by Friends to the Society at large and to their poorer brethren, and, taken in conjunction with the sums paid as fines, (vide Persecution, infra,) show the community as a whole to have been possessed of substantial means.

The principle of Friends has always been “help to self-help,” and we read of several cases of money advanced to enable a poor Friend to start a business of his own, with the stipulation that it should be repaid if the business prospered. In the case of Richard Hawks, who appears to have been improvident, a stock of birch, probably for broom-making, was supplied, instead of a monetary advance. Help was not given without sufficient inquiry into the means of the person to be assisted and his “clearness from other ways of relief;” and while the aged and infirm received regular allowances, work was found for anyone capable of it. Extravagance was discouraged, and Friends who ran into debt were advised to satisfy their creditors to the limits of their resources. In one case, (Samuel Jenings, 4.x.72,) a man intending to marry was directed “to endeavour to give all reasonable satisfaction” to his future wife’s next-of-kin, “concerning a
provision of future maintenance in case she should survive the said Samuel."

(e) Persecution

The whole Society was undergoing active persecution during the period covered by the Minute Book. Our first intimation of this occurs in the minutes for 7.x.1670. "There was gathered at this Meeting for ye prosecution of Aris and Lacy who being Informers are indicted for Perjury £10.0.0."

The full story is given by Ellwood in his autobiography and a loose sheet in the book of "Quarterly Meeting Sufferings." The year 1669 saw the passing of the Second Conventicle Act, "the quintessence of arbitrary malice," as Andrew Marvell called it. It was a renewal and reinforcement of the first Conventicle Act of 1664, which provided for the punishment of any person sixteen years of age or over who was present at a meeting under colour of religion in other manner than allowed by the Liturgy, at which there were five or more persons beyond the household. Fines were directed to go in thirds to the King, the poor and the person who informed a Justice of the Peace of such a meeting. The result of the Act was to make informing a profitable trade. Three rascally informers descended upon the Buckinghamshire Meetings: Poulter, "the Trepan," whose reputation was so unsavoury that he was forced by public opinion to leave the County after his first attempt; Ralph Lacy of Risborough, "the Cow-stealer," and Richard Aris, "a broken Ironmonger of Wiccomb," who had been accused at Quarter Sessions of incitement to highway robbery. Aris and Lacy went to Jordans Meeting, where Aris and Poulter had made a disturbance the previous month, and, taking it for granted that the same Friends would be present, afterwards laid an information against Thomas Zachary and his wife, who happened to be in London at the time. A fine of £30 was imposed on Zachary, who had an appeal to Quarter Sessions prepared and took it to the convicting justice, Sir Thomas Clayton. "But the Justice," says Ellwood, "being a Man neither well principled nor well-natured... fell sharply upon Thomas Zachary, charging him that he suffer'd justly, and that his Suffering was not on a Religious Account. This Rough and unjust Dealing engaged the good Man to enter into fur-
ther Discourse with the Justice in defence of his own Innocency. From which Discourse the insidious Justice... charged him with saying, 'The Righteous are Oppressed and the Wicked go unpunished.' Which the Justice interpreting to be a Reflection on the Government, and calling it an high Misdemeanour, required Sureties of the good Man to answer it at the next Quarter Sessions, and in the mean time to be bound to his good Behaviour. But he well knowing himself to be Innocent of having broken any Law, or done in the matter any Evil, could not answer the Justice's Unjust Demand, and therefore was sent forthwith a Prisoner to the County Goal."

Friends, however, committed the management of Zachary's appeal to Thomas Ellwood, who threw himself into it with enthusiasm, and, in his own words, "At the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at High Wiccomb, in October following, I took care that Four Substantial Witnesses, Citizens of unquestionable Credit should come down from London in a Coach and Four Horses, hired on Purpose."

The Jury, overawed, perhaps by the "Substantial Witnesses" found Zachary Not Guilty; but he was remanded on Clayton's charge. Ellwood now brought an indictment for wilful perjury against the two informers and got his verdict at the next sessions. Aris fled the country; Lacy, after going into hiding for a time, was driven out of it by hunger, and, going to Zachary in prison, begged him to intercede with Ellwood. Zachary thereupon wrote to Ellwood, asking him "to mitigate, at least, if not wholly to remit, the Prosecution. To which I so far only consented as to let him (Lacy) know I would suspend the Execution of the Warrant upon him, according as he behaved himself, or until he gave fresh Provocation. At which Message the Fellow was so overjoyed that, relying with Confidence thereon, he returned openly to his Family and Labour, and applied himself to Business (as his Neighbours observed and reported) with greater Diligence and Industry than he had ever done before."

The prosecution was paid for by the Monthly Meeting, and the various collections for the purpose are recorded in the minutes.

But besides prosecutions under the Conventicle Act, Quakers were constantly being fined and imprisoned for non-attendance at church, for non-payment of tithes, for refusing to pay Church rates, and for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance and other oaths. Between 1669 and 1690 the amount of property lost by members of Upperside Monthly Meeting by distraint for tithe alone was valued at over £780. One particularly hard case was that of George Belch of Rickmansworth, who in 1685 suffered a distraint of goods to the value of £23.0.0., against which he appealed to Quarter Sessions. His appeal was rejected for not being made in Latin and treble costs given against him, for which he was distrained cattle to the value of £40.*

In less prosperous districts these fines and distraints became an intolerable burden and led to the creation, in 1675, of Meeting for Sufferings. This London Committee received accounts of hardship from its country correspondents and contributions which enabled it to assist where Monthly and Quarterly Meetings had not sufficient resources. It endeavoured to keep a full record of “sufferings” and to lay them before those in authority whenever opportunity offered.

The existence of a small outlying portion of Herts covering the district round Larkin’s Green operated to the advantage of Upperside Monthly Meeting, for they could meet there undisturbed because it was not within the jurisdiction of the Buckinghamshire authorities. Moreover, its distance from the “mainland” of Hertfordshire made it unlikely that the authorities of that County would trouble themselves unduly about the unobtrusive activities of the Friends at Hunger Hill. Ellwood, who suffered several imprisonments before his marriage and settlement at Hunger Hill, was not again molested till 1709.

(f) The Separatists

During the period covered by the Minute Book the Society had internal as well as external trouble to contend with. After 1676 we find two Wycombe Friends, John Raunce and his son-in-law, Charles Harris, in opposition to the rest of the Monthly Meeting. They were

* M.S. book of Quarterly Meeting Sufferings, Friends House, and Joseph Besse, Sufferings of the People called Quakers, 1753, under heading Buckinghamshire.
partisans of a section of the Society headed by John Wilkinson and John Story, which rebelled against the system created by the organizing genius of George Fox, particularly on its disciplinary side. They were too individualistic to accept the necessary authority of the group. The points of difference which are illustrated by these Minutes are as follows:

1. The Separatists saw no service in Women's Meetings, except for poor relief in large towns, and especially objected to marriages being submitted to them.

2. They objected to the recording of papers of condemnation except on the request of the person condemned.

3. They objected to the attendance of any but specially appointed delegates at business Meetings.

John Raunce, a Wycombe doctor, had early joined Friends, and had both lent young Ellwood moral support in his conflict with his father, and cured him of lung-trouble contracted in London. Ellwood by reason of his education, his personal character, and his position as Clerk, held most of the Meeting steady against the Separatist opposition, and Raunce finally turned on him with a scurrilous pamphlet accusing him of ingratitude and neglect of his father. The true facts were well known in the district, and Ellwood had not much difficulty in refuting the charges, acquitting himself, as Wyeth says, "as an Ingenious Man, a Christian, and a fair Opponent."

This, however, was after the climax of the controversy, which came to a head in 1682 with the case of Timothy Child. Raunce and Harris had been secretly inciting young couples to flout the authority of the Women's Meeting for some time, and Child flatly refused to lay his intention of marriage before the women. Monthly Meeting thereupon delayed the proceedings, not on the ground of his refusal, but because of the spirit and temper in which it was made. Child now appealed to the Quarterly Meeting, (perhaps in the hope that it would be overruled by the Separatists), but Ellwood recorded it as the sense of the Meeting that Monthly Meeting was in the right. There was, however, a dissentient minority led by Harris, and when Friends had dispersed, he seized the Minute Book and annotated it in a hasty scrawl as follows: "Those of the Lower Side of the County mention: (i.e. as endorsing the verdict of Upper-
side) was in number but Richard Baker: and foure men more those
4 have not to our knowledg Been thear before but we underwritten
Deny there sense and judgment having large demonstration for so
dooing.

“We whose names are underwritten being present at the hereing
of the Matter abovsaid doo not finde that anything principally did
appeare against the said Timothy Child but that hee refised to goo to
the womens Meeting to propose his Marrage and doo beleve that
that was the only cause of their putting a stopp to him and doo not
beleeve it is there place to sitt Judge of Conscience in any such re-
spect

Charles Harris  John Boone
Robert White  John Grace
Stephen Pewsey  William Sexton
John Godgdon  Beniamen Hase.”

At the next Quarterly Meeting, the signatories, apparently a
little ashamed of their own behaviour and now supported by John
Raunce, proposed that all mention of the proceedings should be
erased, but the rest of the Meeting would not permit this, especially
as Child had married without authorisation in the interim. The for-
mer manoeuvre was repeated, this time in Raunce’s bold and vigor-
ous writing; it contrasts oddly with his plea that all his party wanted
was peace! The next Quarterly Meeting set it down as their judg-
ment “that for any One to write in ye Meeting-Book out of Meeting
time and without ye appointment or consent of ye Meeting is a dis-
orderly thing, and not according te Truth. And to prevent ye like
Abuse being put upon ye Meeting for ye future (John Brown
desiring yt Friends would commit ye Care and Custody of ye
Meeting Book to some other Friend) it was therupon committed and
delivered unto Tho: Olliffe of Alisbury to keep.”*

Raunce now set up his own Meeting at Wycombe, but made an-
other disturbance at Quarterly Meeting in 1688, and Harris and he
were for some time after this a considerable nuisance to the Society
at large; as they put it, “Charles Harris has been an Exercise,” trou-
ble of all kinds being regarded as training for the spiritual athlete.

* Quarterly Meeting Minute Book, Friends House.
The Minute Book (one of a large number of equally interesting MS. records) gives an admirable picture of an early Quaker community, practical and hardworking, yet always with an eye to spiritual values; thrifty yet charitable, well-organized yet already tinged with a formalism that did much damage to the Society during the next century.

In the preparation of this Introduction and the Notes I have been much helped by John Nickalls, the Librarian of Friends House, to whom I am deeply grateful.

Beatrice Saxon Snell
Att a meeting at Henry Balls on ye 3d of 9th mo: 69.

James Dorset & Susan Edmunds both of Flandell in the County of Hertford proposed to the meeting their intention of taking each other in marriage; wch was not referred to any to inquire into, because friends (+ were) (had) not (unity) satisfied wth the thing itself, not finding either of the Persons settled in truth.

Agreed then that the next meeting be held att Ralph Trumper’s.

Att a meeting at Ralph Trumper’s on ye first of 10th mo: 69.

James Dorset & Susan Edmunds again proposed to the meeting their intention of taking each other in marriage, wherein friends not feeling any Unity wth them, advised them not to be hasty, but faithfully & diligently to wait on ye Lord, that that life may be brought forth in them, wch the people of the Lord have Unity with.

Agreed then that the next Meeting be held att Thomas Lane’s.

Att a meeting at Tho: Lane’s on ye 5th of ye 11th mo: 69.

Collected from ye several Meetings to be disposed of by this Meeting in the service of Truth

To wch adding what remaind in H. Bals hand

The sum is

of this delivered to Edw. Hoar for the use of William Wilkinson of Hide Heath

Remains in H. Bals hand

Att a meeting at Tho: Lanes on ye 2d of ye 12th mo: 69.

James Dorset & Susan Edmunds came again, to propose to friends their intention of Marriage, desiring their assent therto; wherupon ye Meeting (having seriously again weighd the matter, and waited upon the Lord for counsel therin) returned them this advise, That they should yet patiently wait upon the Lord til he made their way a
clearer: telling them nakedly & plainly, that they felt a great bar & straitness in their spirits towards them, in relation to this business; & promising them that (without their further attending) friends, when they found any satisfaction & clearnes in their spirits concerning it, would take care to let them know it.

Agreed yt ye next Meeting be held at Tho: Ellwood’s.

[2r]

Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d of 1st mo: §§.

It was ordered that 10s should be delivered to Ed. Hoar for Wm. Wilkinson’s son in law of Hide Heath.

So yt there remains in H. Bals hand but

Agreed yt the next Meeting be held at Henry Balls.

Att a meeting at Henry Balls on ye sixt day of 2d mo: 7o

A paper was delivered to the Meeting by Philip Tomson senr from James Dorset & Susan Edmunds, wch discovered much of discontent, prejudice & bitternes of spirit in them; whereupon Nicholas Noy, Wm Sexton, & Wm Cooper were appointed to visit, reprove & admonish them in love. The paper Susan confess to be of her forming in James his absense, wherin she acknowledged she had done evil, & seemed to be troubled & sorry for it; wherupon those friends (seeing a Necessity for their coming together, & having the sense of the Meeting in that case) did give them to understand, That although they could not own them in their proceedings, yet (by way of permission) they were left to their liberty, to take each other when they should think fit.1

[2v]

At a Meeting at Hen: Bals on 4th of 3d mo: 7o.

Ordered that 5s should be delivered to Robt. Jones for Jane Turner of Chesham.

Remains in Hen: Bals hand . . . . . . 00 - 04 - 02

(1) = in the presence of friends and relatives, but not in a public Meeting for Worship, as would be done by a couple whose proceedings were “owned.”
At a Meeting at Henry Balls on ye 1st of 4th mo: 1670.

Edmund Belson of Hadnam & Sarah Hoar of great Missenden both in the County of Bucks proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage. It was referd to Edward Hoar & Henry Costard to inquire into the clearness of their proceedings, & give an account to the next meeting.

Daniel Smith & Sarah Brown both of Tring in ye County of Hertford proposed their intention of taking each other in marriage. It was referd to Robt. Jones & John Brown to enquire into the clearness of their proceedings, & give an account to ye next Meeting.

A Letter was sent in ye Name of this Meeting to Richard Martin of Hertford, concerning 1 olj left as a Legacy by Wm. Stonnel, to be disposed by Jo. Crook & Richard Martin for ye use of friends.

[37]
At a meeting at Hen: Bals on 6t of 5th mo: 70.
Collected for ye service of truth to be disposed by this meeting ......... J 4 - 2 - 10
Disbursd the same day to defray the charge of 4 meetings at ye same place .......... J 1 - 10 - 00

Remains in the hands of Wm. Cooper .......... 2 - 12 - 10

At a meeting at Hen: Bals on ye 3d of 6t. mo. 70.
Daniel Smith & Sarah Brown who on the first of ye 4th mo: past proposed their intention of marriage, came now to receive the advice of friends, & had their advice & approbation therin.

[3v]
At a meeting at Henry Balls on ye 7th of 7th mo. 1670.
[Intention of marriage between Daniel Pearce of Farnham Royal & Mary Brown of the same in the County of Bucks. Robert White & William Sexton appointed to inquire.]

At a meeting at Henry Balls on ye 5th of ye 8th mo: 1670.
Ordered that 1 os be delivered to Edw: Hoar for Jane Turner late of Chesham, now of Great Missenden. Of this Henry Bal to lay down
4. OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1670

4s: 2d. wch remained in his hand, & William Cooper to lay down 5s: 10d. to make up ye said 10s.
That some friends of Wickam & Chalfont Meetings do give a visit to friends at Wooburn on the next 3d day week, & in love & tenderness exhort them to a greater diligence in keeping close to their own meeting, & in waiting on ye Lord therin.

[Assent & approbation given to Edmund Belson & Sarah Hoare. (Vide under date 1.iv.70)]

William Cooper having disbursed the . . . . . 00 - 05 - 10
There remains in his hands . . . . . . . 02 - 07 - 00

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d of ye 9th mo: 70.
Agreed yt T: Ellwood & Wm. Sexton give notice to Philip Tomp-son senr & James Dorset of Flandell that friends desire them to come to the next meeting.

[4r]

Upon the 14th day of the eighth month 1670 Thomas Sallet of Tring did pay unto Robt. Jones of Cholsberry in ye County of Bucks the sum of ten pounds, wch John Ellis of Tring did leave in the hands of the said Tho: Sallet as a legacy to be paid for the use of poor friends called Quakers. This 10li is part of the 20li wch by friends consent was lent to Sarah Lamburn of Alisbury, as appears by ye County book. Upon ye Receipt of this mony, the following Acquit-tance was given

The 14th of the 8th month 1670
Received then of Tho: Sallett of Tring in the County of Hert-
ford ye sum of ten pounds wch was given by John Ellis of Tring
as a Legacy for the use of poor friends called Quakers We say
received in trust for ye use aforesaid

By us Robt. Jones
Jeremiah Stvens
Nicholas Noy
Thomas Dell
Robt. Jones & Edw. Hoar to visit Mary Belson of Chesham & reprove her for some disorders committ'd by her.

On the 5th of ye 8th mo: 70 William Cooper disbursed for ye defraying of ye charge of the three last meetings at Henry Balls.

Remains in Wm. Cooper's hands.

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Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 7th: 10th mo: 70.

Agreed that Robt. Jones & Nich: Noy do visit friends of Missenden, & admonish them to more diligence in keeping to their meetings.

Robt. Jones & Edward Hoar, who were to visit Mary Belson, acquainted ye meeting that they found her very tender, sensible of her miscarriage, & sorry for it. Daniel Pearce & Mary Brown, who on ye 7th of ye 7th month past, proposed their intention of taking each other in marriage, came now to receive the advice of this meeting, & had their assent therin.

There was gathered at this Meeting for ye prosecution of Aris & Lacy who being Informers are indicted for Perjury.

*(see 12:mo:70. 6:mo:71.)*

This mony was deposited in ye hands of T. Ellwood.

Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 4th of 11th mo: 70.

There was collected for ye use of this Meeting.

Of this, sent to Wm. Wilkenson of Hideheath by Edw. Hoar.

Put into the hands of Edward Hoar wch he is desired to lay out in Hemp or flaxe to imploy Eliz: Hil of Missenden.

There [erasure] remains of this stock.
This 3s 6d was delivered to Wm. Cooper, wch wth 1 li
35. in his hand before, makes . . . . . . . . . . . . \( \frac{01}{06} - \frac{06}{06} \)

Paid for an acccompt book for this meeting . . . . \( \frac{00}{01} - \frac{00}{00} \)

Remains . . . . \( \frac{01}{05} - \frac{06}{06} \)

[57]

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye first of ye 12th mo: 70.

A Certificate was sent from this Meeting to ye monthly Meeting in
Lancashire in ye behalf of John Costard of Oulsweck in this County,
who acquainted us yt he hath a purpose to take to Wife Mary Kingsly
of Lancashire. An Accompt of ye 1oli gathered for ye prosecution of
Aris & Lacy, was given in at this Meeting & there \( \frac{1}{\text{was now}} \) †(appeared) \( \frac{1}{\text{gathered}} \) to †(be) \( \frac{1}{\text{applied}} \) overcharge of \( \frac{03}{06} - \frac{06}{06} \)

Nicholas Noy & Edward Hoar were ordered to visit widow Rogers
of Prestwood, & discourse with her about her indirect letting her
house to the prejudice of the meeting held there.

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye first of ye first month 167\( \frac{1}{2} \)

It was ordered at this meeting that Henry Treadway or William
Sexton assist Tho: Lane in his treaty wth his Landlord about his
Accompts.

\[ \text{Gathered at this Meeting upon the accompt of mony } \frac{5}{00} - \frac{00}{00} \]
\[ \{ \text{disburst in prosecution of Aris & Lacy} \} \]

\[ \text{Gathered at this Meeting upon the accompt of mony } \frac{03}{06} - \frac{06}{06} \]
\* (see 12: mo: 70, 6: mo: 71.)

[5v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th of 2d mo: 1671.

It was ordered that Henry Ball, Tho: Dell & Tho: Ellwood should
repair unto Tho: Lane & give him the sense and advice of this meet-
ing for the speedy making off his stock & goods for the payment of
his debts.

\[ \text{Gathered at this meeting for a further prosecution of Aris & Lacy } \frac{12}{00} - \frac{00}{00} \]
\* (see 6: mo: 71.)
MAY - JULY 1671

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 3d of 3d mo: 1671.

Benjamin Hawes & Elizabeth Grace both of Chipping Wiccomb in the County of Bucks proposed their intention of intermarriage, & desired the advice of this Meeting therin, who referd it to John Brown & William Kidder to enquire into the clearnes of their proceedings & make report at next Meeting.

[6r]

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 7th of 4th mo: 1671.

It was ordered that William Cooper should pay unto Edward Hoar 1 li for ye use of Eliz: Hill of Great Missenden; & 5s: six pence for William Wilkinson of Hide heath. There remains nothing now in William Cooper’s hands.

Benjamin Hawes & Elizabeth Grace (who on the 3d of ye 3d mo: last proposed their intention of Marriage) came now to receive the advice of this meeting, & had their assent & approbation therin.

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th of 5th mo: 1671.

Edward Okely & Ester Heydon of the parish of Chalfont Peters in the County of Bucks proposed their intention of intermarriage, & desired the advice of this Meeting therin, wherupon it was referred to Henry Bal & Robt. White to enquire into ye clearnes of their proceedings, & give an account at the next Meeting.

Upon the report of Edward Hoar concerning the evil life of Elizabeth Wood of Great Missenden, together wth the sense friends have of her loose & disorderly conversation, & her abuse of ye many visitations wch the Lord through divers of his Servants hath afforded her, it seemed good notwithstanding to this Meeting yet once more to visither with the ensuing lines.

[6v]

Elizabeth Wood

Our care over thee, our tenderness towards thee, & our desire of thy preservation in Truth hath been great, & hath often drawn us, in true love to thy soul, to seek thee out, & tenderly to admonish thee to forsake thy evil courses, wherby thou hast dishonoured the name of the Lord, & caused his holy Truth to
be blasphemed amongst the Heathen, whose spirit thou art joined unto. Many a visitation hath the Lord God of mercy afforded thee, & still thou hast backslidden more and more, O thou Rebellious one; & behold now thy day draws near an end, & thou art not far from being sealed to destruction, unless thou repent: therefore while yet a moment is left thee; return, return, forsake the folly & vanity of thy life, & cast off all thy profane Companions, lest the Lord God & his people cast thee utterly off, and thou goe down to thy place with sorrow.

From our monthly Meeting this 5th of ye 5th mo: 1671.

Wm. Sexton. Tho: Dell. 
Robt. White. Wm. Cooper. 
Hen: Ball. Sam: Jenings. 
Thomas Ellwood

Gathered at this Meeting to defray Expences in the said prosecution of Aris & Lacy . . . . . . . . . . . . . 02 - 02 - 06 *(see 6:mo:71.)

[74]
Att a meeting at T. Ellwoods on ye 2d of 6th mo: 71.

The Condition of friends of Missenden was taken into consideration, & it was agreed yt at ye next Meeting some care be taken for visiting them.

The Accompts of monys gathered for ye prosecution of Aris & Lacy, the two perjured Informers, stands thus,

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<td>This 3s. 4d. was disposed of in ye 8th:mo: following.</td>
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Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on 6t of 7th mo: 71.

Upon ye Report of Edw. Hoar concerning Eliz. Wood of Missenden, her continuance in disorder, John Raunce & Nich: Noy express a willingness to visit her, to whom it was comitted by ye Meet-
SEPTEMBER -- OCTOBER 1671

ing; & left to their freedom to bring her to ye Meeting or not, according as they should find occasion.

Upon ye sense this meeting hath of ye declining Estate of Missenden Meeting, it is agreed yt as many friends as feel any drawings therunto, shall give that Meeting a visit at Edw. Hoar's house on ye 19th day of this month, being ye 3d day of ye week.

[Assent given to Edward Okely & Hester Heydon. (Vide under date 5.v.71)

Intention of marriage between Richard Dorvel & Elizabeth Heather both of Chipping Wiccomb. Jeremy Stevens & Nicholas Noy appointed to inquire.]

[7v] [Blank]

[8r]
Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on 4th: 8th mo: 71.

There was gathered for ye service of this Meeting 1li - 1 3s, to wch was added 3s - 4d wch was ye whole surplussage of ye monyes gathered for ye prosecution of Airis & Lacy.

Of this sum, 1 3s was delivered to Edward Hoar for ye use of Wm. Wilkinson of Hyde Heath

And ye remaining 1li - 3s - 4d was put into the hands of Samuel Jennings for ye use of Jane Turner of Alisbury.

[Assent given to Richard Dorvel & Elizabeth Heather. (Vide under date 6.vii.71)


Intention of marriage between John Gigger of Pen & Rebecca Dell of Beconsfield. Thomas Dell & Thomas Ellwood appointed to inquire.

Intention of marriage between Henry Child of Coleshil & Ann Ball of Amersham. Ralph Trumper & William Cooper appointed to inquire.]
Elizabeth Wood of Great Missenden, whom at ye last Meeting John Raunce & Nicholas Noy were ordered to visit & reprove for her disorderly living, did, together with one Sarah Weeden of ye same place, who was also guilty of some disorders, send ye ensuing lines unto this Meeting by ye hands of Edward Hoar.

Dear friends, our dear love remembred unto you; & we are hartily sorry yt we have given occasion for ye Truth to be evil spoken of, & we desire that it may be so no more wth us, but yt we may prise ye love of ye Lord, & your tender love & care over us I desire we may never forget, & for ye time to come we may live in the Truth as we ought to do. And I desire to ly under judgment for ye things that are past: for truly our trouble hath been very great; & I hope it wil be a warning to us how ever we enter into ye like temptation again. So with our dear loves to youal, we remain

Elizabeth Wood
and
Sarah Weeden.

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on 1st. 9th. mo: 71.
It was agreed that John Jennings & Mary Arnold, who being Cousin germans have entangled each other in affection, & neglecting ye advice of friends unto them, are now gone to inhabit together, be visited by Robt. Jones & John Raunce, & admonished to a greater diligence & watchfulness unto Truth, & to take heed of cherishing an unlawful affection, to their own hurt & the reproach of Truth.

[Assent given to Thomas Dell & Sarah Randall. (Vide under date 4.viii.71)]
[Assent given to John Gigger & Rebecca Dell. (Vide under date 4.viii.71)]

At a Meting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6 of 10th mo: 1671.
Agreed that Henry Costard & William Sexton do visit John Jennings & Mary Arnold & reprove them for cherishing an unlawful
affection towards each other, & for inhabiting together to their own hurt & the reproach of Truth, & to admonish them to more watchfulness & diligence at Meetings.

[Intention of marriage between Charles Harris of Polesworth in the County of Warwick & Sarah Raunce of Chipping Wiccomb. Jeremiah Stevens & Thomas Ellwood to inquire.

Intention of marriage between George Stiles & Jone Dunt both of Wooburn. Friends] laid the dangers thereof before them, & referd the inquiry therof to Tho: Dell & Robt. White.

[9v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods of 3d of 11th mo: 1671.

Henry Child & Ann Ball who on ye 4th of ye 8th mo: last past proposed their intention of taking each other in marriage, came now to receive the answer of friends therin & had their Assent therto.

Charles Harris & Sarah Raunce who at the last Meeting proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, came now to receive the answer of friends & had their consent therto. A Certificate being here produced, under ye hands of 3o of the friends of Badgely Meeting in the County of Warwick, attesting the Consent of his friends & Relations, & their steadfast beleif of his clearness from any other.

Report was made by Wm. Cooper, that having lately visited John Jennings & Mary Arnold the Cousin-germans, he found them still resolved to continue & cherish that unlawful & unnatural affection towards each other, wth intention to take each other in marriage; notwithstanding the many tender admonitions & gentle reproofs wch friends from time to time have used towards them. Wherupon friends being deeply sensible of the Evil of the thing, both in its own nature, & in the consequences that attend it, & feeling Life arise to judge out & condemn it, a Testimony was, by the ful consent of the Meeting, given forth against it as followeth

[10r]
Inasmuch as some, who make a profession of the Truth, being nearly related to each other in the flesh, as being first Cousins, have lett our [sic=out] their Affections one to another, so far as to desire each other in marriage, contrary to the Law of God,
and the leadings and dictates of his holy spirit, We whose names are hereunderwritten, being met together in the fear of the † (Almighty God) {Lord}, and feeling his life & power arise in our hearts, to judge and condemn such disorderly affections, do in the sense therof, with one heart & with one mind, give forth this Testimony, That all such Affections & such Marriages proceed from an evil ground, are contrary to the Truth, provoke the Lord to displeasure, and grieve his good Spirit in his People. Which Testimony we think fit thus publickly to declare, for the clearing of our own Consciences, for the reclaiming of those that have already erred in this kind, for preventing others from falling into the like Evil hereafter, & for Information to the World, that no such Persons, as thus go together in Marriage, are indeed of us and owned by us, what soever they may seem or pretend to be.

John Browne
Charles Harris
Tho: Zachary.
Robt. Jones
Edward Hoare
William Cooper
Thomas Dell
Henry Ball
Henrey Treadway
Phillip Thompson
Roger Tanner

Will Kidder
Richard Deadman
Robert White
George Salter
William Russell
Ralph Trumper
William Sexton
John White
Thomas Ellwood
Henry Costard

[10v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th of 12th mo: 71.
[Intention of marriage between William Penn of Walthamstow in the County of Essex and Gulielma Maria Springett of Tiler End Green in the parish of Penn in the County of Bucks. Thomas Zachary & Thomas Ellwood appointed to inquire.

Also between John Boone & Martha Jones both of Chipping Wiccomb. Samuel Troane & William Kidder appointed to inquire.]
FEBRUARY – MAY 1672

William Sexton & Thomas Dell are appointed to visit Dorothy frieze, & to reprove her for her unfaithfulness & evil in being married to a man of the world & by a Priest(2), & to admonish her to repentance & own her condemnation.

[11r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on 6t. of 1st. mo: 7½

[Consent & approbation given to William Penn & Gulielma Maria Springett. (Vide under date 7.xii.71)

Assent given to John Boone & Martha Jones. (Vide under date 7.xii.71)

Assent given George Stiles & Jone Dunt. (Vide under date 6.x.71)]

William Sexton & Tho: Dell to renew their visit to Dorothy frieze etc.

[11v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 3d of 2d mo: 72.

[Intention of marriage between Abraham Axtell of Chesham & Mary Belson of the same. Henry Costard & Samuel Jennings appointed to inquire.

Also between Richard Hauks of London & Hannah Parrett of Amersham. Robert Jones & William Cooper appointed to inquire.]

William Cooper, {&} William Sexton & Tho: Ellwood to visit James Dorset of Flandell, & to reprove him for his disorderly walking & scandalous conversation, & to admonish him to repentance & amendment of life.

[12r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st. of 3d mo: 72.

Samuel Jennings gave an account of the 1li - 3s - 4d formerly committed unto him for ye use of Jane Turner of Alisbury, as also a disbursement of 2os and 2d by Sarah Lamburn for ye same use, wch Nicholas Noy is ordered to reimburse out of the Rent of the mony formerly given by James Kingham.

Richard Hawks & Hannah Parrett, who at the last Meeting proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, came now to

(2) "a man of the world" = a non-Quaker.

"A priest" = a minister of religion of any denomination.
receive ye answer of friends therin, who gave them this conditional consent, yt if, upon publication made at the next Meeting in Amersham, no Objection or cause of Obstruction arise, they may in convenient time proceed, but if any objection should be made, that then they deferre the taking each other until the next monthly Meeting, where the Objection also be offered. And that ye care of this business be comitted to William Cooper.

[Intention of marriage between Richard Baker of London, Woodmonger, & Elizabeth Murford of Beconsfield. William Sexton & Thomas Ellwood appointed to inquire.]

[12v]
At a Meeting at Tho : Ellwood’s on ye 5th of 4th mo : 72.

[Assent given to the marriage of Abraham Axtell & Mary Belson. Vide under date 3 .ii. 72)

Consent & approbation given to Richard Baker & Elizabeth Murford. Vide under date i .iii. 72]]

Upon report made to this Meeting of a loss sustained by a friend (Eliz: Crutch of Prestwood, near Missenden) by fire, it is ordered that John Raunce be desired to visit ye person, & fully to inform himself of ye value lost, of her present condition, & clearness from other ways of releif. And, according as he shall find occasion, to give speedy notice to the respective Meetings belonging to this Meeting, to make Collections for her support & assistance.* (see 6t: mo: 72.)

William Sexton & Tho: Dell having visited Dorothy Frieze, & reproved her for being joyned by a Priest to a man of the world, Report yt they found her sensible of her miscarriage therin, & sorry for it.

An accompt being given to this Meeting, yt frinds of Missenden, Amersham, Chesam & Wooburn have through negligence by degrees let fal their Meetings on ye weekdays, This Meeting, sensible of ye hurt & loss, occasioned therby to ye friends of those Respective Meetings, as wel as to ye honour of Truth, & its Testimony long since born in those places, provided, yt William Penn & Nicholas Noy should visit ye friends of those Meetings respectively, & to them read or cause to be read the following letter, in the name of this Meeting.
Dr. Friends

When we consider ye days yt are past, & ye years yt are far gone, & cal to mind ye time of our distress, when darkness had overcast us, insomuch yt we saw no light; & then bring to our remembrance, ye day-spring yt dawned upon us, & ye breaking forth of God's visitation of light among us, O how glorious was yt day! how joyful those tidings! how lovely ye feet of them yt were ye Messengers therof! Were you not wth us deeply affected, your souls smitten & made to confess to ye same, & to bear

[13r] your testimony over al the reproach & sufferings yt did attend you? And in yt tender early time, even ye years of your youth & first espousals, were you not zealous for ye Lord, & did you not assemble yourselves together to wait upon him, to feel after his presence, as yt alone in wch ye found life, peace, strength & true satisfaction? And did you not then run wel? But what hath hindred? O what hath taken you off? It is our brotherly exhortation, in ye dear & blessed Truth of God, That you let not yt Testimony, once bornamongst you & by you, fall in your streets, yt it may not be told by ye Professour or Prophane, there was once a Meeting, of ye People called Quakers in Amersham but it is come to nothing. Surely ye Lord is not pleased herewith, nor doth it engage ye Lord's presence, nor is it for your growth and profitting in ye work & way of ye Lord: but it both hurts your Brethren, gives offence to ye world, dries & makes you barren, and dishonours God's everlasting Truth. Therfore in ye tender love of God, yt is jealous of his pure glory, get together again, sit down & wait to feel ye Lord's presence & wisdom & orderings amongst you, for ye reestablishmt. of your decayed Meeting, yt (though but two or three) you may not forsake ye assemblings of your selves together, but meeting in ye Light & name of Xt. Jesus our Lord, his divine presence & heavenly blessings you may witness, to your refreshmt. growth & establishmt., to ye comforting of your brethren, ye judging of ye world, & ye magnifying of ye name of ye Lord our God, in wch you wil al come to obtain an eternal Inheritance, wth al them yt, in their day, did diligently come together to worship

(3) "Professour" = a professing Christian.
God, in ye pure Light & spirit of his son.

And dear friends, this further springs in our minds, in ye same tender love of ye Lord, yt you make it matter of great weight to frequent, & (as much as may be wth al clearness before ye Lord) to keep close to your own Meetings, wherby you may be a strength & support to one another, & may al come to know what it is to travel through & over those weights & exercises yt attend al, who are ye first-fruits to God in any place: yt so you may come to receive the reward of true travellers in ye way of ye Lord. And we are wel assured, yt ye Lord wil cause his life to arise, break forth & shine through al fogs & mists of darkness to ye lifting up his standard & ensign for ye gathering in of ye people, as you are faithfully, closely & livingly, exercised in your hearts & spirits towards God in al your Meetings.

From our Monthly Meeting, this 5th of 4th mo: 1672.

[13v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 5th mo: 72.

It is agreed yt John Raunce & other friends of Wiccomb & Chalfont Meetings do meet at Tho: Pewseys on ye 11th of this instant, wth the friends & convinced people⁴ of Wooburn, Brookend, Knowcam & therabouts, to stir them up to diligence & faithfulnes in waiting upon ye Lord.

That Nicholas Noy, John Raunce & Edw. Hoare speak wth Eliz. Crouch of Prestwood, & take an accompt of what necessaries she stands most in need of, to be provided by ye next monthly Meeting if need require.

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 7th of 6t: mo: 72.

Agreed yt 7li - 1os of stock lying in Nich: Noy's hand be speedily ordered to Hen. Bal for the assistance of Joseph Winch of Amersham & in buying out his mother's thirds⁵, & yt 5os a year of ye said Joseph's

(4) "convinced people" = those who accept the truth of Quaker principles.
(5) "his mother's thirds" = the third of the personal property of a deceased husband was allowed by law to his widow.
Rents in Uxbridge be assigned for ye repaymt. of ye said monys to such person as Hen: Ball shal nominate.

Notice haveing been given to ye respective Meetings of ye Loss formerly mentioned to have befallen Elizab : Crutch of Prestwood near Missenden by fire, there was brought in towards her assistance 5li - 14s - 4d, wch mony was comitted to Samuel Troan of Wickam to lay out in houshold goods for ye said Eliz: Crutch. *(see 4th: mo: 72.)*

Tho: Dell did in behalf of Wooburn Meeting make complaint here, yt that Meeting was overchargd with poor beyond ye reasonable ability of ye Friends there; wch thing was by this Meeting recommended to ye friends of Weston & Meadle Meetings (who are at present void of charge) to consider of, & assist them in.

[14r]

At a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 4th of 7th mo: 72.

Upon ye motion of Robt. Jones in ye behalf of Philip Ford late of Alisbury in ye County of Bucks & now of ye City of London, ye following Certificate was signed, & directed.

To ye men’s Meeting at London.

Dr. Friends

Whereas Philip Ford of ye City of London hath given us to understand, yt there is an intention of marriage between him & one Bridget Gosnell a friend of your City, & hath, in order to your satisfaction, desired our Testimonial concerning him. Wee thensfore, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do Certifie unto you, yt during ye space of 7 or 8 years, wherein ye said Philip Ford lived in this County, we never saw any miscarriage or evil deportmt. in him, but found him to be of an honest conversation, & faithful to ye Testimony of Truth, as wel in bonds as at liberty. And as to his freedome & clearnes from other woemen, we never knew, nor have ground to think, yt he was ingaged to, or intangled {wth} in affection wth any, while he resided amongst us, but do beleive him to be free from any such engagemt. In witnes wherof we subscribe our names & remain in ye love & service of ye Truth
From our monthly Meeting in ye upper side of ye County of Bucks, this 4th of 7thmo: 72. Your Friends

Jon. Brown Ralph Trumper.
Tho. Sellat. Hen: Costard:
Isaac Penington. John White.
Wm. Penn. Henry Treadway.
Tho. Ellwood. Wm. Cooper
Tho. Dell.
Edw. Hoare.
Robt. White
Samuel Troane

Tho: Dell, who in behalf of Wooburn Meeting did make complaint at our last Meeting of a Surcharge of poor, received now by way of Assistance as followeth vizt.

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\begin{align*}
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\text{from} \quad \text{Meadle} & \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad \ldots \quad 00 \ - \ 12 \ - \ 00 \\
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[14v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d of 8thmo: 72.

Whereas at ye Meeting in ye 6t: mo: last there was an appointmt. of 7li - 10s to be paid to Hen: Ball for ye use of Joseph Winch of Amersham; there appearing since to be need but of 7li. it was paid thus: 6li by Nicholas Noy, wherof 3li was mony given by Tho: Scott of Tring, & 1li was part of a Legacy given by Tho: Rogers of Prestwood. The other 2os to make up ye 7li, was lent by Chalfont Meeting, it appearing yt Nich: Noy had not 7li - 10s. in his hands, but only 6li - 4s - 8d. This 4s - 8d was delivered to Edw. Hoar for Mary Tod of Great Missenden, who having given over lace-making, is represented to be in a somewhat strait condition. *(see 4thmo: 74. & 1stmo: 77, 3:mo: 80. 8:mo: 81).

(6) "lace-making." = lace for ornament was disapproved of by Quakers. G. Ellwood. History of my Own Life. Anno 1659. "I took off from my Apparel those unnecessary Trimmings, of Lace Ribbands and useless Buttons, which had no real Service, but were set on only for that which was, by Mistake, called Ornament." The making of laces for stays and shoes, on the other hand, was considered quite harmless.
NOVEMBER 1672 - JANUARY 1673

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6th of 9th mo: 72.


[157]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th of 10th mo: 72.

Samuel Jenings & Ann Olive who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive ye advice of friends, and had their consent therin, with advice yt Samuel (before ye consummation of their intended Marriage) should endeavour to give al reasonable satisfaction to Ann Olive's Grandfather & Grandmother, concerning a provision of future maintenance to be made for ye said Ann, in case she should survive ye said Samuel.

Agreed yt ye friends in & near Flandell do keep a Meeting amongst themselves once a month, upon yt first day wheron ye first Meeting is at Thomas Lane's; & yt this Meeting of Flandell be entered distinctly amongst ye other Meetings yt appertain to this Monthly Meeting.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye first of 11th mo: 72.

Ralph Trumpet & Wm. Cooper are desired to repaire to John Gigger ye elder, & enquire of him how far he hath proceeded in ye payment of his debts.

Joseph Bartlett junr & Mary Russel, who (on ye sixt of ye 9th month last,) proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive ye advice of ye Meeting therin: And friends understanding yt William Russel (father of ye said Mary) hath some dissatisfaction of spirit concerning it, did advise & press ye said Joseph & Mary to wait in patience & singleness upon ye Lord, until yt wch is ye ground of ye said William's dissatisfaction be removed, & their way made clear in Truth.
20 FEBRUARY – MARCH 1673

[15v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 12th mo: 72.

William Cooper is desired to acquaint Jon. Gigger of Penn & his Wife, yt friends have a desire to see & speak with them at ye next Meeting here.

Complaint being made by Philip Thompson senr of ye disorderly carriages of James Dorset of Flandel, William Sexton & Thomas Ellwood are appointed to speak wth him about it, & let him know yt friends do expect he should come to ye next Meeting here, to answer for himself.

Wheeras Joseph Bartlett junr & Mary Russel were at ye last Meet- ing advised to wait upon ye Lord until friends had received satisfac- tion concerning them; it is now ordered yt Henry Ball & William Sexton do acquaint ye sd persons, yt as friends are very desirous to receive satisfaction concerning them, so they expect it from them †(selves); & as they were advised to wait in syncerity upon ye Lord to feel his redeeming power at work in them; so friends wil be glad at the next Meeting to receive from them †(selves) an upright & naked accompt of ye progress of yt work in them since ye last Meet- ing.

Inasmuch as it appears to ye friends at this Meeting, yt there are divers inconveniences attending ye overgreat concourses of friends to Marriages; It is therefore ye joynt agreemt. of this Meeting (for prevention of ye like inconveniences for ye future) That whenssoever any friends shal hereafter desire ye advice of this Meeting in case of Marriage, ye friends of this Meeting do take especial care, in ye return of their answer to advise them withal to forbear making such general invitations, & (besides their Relations) to content them- selves wth ye company of those friends cheifly, yt are of ye Meeting to wch they belong, not preferring ye rich before ye poore.

[16r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th of ye 1st: mo: 73.

Report being made to this Meeting of several miscarriages com- mitted by Henry Parks of Great Missenden, it is agreed yt Robt. Jones, Nich: Noy, & Tho: Zachary, wth ye assistance of wt. other
friends shall have freedom to go with them, do visit ye said Henry Parks (at Edward Hoar's on ye 13th of this month about ye 11th hour) & if ye said Henry cannot clear himself from what is charg'd agt. him, nor give satisfaction to friends of his real sorrow, {&} repentance & amendm't. then to deny him & give a testimony ag. him, according as shall then seem meet unto them.

Joseph Bartlett & Mary Russel, who had formerly † (proposed) [erasure] their intention of taking each other in marriage, & upon some dissatisfaction both in Wm. Russel (father of ye said Mary) & also in friends, were advised to wait upon ye Lord, for the removal of yt in themselves, wch was an obstruction to their proceeding, came now to this Meeting, † (having) given friends some satisfaction therin, had their consent to proceed accordingly. James Dorsett of Flandel came to this Meeting, & made some acknowledgmt. of his disorderly walking, expressing some sense thereof & [sorrow] trouble therefore. Wherupon he was admonished to clear Truth, by giving a publick testimony agt his disorders, in ye places where he had committed them; and exhorted to wait upon ye Lord in ye way of his judgments, yt he may find remission, & for ye future to be more watchful & diligent, lest he fall into ye like or other temptations.

Jon. Gigger senr. gave in an Accompt of his Debts, wch friends have taken into consideration, in order to † (assist him in) ye discharging of some part of them at ye next Meeting, if they find clearness & satisfaction therin.

[16v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d: of 2d: mo: 73.

John Gigger's business was considered of, & friends not having received ful satisfaction therin, it was referd to ye next Meeting, & Henry Bal desired to give notice to ye old man & his wife to be there. Those friends who at ye last Meeting were appointed to visit Henry Parkes of Missenden, & to enquire into ye disorders charged agt. him etc. gave this Account, yt they wth some other friends had been there, & as wel from ye confession of Parkes himself in some things, as from undeniable evidence of several Eye & Ear-Witnesses in others, found just cause & ground to conclude yt ye said Henry Parkes is really guilty of ye misdemeanours charged upon him.
Wherupon they thought fit to invite him to this Meeting, to wch accordingly he came; where also he acknowledged some of his miscarriages, denying some & evading others; little sensible of his own condition, or capable of receiving ye good advice yt was offered to him. Yet in asmuch as it was made appear yt through his means Truth was evil spoken of, & ye holy name of God blasphemed, he did at length subscribe ye following paper.

Whereas I Henry Parkes of Great Missenden, have made profession of ye holy Truth of God, among ye People in scorn called Quakers, & have not walked circumspectly to yt holy Principle, wch would have preserved out of Evil, & as became me to do; but have given way to an airy, loose & ungodly spirit, whereby I have brought Reproach upon ye holy name of God, his Truth & People: I do hereby clear yt People, & ye Truth they Profess, from being guilty of any such misdemanours, & must confess their godly jealousy over me, & admonition to me from time to time; *(see 12 mo: 76) & therfore I do take ye shame of my folly to myself, & do judge myself.

Witness my hand this

Henry Parkes.

[17r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th of 3d mo: 73.

Upon information to ye Meeting yt Henry Parkes had since ye last Meeting comitted some fresh disorders, Nicholas Noy & some other friends undertook once more to visit him, before a publique testimony be given agt. him.

There appearing to be something of disagreemt. between Edward Hoar of Missenden & Abraham Axtell of Chesham, Robt. Jones & Nicholas Noy were desired to enquire into it, & endeavour a composure.

In pursuance of a letter from ye General Meeting at London dated ye 29th: of ye 3d mo: 1672 there was collected for ye publick service of Truth, as foloweth,
## MAY - JUNE 1673

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| Total     | 5  | 06 | 09 |

| Total     | 17 | 06 | 09 |

Of this sum, £213 6s 9d was on ye 22th day of this month paid by Tho: Ellwood unto Gerrard Roberts', in ye name of this County, & his receipt taken for it. The other 5li remains as Stock at ye disposition of ye County Meeting.

Upon ye 27th of ye last month Joseph Winch paid unto Tho: Ellwood 2os being part of 7li formerly lent him by this Meeting. This 2os was paid to Wm. Sexton for ye reimbursing of Chalfont Meeting. See 8th mo: 72. *(See 8: mo: 72, 4: mo: 74. 3: mo: 80.)*

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(7) "Gerrard Roberts." His house was the headquarters in London for travelling Quaker preachers, who were supported, when necessary, out of the money collected "for the public service of Truth."
& preservation: wherupon it was agreed, that Edward Hoare do give notice unto them both that Some friends have a desire to see them at Tho: Zacharies upon ye 7th day of this week between ye 2d & 3d hours; & Isaac Penington, Wm. Penn Nich: Noy & Tho: Zacharie declared their willingness & intention to be there.

An Account being given by Robt. Jones, of a loss sustained by Daniel Smith, of Wilston in the parish of Tring by fire, whereby he is rendered ioli worse than nothing; it is agreed, yt his condicion be recommended to friends at their several Meetings throughout this County, & yt whatsoever monys shal be given by friends towards his assistance, be brought in to ye next monthly Meeting.

Robt. Jones & Nich: Noy, having been to visit Henry Parks, acquaint ye Meeting, yt although they found his condicion bad, yet in ye long-suffering love of ye Lord, they were willing for ye present to forbear a publick denial, choosing rather to wait yet a little longer, if perhaps he may come to repentance. Nich: Noy & Robt. Jones acquaint ye Meeting, yt al differences between Edward Hoar & Abraham Axtel are composed, & a mutual agreeemt. & reconciliation made between them.

Tho: Dell & John Raunce to visit Ann Aldy, & to admonish her to repent of & condemn ye wickedness committed by her. And also to give an account of her, to friends of Turville-Heath.

[18 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: 5th mo: 73.

Tho: Zachary acquainted ye Meeting yt he & ye other friends appointed to visit John Jenings & Mary Arnold, had spoken with them; & yt they were brought to a good degree of tenderness, giving some hopes of their recovery from ye snare wherin they are entangled.


The loss by fire sustained by Dan: Smith of Tring parish, having by ye agreeemt. of ye last Meeting been represented to ye respective meetings through ye upper side of this County, there was collected & brought in hither towards his assistance, as followeth
This monye was put into ye hands of [blank] and ordered to be delivered to ye said Dan: Smith, as lent him.

John Gigger's business being again considered, some monies were raised for his assistance as followeth.

This monye was committed to Hen: Ball & Wm. Cooper for ye paymt. of Jon. Gigger's debts & providing some necessaries for him & his Wife.

Edward Vivers of Banbury in ye County of Oxon Woolen Draper, & Ann Stoddart of Watford in ye County of Hertford Widow, proposed their intention to take each other in marriage. Wherupon Edward was ordered to bring a Certificate from friends of Banbury
concerning his clearness, & Wm. Penn & Geo: Mead to enquire of Ann’s.

\[18 v\]

Atta Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6t: of 6t mo: 73.

Nich: Noy & Robt. Jones acquaint ye Meeting yt having visited Jon. Jenings & Mary Arnold, they find them somewhat declined from yt tenderness they were in at ye last visit, & stifly persisting in their unlawful affection to each other. John Raunce & Robt. Jones (yt no means may be omitted for their recovery) offered to bestow one visit more upon them.

John Raunce acquainted ye Meeting yt he had been to visit Ann Aldy, but missed of her; That he had casually spoken with her before & was not wth out some hopes of her amendmt. He & Nich: Noy offered to give her a visit, & return an account to friends of her condicion.

There was collected at this Meeting, for ye service of Truth, forty shillings & six pence. Of this paid then to John Brown 1os : 3d. wch he had laid out for Jane Turner, 5s for her Rent, & 5s : 3d. for necessaries for her. Paid more to Sam: Jenings 5s : wch he in like manner had laid out for her Rent. And left 1os more in Samuel’s hands to discharge ye next quarter’s Rent, wch wil be due at ye 29th: of ye 7th mo: next.

So paid in al ............ oi : o5 : o3
Remains in ye hands of Tho: Ellwood .......... 00 : 15 : 03

* (see 11th: mo: 73)

[Consent & approbation given to Edward Vivers & Ann Stoddart, (vide under date 2.v.73)] Edward producing a Certificate subscrib- ed by about 29 of ye friends of Bloxham Meeting near Banbury, expressing yt upon their enquiry into ye matter, ther did not appear any engagement or entanglement on his part, or any thing else yt might impede his proceed therin.

[Intention of marriage between Robert Crooke of Greenfeild Green in the parish of Watlington, Oxon. & Hannah Darvel of Great Missenden. Robert ordered to bring a Certificate from friends in Oxfordshire, & John Raunce & Robert Jones appointed to inquire concerning Hannah.]
Also between Thomas Morton of Tarriers End in the parish of Draiton Beacham & Mary Coley of Tring. Thomas Sellat & John Brown] with what other friends they wil associate [appointed to inquire.]

Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d: of 7th: mo: 73.

John Raunce & Robt. Jones acquaint ye Meeting, yt they have again visited Jon. Jenings & Mary Arnold, & endeavoured to beget a sense in them, of ye very great love & mercy of ye Lord towards them, in moving in ye hearts of so many of his servants, whom he hath so frequently sent to them, to warn them of, & dissuade them from yt evil & unlawful affection, wch they have let out & stil cherish towards one another. Shewing them also ye many inconveniences, and dangers, yt wil attend them in their pursuit therof, & ye necessity they wil in ye end run friends upon, of giving a publique testimony agt. them, if they persist therin. But yt finding ye ear shut to counsel, & ye heart closed agt. advice, they did even give them over, as hopeless of their recovery: & no other friend having any thing upon him to go to them any more, ye following paper was sent by ye meeting to them, as alamentation over them.

John Jenings & Mary Arnold, Our hearts are grieved for you, & very loth ye should be lost as to God & his Truth, wch we are very fearfull wil be ye issue, if ye proceed in your intended course. And as for thee, Mary Arnold, how often hath ye witness of God been reached to in thee, & how hard hath ye spt. of ye Lord drawn, to put thee from this evil & unlawful thing! So yt if thou proceed, thou goest on not only agt. ye Testimony of life & God’s holy spt. in his people, but agt. ye very strivings of God’s spt. & his witness in thy own heart. It is yet our beleif, yt if ye would harken to God’s counsel, & part immediatly one from another, when your hearts are tender & melted by ye power of ye Lord, & not consult wth flesh & bloud, nor harken to such thoughts & reasonings as are not of ye Truth, but agt. it; ye Lord would yet shew you mercy, in preventing this great evil, & making your separation easier & sweeter than ye are
aware. But ye Enemy hath so often prevailed upon you, by working upon ye affectionate part, & stil eaten out ye good sense & inclinations, yt God in his tender mercy hath often bestowed on you (especially on thee Mary Arnold) as we have been often deeply sensible, yt we have little more to say unto you, but lament over your loss: & o Mary, what wil be thy condition, when God shal lay ye weight of this thing upon thee, & manifest to thee what tender love, & frequent, fresh, living testimonies thou hast turned from, & done yt wch ye spt. of ye Lord hath no liking to nor unity with, but wil require it of thee, as having dishonoured his name, & greived his good spt. therby.

An Aldy did before several friends of ye Meeting with sorrow acknowledge ye sin she had committed, giving also some acconnt how she was betrayed & drawn therto. She was admonished to wait in fear before ye Lord, to feel the effectual working of his judgments, yt repentance & remission she might come to witness.

[19v]

[Full consent & approbation given to Robert Crooke & Hannah Darvel, (vide under date 6.vi.73)] Robt. producing a Certificate, subscribed by about 20 of ye friends of ye monthly Meeting at Turvil-heath in Oxford sheir, giving testimony both to his faithfulnes & clearness.

[Consent given to Thomas Morton & Mary Coley. (Vide under date 6.vi.73)]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: 8th: mo: 73.

Edward Hoar acquainted ye Meeting, that Elizabeth Wood of Great Missenden, who for her disorderly walking, had been often visited by friends, & particularly in ye 5th: mo: 71. by a paper from this Meeting, & in ye 7th month following sent a letter to friends, acknowledging her evil life & trouble therfore, was now reported to be married by a Priest to a man of ye world; wherupon friends of Wiccomb engaged to visit her, & lay ye evil & weight therof upon her.
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 9th mo: 73.

[Intention of marriage between Edmund Widmore of Giles Chalfont & Rebecca Woolman of Rickman'sworth. William Sexton & Robert White appointed to inquire.]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 10th mo: 73.

William Cooper & Henry Ball, who in ye 5th mo: last received 10l of this Meeting for ye paying of old John Gigger's Debts, gave an accompt to friends of the disposing ye said 10l, to their satisfaction.

A proposition being made concerning ye dividing of Chalfont Meeting, it was referred to ye friends of that particular Meeting to consider of & determine. Wherupon they {appointed} agreed to meet together about it, at Jordans, upon ye next fourth day of ye weeke, wch wil be ye 10th instant, between ye hours of nine & ten in ye forenoon.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 7th: of 11th: mo: 1673.

The condition of Mary Tod of great Missenden being recommend-ed to this Meeting as low & necessitous, there was collected 11l 13s. wherof 20s was sent her from this Meeting by Edward Hoare. The other 13s, wth ye 15s: 3d yt was left of a collection in ye 6t mo: last, remains in ye hands of Tho: Ellwood.

\[
\text{In al} \quad \cdot \quad \cdot \quad \cdot \quad 1:8:3
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*(see 12th: mo: 73.)*

Edmund Widmore & Rebecca Woolman, who in ye 9th mo: last proposed their intention to take each other in marriage, came now to receive ye advice of friends, & had their consent therin.

Upon a Proposition made at ye last Meeting here, & refer'd to ye friends of Chalfont Meeting to consider of, weigh & determine, concerning ye dividing of Chalfont Meeting, it was on ye 10th day of ye 10th mo: 73. by ye friends of yt meeting assembled at Jordans, wth ye advice & assistance of Geo: Fox, Alex: Parker, Ja: Parks & others, fully agreed, consented to & concluded,
1. That yt part of Chalfont Meeting, wch is about Charlywood, Rickmansworth & yt side of ye Country, shal for ye future joyn & associat themselves with ye friends of Watford & Flandell, so as to make up one intire Meeting among themselves, distinct from yt of Chalfont. And yt ye friends of Watford, Flandell & Charlywood shal constantly keep a Meeting at one or other of ye said places, on every first day, & such other day in every week, as they among themselves shal agree upon.

2. That upon yt first day wheron there was formerly wont to be a Meeting at Charlywood, there shal for ye future be a Meeting either at Jordans or at Thomas Lane’s. And yt ye other Meetings at Jordans & Thomas Lanes as wel on ye first days as ye fourth, shal be continued as they now are, unles friends of {this} † (Chalfont) Meeting shal think fit so to exchange ye days, as yt ye Meeting may not be either at Jordans or Tho: Lane’s, on two first days together.

3. That to ye intent friends may have ye benefit, & satisfaction of seing and being refreshd in one another sometimes, & of waiting upon ye Lord together, there shal be a constant monthly Meeting, comprehending ye friends of Chalfont Meeting, Charly-wood Watford & Flandell, wch Meeting shal be held at Charly wood upon ye second sixt day of ye week one month, & on ye second fourth day of ye week in ye next month, & so kept on in a continued course. See 12th: mo: 76.

[21r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: 12th: mo: 73.

Samuel Jenings having laid out 10s for paymt. of a quarter’s Rent for Jane Turner of Alisbury, he received out of ye stock of this Meeting 20s, wherof 10s to reimburse him, & 10s to pay ye next quarter’s Rent, wch wil be due on ye 25th of next mo:

[Intention of marriage between George Wright & Joane Redman both of Wiccomb. Nicholas Noy & John Littleboy appointed to inquire.]

Agreed yt John Raunce Wm. Penn Robt. Jones & Nich: Noy do meet together at Chesham and endeavour to find out some more convenient place for friends of yt Meeting to meet in, & return an account therof at ye next Meeting here.
FEBRUARY - JUNE 1674

Stock remaining is . . . 00 - 08 - 03

*(see 3d: mo: 74).

[21v]
Robt. Jones acquainted ye Meeting, yt ye other friends & he did
meet at Chesham according to ye appointmt. of ye last Meeting, &
did look out & provide a place for ye friends of yt town to meet in, &
gave order for ye fitting it up speedily for yt service.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye first of 2d mo: 74.
[Consent given to George Wright & Joan Redman. (Vide under
date 4.xii.73)]

[22r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6t. of 3d mo: 74.
Samuel Jenings acquainted ye Meeting that Sarah Lamburn had
expended some monies for ye use of Jane Turner, wch ye Meeting
judging meet to reimburse, ther was collected . . . 01 - 07 - 00
To wch adding ye stock remaining . . . . . 00 - 08 - 03

The whole was . . . . . . 01 - 15 - 03

of this mony the Meeting ordered 20s to Sam: Jenings, to repay
Sarah Lamburn, & discharge ye next quarters Rent, wch wil be due
on ye 24th of 4th mo: next.

Stock remaing [sic] is . . . . . 00 - 15 - 03

*(see 4th: mo: 74.)

Edward Hoar acquainted friends yt, Susan Tod of great Missenden,
having conscientiously left her former imploymt. of making Bone
lace, is in some strait for want of a smal stock to enter into & carry
on a trade of weaving silk laces, & therfore desired ye assistance of
freinds therein, who agreed to lend her five pounds, wch was thus
raised; 1li of mony formerly lent to Joseph Winch of Amersham,&
by him repaid, 3li - 10s part of a legacy left by Eliz: Bacon of Tring, in ye hands of Tho: Sellat; & 10s taken out of ye stock of this Meeting.* (see 1st: mo: 77. see 5th: mo: 77.)

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 1st of 5th mo: 74

John Forster & Sarah Mortimer both of Tring in ye County of Hertford proposed their intention to take each other in marriage, desiring advice of friends therin, who refer'd ye enquiry into the clearnes of their proceedings to John Brown & Tho: Martin; & Tho: Sellat was appointed to write to Tho Egleton (formerly of Hertford) to be present at our next Meeting.

Stock remaining is . . . oo - 05 - 03

*(see 8th: mo: 74.)

[22 v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 1st of 5th mo: 74

An account being given to friends yt John Gigger ye Elder for want of supply in this hard time, hath contracted some new debts it is agreed yt Wm. Cooper, Ralph Trumper, John Costard, & some of ye friends of Wickham do meet at John. Gigger's house between this & ye next meeting here, to enquire into ye business & find out some expedient for it.

Samuel Jenings acquainted ye Meeting yt he hath discharged Jane Turner's Rent for ye last quarter ending on ye 24th last mo: as also wt mony Sarah Lamburn had expended for her, wch hath taken up yt 20s he received last 3d mo:

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 6t mo: 74

John Raunce acquainted ye Meeting yt he, having had opportunity to enquire into John Gigger's business, found it expedient to defer any further procedure therein, until after harvest.

John Forster & Sarah Mortimer, came to receive ye advice of friends concerning their proposition of Marriage, who advised them to forbear for another month, inasmuch as his father refuses as yet to consent; & John Raunce undertakes in ye mean time to speak wth him
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1674

[23v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: 7th: mo: 74.

[Intention of marriage between Giles Child of Amersham & Eliza-
beth Baldwin of Bledlow. Henry Costard & William Cooper appoint-
ed to inquire.]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: 8th: mo: 74.

It appearing to friends, yt old John Gigger, by reason of ye dearnes
of provision, & his own inability to labour, was run again behind
hand, more than ye Meeting to wch he belongs is able to make up;
there was collected from ye several Meetings met here ye sum of

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{li s } \quad [d] \\
3:14:9
\end{array}
\]

to wch was added ye remainder of ye old stock . . . 0:05:3

wch made in al . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4:00:0

This was put into Wm. Cooper’s hand for yt use.

John Forster & Sarah Mortimer came now again to receive ye An-
swer of this Meeting to their former proposition of Marriage, & John
{Forster} Raunce acquainted friends yt he having spoken wth John
Forster’s father, could receive no resonable answer from him, nor
discover any real ground he had to refuse his consent, but rather a
stiff & resolute wil, wch appeard more plain by ye old man’s words
to John Brown & Tho: Martin, to wit, that he had sworn he would
never give his consent, & he would not be forsworn; wch the meet-
ing not judging a reasonable or righteous impediment, exprest their
consent yt John & Sarah might take each other in marriage.

[Consent given to Giles Child & Elizabeth Baldwin. (Vide under
date 2.vii.74)]

no stock remayning

[23v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 9th: mo: 74.

Thomas Morton of Tarriers end near Tring, and Daniel Pearce of
Farnham Royal, having some difference fallen out between them, de-
sired ye Meeting to assist them in ye composing therof. Wherupon c
friends, having heard ye whole business on either side, did compose it to their mutual satisfaction, & Tho: Morton's son (who was servant to Dan: Pearce) was by joynt consent discharged of his service.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 1oth mo: 74.

An Account being given to friends yt Hellen Hawks of Chesham, had run out extravagantly in her shop-trade, & therby contracted great debts, far beyond what her husband & she are any way able to discharge, therby reproach & blame is like to be brought upon the Profession of Truth; ye Meeting considering therof, sent a just Reproof to ye woman for her Excess, & withal advised her to take especial care, to deal righteously & equally with al her Creditors, & to give them al as ful satisfaction, as al her husband & she is worth are able to make.

[24r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6t. of 11th mo: 74.

Friends having taken into Consideration that the fournaonths' Meeting, by reason of ye long interval of time, & distance of places was not so generally frequented as it should be,) a Proposition was made for ye reducing of al those 4 months Meetings to one place; & it was referd to ye next Meeting to be further considered of & concluded.

Att a Meet. at T. Ellwood's, on ye 3d of ye 12th: mo: 74.

[Intention of marriage between Robert Chearsly of Giles Chalfont & Elizabeth Putnam of Great Kingsell in the parish of Hugenden. Edward Hoar & William Sexton appointed to inquire.]

The Proposition yt was made at last Meeting, for reducing ye 4 month's Meeting to one place, was resumed, considered of & concluded; & the place agreed upon is Amersham, where ye Meeting is to be held monthly, on ye same day of ye week it hath hitherto been.

Samuel Jenings having paid 1os. for a Quarter's Rent for Jane Turner of Alisbury; there was collected at this Meeting of this paid to Saml. Jenings to reimburse him what he had laid out 1os. & 1os. more for him to discharge her next quarter's Rent with.

Remains stock. 00 - 10 - 00
MARCH - MAY 1675

[24 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 1st: mo: 75

[Consent given to Robert Chearsly & Elizabeth Putnam. (Vide under date 3.xii.74)]

Tho: Parrett of Chesham moving on ye behalf of Ellen Hawks, yt friends would assist her husband wth a little mony to pay for some Birch wch he had bought, yt so he might have work wherby to earn something to maintain them; It was consented too, yet wth this Caution, yt he should not be trusted with much at a time. Wherfore T. Dell was desired to take care yt ye Birch should be secured for his use, til further order could be taken.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 2d. mo: 75

Tho: Dell having sinse ye last Meeting laid down 20s. in part of paymt. for Birch for Ri: Hawkes, there was collected at this Meeting 30s. wherof 20s was delivered to H. Treadway for T. Dell; & 9s was delivered to T. Parrat to reimburse Abr. Attaway of Chesham, who had expended yt mony in a journey to London upon Ellen Hawkes her business, by ye direction of this Meeting.

Notice being given unto ye Meeting, yt Edmund Widmore late of Giles Chalfont deceased, having been too prodigal in his Expences, had contracted many Debts, wherby ye way of Truth was evil spoken of; It was therfore ordered, yt some friend of Chalfont Meeting should speedily speak wth Rebecca Widmore, widow of ye said Edmund, & let her know, yt it is ye judgmt. & advice of friends, yt she ought to invite her Creditors together, & having caused her goods to be inventoried & apprized, by judicious and indifferent persons, to yeild up & deliver al she hath, to be justly & equally divided among her Creditors, according to ye proportion of their respective Interests, yt so she may render every one their due, as far as her ability wil permit.

Stock remaining ........................................... oo - ii - oo

[25 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th: of 3d: mo: 75.

The Condicion of Rebecca Widmore & her Child was taken into Consideracion, & it was ye joynjt judgmt. of ye Meeting (as it had
been also of ye Meeting before) yt ye best & most advantagious course 
yt could be taken, both for their releif, & ye ease of friends, would 
be, yt ye child should be carefully disposed at Nurse, & a service pro-
vided for ye woman.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: 4th: mo: 75
Ralph Johnson of London Joyner and Mary Greenhill of Bouving-
ton in ye County of Hertford proposed their intention to take each 
other in Marriage, ye said Ralph producing a Certificate from ye 
monethly Meeting at Devonshire house in London of his Clearnes: 
wherupon it was referred to Philip Thompson to enquire concerning 
ye clearness of ye maid, & give an account at ye next Meeting.

[25 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: 5th: mo: 75.
[Assent given to Ralph Johnson & Mary Greenhill. (Vide under 
date 2.iv.75)
Intention of marriage between Richard Vivers son of Edward 
Vivers of Banbury, & Elizabeth Stoddart of Watford. George Mead 
appointed to inquire concerning Elizabeth], And a Certificate is ex-
pected from ye Meeting in Oxfordshire, to wch the said Richard be-
longeth, concerning his clearness.

[Intention of marriage between Andrew Walker of Amersham & 
Sarah Bates of Chesham. Robert Jones, William Cooper, & George 
Meade appointed to inquire.]
The Meeting being informed yt friends of Chesham are of late 
grown more negligent in Meeting together, so as yt that Meeting is 
in danger to be lost; It is ordered yt John Raunc & Nicholas Noy do 
shortly visit them & upon inquiry into ye business, admonish & advise 
them as need shal require.

[26 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: 6t: mo: 75.
[Consent given to Richard Vivers & Elizabeth Stoddart, (vide un-
der date 7.v.75)] Richard producing a Certificate of his clearenes 
subscribed by above 30 friends, from their monthly Meeting at 
North Newton in Oxfordshire.
[Consent given to Andrew Walker & Sarah Bates. (Vide under date 7.v.75)]

Intention of Marriage between Thomas Child of Rickmansworth & Dorcas Parker of Watford. George Meade & Philip Thompson appointed to inquire.]

Samuel Jenings received 10s. to defray a quarter's Rent for Jane Turner of Alisbury ending 24th: of 4th: mo: past.

Stock remaining . . . . 0 - 1 - 0

[26v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 1st. of 7th: mo: 75.

[Consent given to Thomas Child & Dorcas Parker. (Vide under date 4.vi. 75)]


Several Women-friends being met together to wait upon ye Lord in ye house of John Mannock at Larkin’s Green, a Message was delivered from them to ye Men-friends at this Meeting, wherby they declare That they have a sense that their Meeting is of ye Lord, & yt they cannot go back, & therfore desire that they may go on wth the incouragement. & unity of ye Men. To wch the Men’s Answer is, That they are therupon willing to incourage them, & do not desire they should go back, but go on in ye name of ye Lord.

[27r]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on 6t. of 8th mo: 75.

Edward Cooke & Mary Pearce, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, desiring ye advice of friends therin came now to receive ye answer of ye Meeting, & had ye consent of friends therto.
Roger Kempster & Ann Brown, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, desiring ye advice of ye Meeting therin, came now to receive ye answer of friends who condescending to ye weaknes of their states, permitted them to go on to ye finishing therof.

There was collected at this Meeting . . . . . 01 - 09 - 00

And there was of old stock . . . . . . 00 - 01 - 00

......

of this pd to
Sam: Jenings for a quarter’s Rent for Jane Turner ending 29th: 7th mo: past . . . . . . . . . . 00 - 10 - 00
To Tho: Dell wch he had disburst by Order of this Meeting for ye use of Ri: Hauks of Chesham, wch makes up 40s. lent him . . . . . . . . . . 01 - 00 - 00

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on 3d: of 9th mo: 75.
Thomas Kelly of Twyford in ye County of Buck, being lately convinced of ye blessed Truth, & for his Obedience therto, turned out of his service, habitation & al imployt, & therby exposed to great sufferings & hardship, came to layhis condition before this Meeting, & desired their advice therin. Al wch friends have throughly [erasure] weighed, ye sense & advice of ye Meeting was, yt it is most expedient & serviceable both to Truth & himself, for him to return to ye same place again & there to abide; & by an innocent life & blameless conversation to adorn ye profession of ye Gospel in yt rude & prophane place. And James Stevens of Hogshaw was desired to have an eye over ye young man, & take care to supply him wth such things as he shall need, that his sufferings from ye world may not ly too heavy upon him. 8

(8) The Quarterly Meeting Minutes of vii. 1677 direct James Stevens to supply Thomas Kelly with apparel.
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye Ist: of october 75.

[Intention of marriage between Henry Costard of Oulsweck & Ann Ball of Colshill in the parish of Amersham. John White, Edward Hoare & Ralph Trumper appointed to inquire.]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th: nov: 75.

[Consent and approbation given to Henry Costard & Ann Ball. (Vide under date 1.x.75)]

Intention of marriage between Joseph Hackney of Corner Hall in the parish of Hemstead & County of Hertford, & Elizabeth Jenings of Alisbury. Robert Jones, Samuel Jenings & John Brown appointed to inquire.]

Agreed yt ye loss by fire sustained by friends at Northampton, & recommended to ye consideration of friends of this County by ye General Meeting at London in ye 8th mo: last, be communicated to ye respective Meetings belonging to this; & yt what shal be therupon contributed towards their releif, be brought in hither at ye next Meeting here.

[28r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d: dec: 75.

[Consent & approbation given to Joseph Hackney & Elizabeth Jenings. (Vide under date 5.xi.75)]

Collected for ye service of this Meeting

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<td>Of this paid to Sam: Jenings 10s which he had laid out for Jane Turner's Rent, due ye 25th: of oct: past, &amp; 10s more to pay another quarter's Rent for her, at ye 25th: of jan: next. In al</td>
<td>01</td>
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<td>Remains in stock</td>
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*(see 7th: mo: 76)*

The monyes collected & brought in hither for ye relief of Northampton friends, were as follows
This money was received here by Charles Harris, who undertook to return it to Edward Mann of London.

The great loss & therby low condition of John Gigger of Eaton, occasioned by fire, was considered of & judged meet to be recommended not only to ye several Meetings of this county, but also to friends of Uxbridge, Kingston, Walton upon Thames, Stains, Guilford, Henly & Berkshire (friends of Reading, by reason of their present great sufferings, excepted) 9

Whereupon a letter was drawn up & sent to ye said friends, in these words

(9) "Friends of Reading." — Joseph Besse, Sufferings of the Quakers, Vol. I. 32. Anno 1675. — "On the 17th of October W. Armorer and George Goswell, Mayor, came to the Meeting at Reading, and Armorer, with a sharp Bodkin or packing Needle, pricked several of the women most inhumanly . . . on the 7th of November they came again, but the Meeting being just ended, they stop· thirteen persons in the Street going Home; to all these they tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, sent them to Prison, where they were confined in two small rooms over the Dungeon, in which a Felon then lay sick of the Small Pox. They were kept close locked up 17 hours of 24, and not suffered to go out to ease themselves: Their working Tools were taken from them, and their Wives and Servants not suffered to bring them Necessaries, nor were they allowed the Benefit of Air which the Felons had."
Dr Friends & Brethren.

In the blessed Truth, into wch ye Lord God hath gathered us, & in wch our fellowship stands wth him & one wth another, do we salute you, even in yt wch makes us neer to one another, & gives us a sense of & sympathy wth each other in ye various exercises, sufferings, losses & distresses yt befal any who are indeed Members of ye one body: so yt we know there cannot but be a fellow-feeling & compassion of ye wants of such in those who are gathered into & abide in ye one spt. Wch induceth us to lay before you ye condicion of Jon. Gigger of Eaton near Windsore; an honest & faithful friend, of whose uprightnes & sincerity to ye Lord, we have an ample testimony in ourselves, & whose blameless conversation & plain dealing hath gained him a good report even amongst them yt are without. He, on ye 14th of ye 10th mo: last, by a fire wch began in a Neibour's house, had ye house wherein he dwelt burnt down in ye night time, himself being then absent upon his occasions, & therin lost in grain of several sorts, meal & houshold goods, etc. to ye value of about 8oli; by wch means, having but a smal stock before, he is now reduced to so low & strait a condition, yt he is not in a capacity to go forward in his imploymt, nor indeed to sustain his family, wth out ye charitable assistance of friends. And inasmuch as a Collection hath lately past through ye several Meetings of this County, wherin friends of these parts have put forth their ability towards ye releif of our suffering Brethren at Northampton, wherby we are become at present less capable of answering ye necessity of this our neibouring friend, we found freedom in ourselves to recommend his condicion to your consideracions, hoping it wil find acceptance wth you, & desiring yt whatsoever {it shal please} ye Lord shal incline your hearts to communicate towards his loss, may be returned unto Wm. Peachy Haberdasher of hatts, at ye sign of ye Hart in Martin's London, near ye Bull & Mouth. So, in ye love & service of ye Truth, we remain

Your Friends & Brethren

Ralph Trumper.    Samuel Jenings.
February - May 1676

Isaac Penington.  George Salter.
Charles Harris.  Henry Costard.
Thomas Dell.  Thomas Ellwood.

[29r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 1st: 1st: mo: 76.
[Intention of Marriage between Nicholas Horton & Martha Blake both of Penn.  William Cooper & Henry Child appointed to inquire.
Also between Thomas Redman & Ann Round both of Chipping Wiccomb.  John Raunce & William Kidder appointed to inquire.
Also between Edward Dolt of Watford & Elizabath Gillat of Pinner-Marsh, Middlesex.  Robert Jones & George Mead appointed to inquire.]

[29v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th :2d: mo: 76.
[Consent given to Nicholas Horton & Martha Blake.  (Vide under date 1.i.76)
Also to Thomas Redman & Ann Round.  (Vide under date 1.i.76)
Also to Edward Dolt & Elizabeth Gillat.  (Vide under date 1.i.76)
Intention of Marriage between Philip Thompson of Flandell & Elizabeth White of Watford.  George Mead & Edward Butterfeild appointed to inquire.
Also between John Robbins of Hensworth, Co. Herts & Hanna Davis of Cheshham.  William Cooper & John Costard appointed] to inquire concerning ye maid's clearnes.

[30r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 3d: mo: 76.
[Consent given to Phillip Thompson & Elizabeth White.  (Vide under date 5.i.76)

(10) This letter is recorded in the Reading Monthly Meeting Minute Book, with the addition, after the words "Bull & Mouth"—"Yet it is not in the least our Aime hearin to ingage our Friends at Reading (whose Cruel bonds & greivous Sufferings we have a deep Sense of) but to present this Case unto Such other Meetings in Barkesheire as through ye goodness of ye Lord do yet injoy an house of peace and Quieatt." Nevertheless, a Minute in the Reading M. M. Minute Book, dated 3. ii. 76, records a collection of £11. 15. 2. for John Gigger and the Northampton Friends.
Also to John Robbins & Hannah Davis. (*Vide* under date 5.ii.76)]
He producing a Certificate of his clearnes under ye hands of a dozen friends of ye Meeting at Waterside in Hertfordshire, to wch he belongs.

[Intention of marriage between Samuel Wilson of Tring & Mary Goddin of Wiccomb. Robert Jones & Samuel Troane appointed to inquire.

Also between Henry Saul of Uxbridge, and Elizabeth Chamber of Watford. George Mead appointed to inquire.]

[30 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 4th: mo : 76

[Consent given to Samuel Wilson & Mary Goddin. (*Vide* under date 3.iii.76)

Also to Henry Saul & Elizabeth Chamber, (*vide* under date 3.iii.76)] he producing a Certificate of his clearnes & uprightnes, attested by 10 of ye Menfriends at their monthly Meeting at Longford in ye County of Middlesex.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 5th: mo: 76.

For ye better spreading of Friend’s books in order to a more general service therby: & for ye more equal proportioning ye charge thereof among friends in this County, a Proposition was made yt ye respective parcels of books wch are to be taken off by this upper side of ye County, be brought from time to time to this Meeting, & paid for out of a publick stock belonging to this Meeting. And yt whatsoever friends do take any of ye said Books for their own use, doe repay ye ye [sic] prices therof to ye said Stock. And what Bookes are not so taken off, to be disposed of, where service may be, upon ye publick charge out of ye said stock. This Proposition was refer’d to be considered of at another Meeting; & friends here were desired in ye meantime to acquaint ye friends of their respective Meetings wth it, & understand their minds therin.
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d of 6th: mo: 76.

Certain Letters & Papers from ye general Meeting at London in ye 3d mo: last, containing advice & direction to friends in several particulars, were read, & agreed to be put in execution as soon as conveniently may be; & yt so much as concerns ye friends of ye lower side of ye County to take notice of, before ye Quarterly Meeting, be writ out & sent down unto them, & ye rest communicated to them at ye Quarterly Meeting.

[31r]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6t. of 7th: mo: 76.

There was collected for ye service of Truth . . . 04 : 07 : 06
To this added ye Remainder of Stock from 12 mo: 75 . 00 : 05 : 06

\[
\begin{array}{c}
4 : 13 : 00 \\
stock remaining is . . . 0 : 03 : 00
\end{array}
\]

*(see 1st: mo: 77; 5th: mo: 77)*

Robt. Jones acquainted ye Meeting yt Susan Todd of great Missenden hath repaid into his hand yt 5li wch was lent her by this Meeting in ye 4th mo: 74.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 8th mo: 76.

[Intention of marriage between Richard Kirton of Kensington & Sarah Ball of Brainford’s barn in the Hamlet of Coleshill Co. Herts. Ralph Trumper & Robert White appointed to inquire.

Also between Robert Aldrige of Hitcham and Susanna Salter of Peter’s Chalfont. William Sexton, & Edward Barton appointed to inquire.]

(11) See Appendix.
In pursuance of a Letter from ye yearly Meeting at London on ye 17th: of 3d mo: last, it was here agreed that a Collection be made through ye respective Meetings belonging to this, & brought in hither at ye next Meeting.

[31 v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on 1st: 9th: mo: 76

Report being made yt Mary Mitchel of Wooburn Meeting Widow hath joynd herself in Marriage to a man of ye world by ye assistance of a Priest, ye Meeting appointed William Sexton & Thomas Dell to make inquiry into ye truth of ye matter; & give an account therof at ye next Meeting.

[Consent given to Richard Kirton & Sarah Ball. (Vide under date 4.viii.76) he producing a Certificate signed by a dozen of ye friends of London from their Meeting there on the 21th: of 7th mo: 1676.

[Also to Robert Aldrige & Susanna Salter. (Vide under date 4. viii.76)


Also between Richard Aldridge of Woburn & Hanna Medin of Burnham. Thomas Dell & William Sexton appointed to inquiere.]

The Collection made in ye respective Meetings belonging to this, pursuant of an Agreement of the last Meeting, for ye defraying of publique and National charges relating to the service of Truth, was brought in hither as followeth, & comitted to Thomas Dell to pay at London to Gerrard Roberts, vizt.12

(12) Inserted between pp 31 (v) and 32 (r) is the following receipt:—

Recd. ye 13th: of xth: ber 1676 of Tho: Dell from their Monthly Meeting | li s d

in ye upper part of Buckingham Sheir ye Sum of fourteen pounds Seuen Shill. & 3d—for ye use of Gerrard Roberts.

pr Jon. Forster
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The sum from these Meetings is: **11 : 13 : 09**

From ye lower side of ye County: **02 : 13 : 06**

The sum from ye whole County is: **14 : 07 : 03**

Tho: Dell undertooke to pay this **14 : 07 : 03** to some of ye friends in London appointed to receive it.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on 6t: xoth: mo: 76.

Friends being satisfied of ye certainty of ye report of Mary Mitchel being married by ye Priest, & also of her insensiblenes at present of ye evil she hath done; it was agreed yt Nicholas Noy & John Raunce or one of them do visit her & admonish her to repentance.

[Consent given to Richard Aldrige & Hanna Medin. (Vide under date 1.ix.76)]

Intention of marriage between Thomas Pewsey of Beconsfield & Elizabeth Airs of Giles Chalfont. Robert White & Henry Ball appointed to inquire.]

John Heywood & Elizabeth Harrison, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in marriage, desiring advice of friends therin, came now to receive ye Answer of friends, who
understanding yt one John Chearsly of Amersham had given out some words intimating yt the said Elizabeth ought to be his Wife, did appoint Ralph Trumper, William Cooper & Thomas Ellwood to speak wth ye said John Chearsly about it, & if they found yt ye said John Chearsly had any reasonable, just & sufficient ground so to express himself, yt then they should suspend any further proceedings in order to marriage between ye said John Heywood & Elizabeth †(until the next Meeting). But if they found no sufficient ground thercfor, then they should declare unto ye said John Heywood & Eliz: Harrison the full consent of this Meeting to their Proposition of marriage.

[32 v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on 3d: of 11th mo: 76

Upon a fresh complaint of ye prophane carriage of Henry Parks lately acted by dancing & otherwise & friends unanimously declaring their sense that they had no hope of him, it was ye Agreemt. of ye Meeting yt a paper be drawn up by T. Ellwood in ye name of this Meeting †(for) {of} a publick denial of him.

Nicholas Noy gave ye Meeting an Account yt having since ye last Meeting visited Mary Mitchel (who was lately married by a Priest to a man of ye world) he found her in a very dead & senseless state, so yt he hath little hopes to bring her to a sense of her miscarriage. Yet friends being desirous to use al tenderness to her, have desired John Raunce to give her one visit more, before a publick denial of her be given forth.

[Consent given to Thomas Pewsey & Elizabeth Airs. (Vide under date 6.x.76)


Also between John Childs & Sarah Parrat both of Amersham. William Cooper & Ralph Trumper appointed to inquire.]

Upon a complaint from Amersham Meeting, that the present charge upon yt Meeting is greater than they are able to defray, a Proposition was made yt ye respective Meetings belonging to this, would
bring in hither an Account of their receipts & disbursmts, together
wth ye Surplussage of their collections (if any be) to be as a stock for
this Meeting to dispose of to ye supply of any Meeting yt may be
overcharged; yt so ye burden may be born ye more equally. This
Proposition was left under consideration til the next Meeting.

[33r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on 7th: of 12th: mo: 76.

[Consent given to Joseph Welch & Sarah Jones. (Vide under date
3.xi.76)]
Also to John Childs & Sarah Parrat. (Vide under date 3.xi.76])

In pursuance of a Proposition made ye last Meeting concerning
Collections for ye Poor &c. It is agreed, That once in every three
months (to wit, at ye Meeting next before each quarterly Meeting)
ye Friends of each Meeting do bring hither an Accompt in writing of
what monyes have been collected & how disbursed, together with
the overpluss (if there be any) to remain here as a stock disposeable
by this Meeting for ye supply & assistance of any Meeting yt shal be
overcharged; yt so, as brethren, we may help to bear one another's
burdens, & ye weight therof may ly more equally. And it is agreed
yt this Course be entred upon at ye next Meeting, & be from thence
continued quarterly.

According to ye Agreemt. of ye last Meeting, a Paper, containing
a publick denyal of Henry Parks, was drawn up, & presented to this
Meeting, who approving therof, it was subscribed by several of ye
Meeting: but ye Execution therof was at present deferred.* (see 2d
mo: 73.)

An Account being given to this Meeting yt ye Monthly Meeting
agreed upon between ye Friends of Chalfont & Charlywood, Wat-
ford & Flanden Meetings in ye 10th: mo: 73 (of wch see ye 3d head
of yt agreemt in ye 11th: mo: 73.) did not answer ye end for wch it
was appointed, nor suited ye conveniency of those Friends; it was
referd by this Meeting to ye Friends of those Meetings to alter, &
settle it as to them, in ye wisdom of God, should appear most con-
venient & serviceable.
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 1st: mo: 7th.

It was agreed yt a paper be drawn up by some friends of Wiccomb as a Testimony agt. ye miscarriage of Mary Mitchel, (in †(being married by a Priest) \{joyning herself\} to a man of ye world) & a denial of her therfore, & of al such practises in whomsoever.

Inasmuch as some friends (through a misunderstanding of ye agreemt. of ye last Meeting concerning Collections) did not bring in any accompt therof, or stock thereupon, it was agreed yt ye Friends of other Meetings also should for this time forbear giving in their accompts. And friends were desired to take care yt at ye next three months Meeting, accompts & stock be duly brought in, yt no further Obstruction may be therin. And because Amersham Meeting stood in need of a present supply & assistance, ye Meeting understanding yt T. Ellwood had some mony in hand at their disposal, did order him to pay unto Wm. Cooper 2li : 3s wch he did. Of this mony 1li was a legacy given by Sarah Jenings of Alisbury. i li more was part of a Debt repaid by Joseph Winch of Amersham; & ye 3s. was ye Stock of this Meeting remaining from ye 7th month 1676.

*(see 3d: mo: 77 & 3: mo: 80)*


John Raunce acquainted ye Meeting, yt having visited Mary Mitchel (who was married by a Priest to a man of ye world) he found her under a great exercise of mind & sense of judgmt. for her miscarriage, whereupon ye meeting forbore for ye present to give forth a publick denial of her, & desired yt Eliz: Medin & Susanna Aldridge would give her a visit, & endeavour to bring her to a further sense of her evil, yt she may acknowledge & condemn it.

The loss by fire sustained by Geo: Flane & Henry Glidwell (two faithful friends of North Crawley in ye lower side of ye County of Buck) being certified by divers Friends of yt side to ye quarterly Meeting, & from thence referd to this, it was agreed to be recommended to ye several Meetings belonging to this, & ye Collections therin respectively made to be brought hither at ye next Meeting. And ye friends of each Meeting were desired to take care accordingly.

\[33 v\]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: of 3d: mo: 77.

George Mead & John Hawes acquainted friends, yt one John Clark of Mill End near Rickmansworth, hath left his own habitation and Wife, & is gone to live wth one Elizabeth Winkfeild a single woman, in a lone house by themselves, to ye great scandal & reproach of Truth, they being both persons yt have made a pretence to truth. Whereupon it was concluded yt Samuell Jenings, together wth John Hawes, Thomas Lovett, & any other friends yt finds freedom to accompany them, do visit ye said John Clark & Eliz: Winkfeild, & before some sober people of ye world (if they can be procured) bear testimony agt. their present practice, & that wicked spt. which hath led them therinto.

Friends considering yt ye next meeting wil in course fal at ye same time wth ye general Meeting at London have thought fit for ye ser-vice of Truth & convenience of friends, to alter ye day for yt time only; So it is agreed yt ye next Meeting shal be held here on ye last fourth Day in ye † (last) week of this month; & friends are desired to give notice therof in their respective Meetings, yt no disappointment may be occasioned thereby.

At a Meeting at T. Ellwood’s on ye 30th: of 3d: mo: 77.

[Intention of marriage between Joseph Weston of Tring & Susan-na Darvell of Great Missenden. Robert Jones & John Puddivat appointed to inquire.]

Samuel Jenings gave ye Meeting an accompt, yt, having visited John Clark & Eliz: Winkfeild, he found them very hard & dark, re-jecting admonition, {dis}contemning reproof, & obstinately per-sisting in & justifying their evil Course. Wherupon it was thought meet yt some friends of yt sides should, for Order sake, visit them once again, & yt in case yt visit wrought no amendmt. on them, a publick Testimony should speedily be given agt. them, ye execution wherof was referd to ye Friends of yt Meeting.

The Case of Mary Mitchel was again reported to this Meeting much to ye same purpose as it was in ye 2d mo: last. Wherupon Friends, understanding ye woman to be under a sense of judgemt. were willing for a while longer to forbear a publick denial of her, in
hopes she herself may shortly come to judge & condemn her own miscarriage.

There was brought in at this Meeting towards ye assistance of those Friends yt had lately suffered by fire, as followeth.

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In al 19 : 16 : 11

This mony was sent by Samuel Jenings to Alisbury for James Stevens of Hogshaw, who undertook to convey it to Stephen Marshal of Sherington for ye use of ye suffering Friends aforesaid.

There was collected at this Meeting for ye service of Truth from ye several Meetings of Chalfont Meadle Weston & Watford ye sum of 3li : 13s : 08d wherof 40s. was return’d into T.E.’s hands to make good ye like sum, paid by him by order of this Meeting to Wm. Cooper in ye 1st: mo: last (wherof 1li was a legacy given by Sar. Jenings of Alisbury; & t’other, part of a debt repaid by Jos: Winch of Amersham.) *(see 1st: mo: 77 & 3: mo: 80). The rest of ye mony was thus disposed, 13s: 8d. to Wm. Cooper for ye help of Amersham Meeting, & 20s to remain in T.E.’s hands as stock for ye service of this Meeting. *(see 5th: mo: 77 & 1st. mo: 78)

[35r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 5th mo: 77

The friends of Flandell & Watford Meeting (to whom it was at ye last Meeting refer’d to visit John Clark & Eliz. Winkfeild) acquaint-
ed ye Meeting yt they had visited them, & though they pretended an
intention to separate, & ye man to return to & live with his Wife;
yet they understand there is not any amendment, but that they con-
tinue in their evil course. And ye Friends of that Meeting not being
Willing {not} to take upon themselves singly ye giving a publick
Testimony agt. them, This Meeting agreed that a paper shal be drawn
up by T:E: agt. ye next Meeting to be given forth agt. them from
yt Meeting.

Tho: Dell & John Dollin undertake to visit Mary Mitchel again, &
endeavour to bring her to a further sense of her miscarriage.

The Condition of Sarah Lamburne of Alisbury being laid before
this Meeting, by wch it appeared that she is decayed in her Stock, so
yt a considerable loss is {clearly} likely to fall upon her Creditors, &
truth therby to suffer; It is ye judgmt. & advice of this meeting to
her, yt she ought to secure ye goods now in her possession, &,
having invited her Creditors together, to yield up & deliver al she hath to be
equally divided amongst them according to their respective interests, yt
so she may yet render every one their due, so far as her ability wil
permit. And Nichol. Noy was desired to assist her in her busines with
her Creditors.

T. Ellwood & Saml. Jenings having (according to an agreemt & or-
der of ye general Meeting at London in ye 4th mo: last) made search
in ye Exchequer Office for ye names of al such friends as are returned
thither upon ye statute made agt. Popish Recusants, & taken out a
List of ye said Names, in order to make application to ye K. & Coun-
cil for Relief to such sufferers, ye charge of wch was 10s : 6d. The
Meeting ordered T.E. (who disburst ye mony) to repay himself out
of ye Stock left (in his hands) at ye last Meeting (wch was 2os) wch
being done, ye Stock now remaining is but ....... 9 : 6

Edward Hoar acquainted ye Meeting that Mary Tod of great Mis-
senden, having some time agoe conscientiously left her former im-
ploymt. of making Bone-lace, *(see 4th: mo: 74)* is in some strait
for want of a smal Stock, to enter into & carry on a trade of Weaving
silk laces, & therfore desires ye Assistance of Friends therin, who
agreed to lend her yt 5li, which in ye 4th mo: 74 was lent unto her

(13) Quarter Sessions Records give the name of one Friend indicted for recusancy, in
1678. (Bucks Quarter Sessions Records, Vol. 1, p. 12.)
sister Susan Tod for ye like service, & by her in ye 7th mo: 76 repaid. And Robt. Jones (in whose hand it hath since lain) is desired to let her have it, & take a Bill of her hand for it. *(see 7th: mo: 76; see 2d: mo: 74)*

[35 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: of 6t: mo: 77.

Joseph {Thos} Weston & Susanna Darvall, who, at the last Meeting save one, proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, desiring ye advice of friends therin, came now to receive an answer therunto, & had the consent of ye Meeting therin, it appearing to ye Meeting by ye Testimony of Tho: Martin & John Foster that one Eliz: Bate of Tring, who (it seems) pretended an interest in ye man in relation to Marriage, did in the presence of several friends & others fully & plainly cleer, release & discharge ye said Joseph Weston from any ingagement tending to Marriage.

[Intention of marriage between David Bovingdon of Hugendon and Eliz: Crutch of great Missenden.] John Raunce & Edward hoare to inquire into the clearnes of their proceeding, & give an accompt at next Meeting.

Tho: Dell & John Dollin acquaint ye Meeting yt they have visited Mary Mitchel, whom they find somwhat tender & sensible of her misdoing, yet not so as to give a publick Testimony for ye clearing of Truth from ye scandal brought by her upon’t. But yt she told them, yt if †(friends) would [erasure] bear with her a while longer, it may be she might give forth a paper beyond what was expected (or words to that purpose.)

Sarah Lamburn acquaints ye Meeting, yt according to ye advice of ye Last Meeting she has given up al to her Creditors; & N. Noy ads yt he, according to the {adv} desire of friends, had treated wth her Creditors, & composed ye business.

According to ye order of last Meeting, a Paper containing a publck Testimony agt. John Clark & Eliz: Winkfeild was drawn up, & read by T.E. at this Meeting, & being approved of by ye Meeting, was committed to ye friends of Flandell & Watford Meeting to disperse; a Copy wherof followeth.
Whereas one John Clark of ye parish of Rickmansworth in ye County of Hertford Tanner, having a Wife & habitation of his own, hath left his own habitation, & betaken himself to ye house of one Elizabeth Winkfield, a single woman, by whom he hath been received entertained & lodged agt. ye mind & consent of his Wife (who hath complained thereof, & expressed her dislike thereto) & contrary to ye Rules of modesty & civil behaviour, wherby great offence hath been given to sober People, & a very evil example shewed to al other loose & disorderly persons. And forasmuch as ye said John Clark & Eliz: Winkfield, by going sometimes to ye Meetings of ye People called Quakers, have procured to themselves amongst some of their Neibours, ye name & denomination of Quakers, by Means wherof ye way of Truth also is evil spoken of, & an occasion taken by some to blaspheme ye holy name of ye Lord. We therefore ye People of God called Quakers (who live in ye parts adjacent) being met together in ye name & fear of ye Lord Jesus, to take care of ye concerns of ye Church of Christ in these parts, in ye sense of our duty to God & his Truth, & to our Christian Profession (al wch are in danger of being exposed to reproach, by ye evil conversation of these disorderly persons) do solemnly declare, yt although ye said John Clark & Eliz: Winkfield have at sometmies come to our Meet- ings (whose Meetings are wel known to be publick & open to al) yet were they never received or owned by us, as living Members of yt heavenly body, wherof Christ our Lord is head or as partakers of yt immortal Life, in wch our unity stands, nor otherwise regarded by us than as such as might possibly gather into their understandings some Notions of Truth to talk of, as too too many do, who notwithstanding are Enemies to ye Cross of Christ Jesus. And although this hath been & is our sense concerning them, yet nevertheless, in the universal love of God, who would not yt any one should perish, they have at several times, by divers of us, been sharply reproved for their evil & scandalous manner of living, & exhorted to repentance & amendment of life. But finding them deaf to Christian admonition, & understanding they not only persist in their evil courses, but also endeavour to justify themselves therin, We hold ourselves in duty bound (for ye clearing of ye Truth & our Christian Profession from
any imputation of their guilt) to give forth this publick Testimony agt. them, solemnly declaring to al People, yt we utterly deny, disown & detest, & in ye name & authority of ye Lord God almighty do judge, & condemne their wicked & ungodly course of life, wch we desire they may repent of & forsake, yt they may find mercy wth ye Lord. And yt none by reason of such miscarriages may take offence at ye way of ye Lord, We testify, in ye fear & dread of ye most high (according to ye experience we have had thereof) yt ye way of ye Lord (into wch (blessed be his name) he hath gathered us) is a pure & an undefiled way, & leads al those yt sincerely walk in it, out of al uncleannes, & every appearance of evil, into purity & true holiness. Into wch blessed way of life & peace, God almighty (ye father of mercies & of tender compassions) daily more & more gather al such as have any true desires after Righteousnes, & therin preserve & establish them with us for ever.

From our monthly Meeting for ye service of ye Church of Christ this 1st: day of ye 6t: mo: 1677.

[36 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 7th: mo: 1677.

David Bovingdon & Eliz: Crutch, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, desiring ye advice of ye Meeting therin, came now to receive ye answer of friends thereto; But ye Meeting being not satisfied concerning them, advised them to wait a while, til friends were better satisfied concerning them; & to use their own liberty of coming again either at ye next Meeting, or at any other hereafter, wch they liked best. In ye mean time, Ralph Trumper & John Morton are desired to inquire both concerning them & their proceedings towards each other, in this Matter.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 8th mo: 77.

David Bovingdon & Eliz: Crutch came again for the Answer of the Meeting to their proposition. And the Meeting (upon Inquiry) understanding yt ye man had been but very lately convinced, & come but little among Friends, & judging it both most advantagious for him to seek first ye kingdom of God, & some growth and establish-
mt. in ye way yt leads therto; & also more orderly & becoming ye gravity of Truth, advised them to forbear for a while, & wait to feel ye power of God bringing them more into, & establishing them in Truth.

[37 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 9th: mo: 77.
[Intention of marriage between Henry Sawyer of London, Cordwinder, & Mary Kingham of Penn. Thomas Dell & Jeremy Stevens appointed to inquire.]
John Jenings of Prestwood came again to move ye Meeting in his old business of Marriage wth his first-Cousin Mary Arnold, to wch ye Meeting returned their answer with much tenderness to the persons, but with ful testimony agt. the thing. The Man was somewhat broken & tendered, wch inclined several friends to bestow another visit of love upon them, wch is appointed to be on ye 12th of this month, at ye house where they live, by ye 11th: houre.
Amersham Meeting complayning of overcharge, re-ceived supply at this Meeting . . . . . . . . . 01 - 16 - 00

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 10th: mo: 77.
[Consent given to Henry Sawyer & Mary Kingham. (Vide under date 7.ix. 77)] ye man producing a Certificate under ye hands of 18 friends of ye City of London from their men’s Meeting.
[Intention of marriage between James Cox of Farnham Royal & Mary Aldrige of Hitcham. Thomas Dell & William Seaxton appoint-ed to inquire.]

David Bovingdon & Eliz: Crutch came again for ye Answer of ye Meeting; & friends understanding yt ye said Eliz: stood charged by some of her Neighbours of ye world wth having behaved herself very immodestly with her father, & perceiving yt she had therby given great Occasion of reproach to

[37 v]
Truth, wch she had in some degree made profession of, did exhort them to wait in patience until ye busines was further inquired into. And in as much as ye matters charged agt. her was judged more pro-
per & comely for women to examine than for men, some friends
were sent from this Meeting to ye Womens Meeting to acquaint ye
Women friends with ye matter, & committ it to their care.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d. of 11th: mo. 77
[Consent given to James Cox & Mary Aldridge. (Vide under date
5.x.77)]
Intention of marriage between John Rose of ye Hale in the parish
of Wendover, & Mary Lake of Tring. Robert Jones & John Brown
appointed to inquire.

Also between William Thorn of Tring & Susanna Pettit of Wig-
ginton, widow. Robert Jones & John Brown appointed to inquire.]
Margaret Cooper & Margarett Treadway acquaint ye Meeting, yt
they being employed by ye Women’s Meeting to speak wth Eliz:
Crutch of Prestwood, & to inquire into ye matter charg’d agt. her,
did find yt she had behaved herself very immodestly in her carriage
towards her father, & is very hard & insensible as to truth.

Edward Hore was desired to inquire concerning David Boving-
don’s clearnes from another woman, whom he had before been a
suitor to.

[38 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on 6t. of 12th: mo: 1677.
[Consent given to John Rose & Mary Lake. (Vide under date
2.xi.77)]
Also to William Thorn & Susanna Pettit. (Vide under date
2.xi.77)]
David Bovingdon & Eliz: Crutch came again to the Meeting; &
Eliz: exprest yt she was sensible she had brought a scandal upon
Truth, & was sorry for it, & willing to do what she can to take off ye
reproach; & in order therunto she did engage to give forth a paper
to condemn her miscarriage & clear Truth; in ye drawing of wch
paper Friends of Wiccomb undertook to assist her. David also en-
gaged to go & clear himself to ye Maid & her Friends, to whom he
was charged to have done wrong; & Edward Hoare was desired to
goe with him, & take a ful understanding of ye Matter. The Meeting
understanding also yt ye said Eliz: was gone to live with ye said
David at his house, did blame them both for it, & laid it upon them to part & live asunder again, or at least to get some other woman to lodge in ye house with them, to avoid al occasion of scandal.

George Mead desired ye advice & consent of ye Meeting for ye removal of a Meeting from Charlywood to Watford; wch appearing to be for ye propagation & service of Truth, was refer'd to ye Friends of yt Meeting to determine.

[38 v]

Att a Meeting at T. Ellwood's on ye 6t: 1st: mo: 77.

David Bovingdon & Elizabeth Crutch came again to receive an answer to their proposition of marriage; & ye Meeting being satisfied by Edward Hoar yt ye said David was not under any engagemt. to ye other woman to whom it was reported he had done wrong, & yt he was cleared by ye Parents of ye said woman; & ye said Elizabeth Crutch delivering in to the Meeting an acknowledgmt. & condemnation of her miscarriage in writing under her hand, & promising to use her best endeavours to clear Truth amongst her Neighbours; ye Meeting considering their condition & standing both outwardly, & in relation to Truth, did declare unto them, yt although they could not joyn with them in unity of spirit & consent of mind, yet they were willing so far to condescend to their weakness, as to permit them to take each other in marryage.

The paper of Condemnation14 given in by Eliz: Crutch was this following.

Forasmuch as it is reported yt I Eliz: Crouch did lodge sometimes with my father in ye time of his aged weaknes, & when he was sick unto death; This may certify al whom it may concern, That ye Lord is my witness, That what I did was with no evil intent, but only in simple tender affection, yt I might be neer to assist my weak aged father, there being no more of family but him & myself, with a sister's child. &c. Nevertheless in as much as such things have in them an appearance of evil & some

(14) In his "Account from Wickham Exam'nd" Thomas Ellwood says that this paper was drawn up for Elizabeth Crutch by Charles Harris, who with his father-in-law, John Raunce, subsequently raised much dissension in the Meeting.
have or may make use therof to defame the precious truth, & ye real Professors therof. That it & they may be cleared, I take ye blame to myself, being really sorry yt through my weakness therein, any occasion of Offence should be given either to Jew or Gentile, or yet to ye Church of God. Witness my name, by my marke

Elizabeth E Crouch

[Intention of marriage between William Hicks & Alice Lane both of Coleshil. Henry Ball and [blank] appointed to inquire.

Intention of marriage between Joseph Pearce of Croydon in the County of Surrey Millwright, and Frances Goulder of Penn. Jeremiah Stevens & William Kidder appointed to inquire.]

The meeting being engaged to pay Charles Noy for 6 weeks dyet for a grandchild of Sarah Lamburn’s, wch came to £5s, sent him the mony now by Samuel Jenings, wch was thus raised. 5s - 6d. gathered now, & 9s - 6d. of old stock.

No stock now remaining.

[39r]
Att a meeting at T. Ellwood’s on ye 3d: 2d: mo: 78.

[Consent given to William Hicks & Alice Lane. (Vide under date 6.1.1678)] al things being cleared, [erasure] & no obstruction appearing either at the Women’s Meeting or this.

[Intention of marriage between Richard Spot of Lambeth in the County of Surrey, & Hannah Partridge, daughter of Nathanaell & Sarah Partridge, of Rickmansworth. George Belch & George Meads appointed to inquire.]

Tho: Dell & Robt. White to inquire concerning John Pusey of Burnham (both as to his conversation & clearnes,) in order to give a Certificate of him to Friends of Windsor Meeting in case of Marriage.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: of 3d: mo: 78. A Certificate was subscribed, & sent from this Meeting to ye monthly Meeting at Windsor, on ye behalf of John Pusey of Burnham, in order to Marriage.
[Consent given to Richard Spott & Hannah Partridge. (Vide under date 3, ii. 78)]

Joseph Pearce & Frances Goulder, who on ye sixt of ye first month went {& proposed} to ye Women’s Meeting, & there proposed their intention of Marriage, desiring ye advice & consent of that Meeting therin, having since refused to go again to receive ye Answer of ye said Meeting, six of the Women-Friends came up hither, & in ye name of their Meeting, did acquaint this Meeting, yt ye said Joseph & Frances had put a Slight & Contempt upon their Meeting, wch their Meeting was dissatisfied with, & therefore desired this Meeting not to proceed any further in ye Proposition of Marriage between ye said Joseph & Frances, until ye said Joseph & Frances had given satisfaction to ye Women’s Meeting. Which thing being solemnly weighed, this Meeting could not find clearnes to proceed in ye said Marriage, until satisfaction be given to the Womens Meeting.

[39 v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th: of 4th: mo: 78.

Joseph Pearce & Frances Goulder came again, pressing for a dispatch in their case of Marriage, & Friends understanding {the} by them that they had not been at ye Women’s Meeting to give yt Meeting Satisfaction, & remove ye Offence wch they had given, did tenderly exhort them therunto, which they refusing or neglecting to do, ye Meeting could not find clearness to proceed at present in their business.


Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d: of 5th: mo: 78.

Edward Hoare acquainting ye Meeting that it is reported yt David Bovingdon & Elizabeth his Wife have been lately married by a Priest, It is desired of William Kidder & Edward Hoar to speak with ye said Persons, & endeavour to find out ye Truth of ye matter, & give an Account of it at ye next Meeting.
JULY - AUGUST 1678

Joseph Pearce & Frances Goulder came again to this Meeting, & went from hence to ye Womens Meeting, where ye Maid expressing herself in much tenderness and brokenness, although ye Reasons wch she gave them {were not} why she had refused to come to receive their Answer, were not satisfactory to them, yet in regard of her tenderness they were willing to pass by ye Offence to them, & left the business to ye wisdom of God in ye Friends of ye Mens-Meeting. Wherupon this Meeting taking the matter again into their weighty Consideration, did give this Answer to ye said Joseph & Frances, that although they could not joyn with them in this matter in Unity of spirit & Consent of mind (divers of ye Friends expressing their sense & beleif, that they had been guided & acted by a wrong spirit in refusing to go ye second time to the women’s meeting to receive their Answer & Advice, wch at their first going they had so freely & readily desired of them, & so solemnly pressed them to weigh & give) yet in tenderness to them, & in hopes yt they might hereafter be brought to see & acknowledge their miscarriage herein, the Meeting was willing, by way of condescension, to permit them to take each other in Marriage.

William Goulder & Marah Wheeler, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting. And friends understanding yt ye said William had positively refused to go to ye womens meeting, enquired ye Reasons of his RefusaIl, wch appearing to some to proceed from a wrong ground in him, did put a Bar & Stop upon Friends, so yt ye Meeting could not give that free & full Consent to their Proposition as they would gladly have done. Yet having a tender Regard to ye man, did permit ye said William & Marah to take each other in marriage.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 6t: mo: 78.

Edward Hoar & William Kidder acquaint ye Meeting yt they have spoken with David & Elizabeth Bovingdon, but could not obtain from either of them a plain and direct Answer whether they have been married by a Priest or no. The man acknowledged yt somthing
hath been done to secure them from ye danger of ye Law, but would say no more. The woman positively refused to tel them whether they were so married or not. The Meeting hereupon desired Nicholas Noy, who had somthing on him to them, to give them another visit, & endeavour both to find out ye truth of ye matter, & to make them sensible (if it might be) of ye evil.

Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of 7th: mo: 78.

Nicholas Noy acquainted ye Meeting yt he had spoken wth Eliz: Bovingdon (her husband shunning him) & though he could not get from her a plain & positive Confession yt she was married by ye Priest, yet from her discourse he gathered enough to satisfy himself yt it was really so. Wm. Cooper exprest yt he had somthing upon him to visit them, & Henry child was desired by ye Meeting to go along wth him.

Damaris Sanders & Elizabeth Walmesly delivered a Paper to this Meeting in ye name of ye Womens Meeting, a Copy wherof here followeth, thus directed,

This for our Friends & Brethren of the Mens Meeting at Hunger Hill.

Dear Friends & Brethren in ye holy truth,
The Lord, who hath gathered us, is with us, & causeth his life to spring amongst us, in ye arising of which we are greatly refreshed, & have cause to say with an holy rejoicing, Good is ye Lord, who hath visited us with loving-kindness in our low estate, & drawn our spirits closer to himself, & brought us nearer one to another

[40 v]
in ye pure fellowship of ye Gospel. And since we have met together in yt blessed Order into which ye Lord hath led us, we have not wanted Testimonies of his acceptance of us, & yt he is wel pleased with our thus waiting upon him; for he hath honoured our Meeting with his living presence, & hath sealed unto us, by his holy spirit, a certain assurance yt our gathering

(15) B sse, Sufferings of the Quakers, records a case of long imprisonment "for marrying otherwise than according to the liturgy of the Church of England."
is by him, wch is ground of incouragement to us to continue waiting on ye Lord, in ye way wherin he hath led us; yt as members of ye same body with you, we may be always ready (in ye ability wch God gives) to do our service in ye body & for ye body, in ye place wherin ye Lord hath set us. And we are sensible ye Lord requires it of us, for we beleive there is no member in ye body but hath a service relating to ye body; so yt ye Eye cannot say to ye Hand, I have no need of thee, nor ye Head to ye Feet, I have no need of you; nay, much more those members of ye body wch seem to be more feeble are necessary, as the Apostle witnesseth. Wherfore dear Brethren, as ye Lord hath reached us by ye same love, & gathered us by ye same Arm, & quickened us in measure by ye same life with you, & we partake of ye same grace, by wch we are brought, in our several Measures, into ye fellowship of ye same Gospel; so in ye same quickening life we desire to abide, stil waiting to be fitted more & more by ye Lord, for whatever service he shall be pleased to imploy us in. And as by ye continued presence of ye Lord amongst us, & ye renewed Testimonies of his love to us in our wayting upon him, we have received ful satisfaction yt ye Lord owns our Meeting & yt our Meeting is of ye Lord, set up by his holy spirit, And in this our hearts are stirred up to communicate this our satisfaction, & ye ground of it, unto you, yt you feeling ye Truth of our Testimony, may be more engaged in your spirits to cleave unto us, & joyn with us in ye Truth, against what spirit soever shall rise up in any to deny our Meeting or ye service of it, yt so being firmly united & knit together in ye pure love of our heavenly Father, as Brethren & Sisters in ye Covenant of life, we may al go cheerfully on in ye service of ye Lord, & his work may prosper in our hand, to the praise of his great name, & exceeding comfort of our souls.

From ye womens Meeting at John Manok’s house at Larkins Green the 2d day of ye 5th month 1678

We remain your Friends & Sisters in ye Love & service of ye Truth

Damaris Sanders
Ann Costard
Ann Vivers
Mary Axtill
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mary Morton</th>
<th>Mary Ellwood</th>
<th>Mary Odingsells</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Stevens</td>
<td>Dorothy Kidder</td>
<td>Alice Grimsdell</td>
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<td>Katharine White</td>
<td>Ann Jenings</td>
<td>Elizabeth Ashbey</td>
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<td>Ann Child</td>
<td>Rebecca Salter</td>
<td>Elizabeth Medden</td>
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<td>Ann Trumper</td>
<td>Martha Grassingham</td>
<td>Katherin Sexton</td>
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<td>Susanna Belch</td>
<td>Martha Dell</td>
<td>Jone Stile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza: Walmesly</td>
<td>Susanna Aldridge</td>
<td>Elizabeth Baldwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marg: Treadway</td>
<td>Sarah Russel</td>
<td>Elizabeth Grey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliz: Harrison</td>
<td>Eliz: Crouch</td>
<td>Martha Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margery Clipson</td>
<td>Jane Jones</td>
<td>Ann Mannok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hester Fleetwood</td>
<td>Margaret Cooper</td>
<td>Martha Orton</td>
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Mary Costard desired a friend to see her name set down, for she said her heart & hand was with it.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: of 8th: mo: 78.
William Cooper & Henry Child acquaint {friends} the Meeting yt they have been to visit David Bovingdon & his Wife. The man would not be spoken with. The Woman told them she was sorry for what she had done; but they found no willingness in her to clear Truth by condemning ye Action openly. Yet inasmuch as she came since to Edward Hoar, & {made} shewed some further appearance of sorrow & trouble, the Meeting, being willing to exercise al manner of tenderness towards her, did forbear at present to give forth a Testimony agt. her, & desired Edward Hoar & John Raunce to visit her once more, & to endeavour to make her sensible of ye necessity yt lies upon Friends to clear Truth by a publick Denyal of her & her evil Deeds, if she herself do not take course to wipe of ye reproach she hath brought upon Truth therby.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6t. of 9th: mo: 78.
Edward Hoar acquainted ye Meeting yt Jo: Raunce & he had spoken with David Bovingdon & his Wife, & [erasure] found them stil close & reserved, not willing to acknowledge their Evil, nor to do anything for the clearing of Truth. Wherupon it was concluded necessary yt a Testimony be given forth against them. But to make
NOVEMBER 1678 - JANUARY 1679

ye way therunto more clear Charles Harris was desired (& undertook) to speak with them again before ye next Meeting, & in ye mean time to draw up a Testimony agt. them, for friends to make use of at ye next Meeting, as they shal see Occasion.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of 10th mo: 78

Charles Harris not being present, sent word by John Raunce yt he had spoken wth David Bovingdon & his Wife, but could not understand directly from them whether they were [erasure] married by ye Preist or no. And yt he was prevented by extraordinary business from drawing up a testimony agt. them, as was desired & intended: but would do it agt. the quarterly Meeting.

Thomas Ollife desired a Certificate from this Meeting to Friends in Oxfordshire in order to his Marriage wth Dorothy D'oyly of Adderbury; wherupon ye Meeting desired William Kidder & John Brown to inquie into his clearness etc. & give an accompt therof next Meeting.

Moses West of London Pewterer & Ann Robson daughter of James Robson of Chipperfeild in ye parish of King's Langly in ye County of Hertford proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage. The man was desired to bring a Certificate from the Meeting at London to wch he belongs, & Geo: Mead & John Wells were desired to inquire concerning the maids clearnes &c. & to give an accompt therof at next Meeting.

[42 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye first of ye 11th mo: 1678.

Upon Occasion of David Bovingdon & his Wife being married by ye Priest (as ye common & constant report goes, & themselves would not deny) a Paper was subscribed & sent forth from this Meeting both as a general Testimony agt. al such hypocrisy & dissimulation, & al such persons as are guilty therof; as also as a general Exhortation & Warning to friends to beware of & shun ye like temptation & snare. And it was thought fit to defer a particular Testimony against ye said David & his Wife until further consideration.

A Certificate on behalf of Tho: Ollife of Alisbury, concerning his clearnes in relation to Marriage, was subscribed by this Meeting, & e
directed to ye Friends of Bloxam Meeting in Oxfordshire.

Moses West & Ann Robson, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of {inter} marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting. He produced a Certificate from ye Men’s Meeting of ye city of London, concerning his clearnes, & another from his Parents, signifying their consent; & no Obstruction appearing on ye maid’s part, they had ye consent of ye Meeting to their Proposition.

[Intention of marriage between John Whiting & Elizabeth Win-yard, both of Chiping Wiccomb. Nicholas Noy & Thomas Dell appointed to inquire.

Also between John Floud of Fulmer & Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Castle of Hugely Dean in the parish of Farnham Royall. Thomas Dell & Robert White appointed to inquire.

Also between Timothy Anthony & Ann the daughter of Henry Higgins, both of Pen. William Kidder & Thomas Ellwood appointed to inquire.]

[42 v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of ye 12th mo: 78

[Consent given to John Whiting & Elizabeth Winyard, to John Floud & Elizabeth Castle, and to Timothy Anthony & An Higgins. (Vide under date i. xi. 78)

Intention of marriage between Thomas Whippum of Blechly in the parish of Eaton cum membris, & Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Parks of Great Missenden. Thomas to bring a certificate from his own Meeting, & Robert Jones, Thomas Barton, & Samuel Jenings appointed to inquire concerning Elizabeth.]

The monthly Meeting at Prestwood being to be removed from thence by reason of ye death of ye woman of ye house, it was agreed by this Meeting, yt it should at present return to great Missenden, (from whence it came thither) & ther be kept until Friends shal see a service to truth in settling it elsewhere.

William Cooper acquainting ye Meeting with his intention of removing out of England, & desiring a Testimonial from this Meeting of his honest & blameless deportment here, {the following} a Certificate was therupon signed & given him from this Meeting, as followeth: viz.
FEBRUARY - MARCH 1679

Wheras William Cooper of Coleshil in the parish of Amer-
sham, & in the County of Hertford Blacksmith, hath signified
unto us, yt he hath an intention (if the Lord permit) to trans-
port himself with his Wife & Children unto the Plantation of
West-New-Jersey, & hath desired a Testimonial from this
Meeting, for ye satisfaction of Friends there or elswhere unto
whom he may be outwardly unknown: We therfore whose
names are hereunderwritten, do hereby certify al whom it may
concern, That the said William Cooper & Margaret

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tho: Ellwood</td>
<td>John Dollin</td>
<td>Hen: Treadway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robt. Jones</td>
<td>Tho: Barton</td>
<td>Richd. Clipsham</td>
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<td>Tho: Dell</td>
<td>John Brown</td>
<td>John Wells</td>
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<td>Robt. White</td>
<td>Nicholas Noy</td>
<td>Edw. Barton</td>
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<td>Hen: Ball</td>
<td>Charles Harris</td>
<td>Tho: White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edw. Hoar</td>
<td>Will: Kidder</td>
<td>Nich: Skidmore</td>
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<td>Geo: Salter</td>
<td>John Bovington</td>
<td>Saml. Jenings</td>
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<td>John Morton</td>
<td>John Puddivat</td>
<td>Abraham Axtell</td>
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<td>Hen: Costard</td>
<td>Geo: Mead</td>
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Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th: of 1st: mo: 7§.

Henry Geary of ye Cherry-Trees in ye parish of Chesham desired
a Certificate from this Meeting to Friends of ye Upper side of Bed-
fordshire concerning his clearness, in order to marriage wth one
Lydia Smith of Hemel-Hempstead in ye County of Hertford. Wher-
upon ye Meeting desired Robt. Jones & John Foster to inqire into
his clearness, & give an accompt therof at ye next Meeting.

The Meeting being acquainted yt Mary Kingham (one of ye
daughters of Jonathan Kingham late of Wooburn deceased) hath
walked disorderly, entertaimed a man of ye world in order to marriage, being herself before engaged to another man yt makes a profession of ye Truth, did desire Jeremiah Stevens & Nicholas Noy to visit ye said Mary, inquire into ye matter, reprove, exhort, admonish her, as they should find cause, & give an account of ye business at ye next Meeting.

[Intention of marriage between Richard Stringer of Rickmansworth & Mary Gate of Sarrat Co. Herts. William Loddington & Daniel Cooke appointed to inquire.]

[43 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 2d. mo: 1679.
[Assent given to Richard Stringer & Mary Gate. (Vide under date 5.1.78)]

John Kirton of Hammersmith in ye County of Middlesex Maulster, & Damaris ye daughter of Tho: Saunders of Ilmore in ye County of Buck proposed their intention to take each other in marriage. The man brought a Certificate from ye Meeting to wch he belongs, wch gave satisfaction to this Meeting concerning [him]; & Henry Costard & John White were desired to inquire into ye maid's clearness, & give an accompt therof at ye next Meeting.

Robt. Jones & John Foster being appointed by the last Meeting to make inquiry concerning ye clearnes of Henry Geary of Chesham, for ye satisfaction of Friends here, in order to their giving a Certificate on his behalf to ye Friends in Bedfordshire, before whom he intended to propose his intention of Marriage; Robt. Jones acquainted this Meeting yt, upon inquiry made, ye said Henry doth appear to them to be clear & free in yt case, & they find nothing to hinder his proceeding, wherupon a Certificate was subscribed, & directed as followeth:

To the Friends & Brethren at {ye} their monthly Meeting in ye upper side of Bedfordshire.

Whereas Henry Geary of ye Cherry Trees in ye parish of Chesham in ye County of Buck, hath acquainted us with his in-

(16) The Women's Monthly Meeting Minute Book says that she was in the habit of "going to dancing and such evil company."
April - May 1679

Tention of taking to Wife one Lydia Smith of Hemel-Hempstead in ye County of Hertford, & hath, (in order to your satisfaction) desired a Testimonial from us concerning him:

These are therefore to certify you, that (upon inquiry made) we do not find but yt ye said Henry Geary is clear & free from al other women, & hath ye consent of his Father to his undertaking. Nor do we know any cause on his part to hinder him, but yt he may (according to ye good order of truth) proceed therein. So with the salutation of our love to you, we remain your Friends & Brethren in ye service of ye Truth.

From our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill for ye upper side of ye County of Buck, this 2d: day of ye 2d: month 1679.

Robt. Jones           Ralph Trumper
Hen: Costard          John Heywood
Tho: Dell             Geo: Salter
Edw. Hoar             Tho: White
Tho: Ellwood          Wm. Goulder
Saml. Jenings         John Costard
John Rose             John Dollin
Wm. Loddington       Henry Ball
Nicholas Noy          Geo: Mead
Danl. Akehurst        Henry Child
John Raunce           Danl. Cooke
Richard Clipsham

[44r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of ye 3d month 79.

[Assent given to John Kirton & Damaris Sanders. (Vide under date 2.ii.79)]

\[\text{li s d}\]

Collected here for ye service of truth \[\text{1 - 9 - 0}\]

Of wch paid by order of this Meeting to John Archedale of Wiccomb \[\text{10s.}\] laid out by him formerly at ye request of this Meeting for ye service of Friends; \& \[\text{10s.}\] more by same order to Richd. Baker of Biddlesden wch was laid out by him for ye same service. The other \[\text{9s}\] rests in Tho: Ellwood's hand.

Stock remaining is \[\text{oo - 09: - 00}\]

John Heywood of Amersham desired a Certificate from this Meeting to friends of London concerning his clearness in order to
marriage with one Elizabeth Warne of ye Strand in ye County of Middlesex. Wherupon ye Meeting desired Ralph Trumper & John Costard to inquire concerning his clearness, & give an Account therof at ye next Meeting.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th of ye 4th mo: 79

Ralph Trumper & John Costard acquaint ye Meeting, yt having made inquiry concerning John Heywood, according to ye order of ye last Meeting, they find no cause of Obstruction on his part. Wherupon a Certificate was subscribed, directed as followeth.

To the Friends & Brethren of Westminster Meeting,

Whereas John Heywood of Amersham in ye County of Buck, hath acquainted us with his intention of taking to wife one Elizabeth Warn (a Friend belonging to your Meeting) & hath also (in order to your satisfaction) desired a Testimonial from us concerning him:

These are therfore to certify you, that (upon inquiry made) we do not find but that the said John Heywood is clear & free from all other women; Nor do we know any cause one his part to hinder him from proceeding in his intended Marriage, according to the good order of Truth; In whch, saluting you with unfeigned love, we remain

your Friends & Brethren

From our mo: meeting at Hunger Hill for ye upper side of ye County of Buck this 4th: of 4th: mo: 1679.

Charles Harris  John Morton
Edw: Hoare     Wm. Kidder
Robt. Jones    Hen: Child
Jon. Archdale  Tho: Dell
Tho: Ellwood   Geo: Salter
Hen: Ball      Hen: Costard
Robt. White   Giles Child
Ralph Trumper James Stevens
Sam: Jenings   Abraham Treacher

[44v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 5th: mo: 1679.

A letter from ye last yearly Meeting directed to the quarterly
Meeting, & from thence refer'd to this, was here read, & yt part of it wch concerns a Collection to be made towards a National Stock for ye publick service of Truth, ordered to be copied out & sent to each particular meeting belonging to this.

Thomas Whippum & Eliz: Parks (who, in ye 12 mo: past, did here propose their intention to take each other in marriage) came now again to this Meeting; & being sensible yt both ye rise & progress of their affection to each other was wrong & altogether contrary unto Truth, did by mutual consent & agreement between themselves renounce their former purpose of marriage, & release each other from any engagements made between themselves in order therunto, each of them declaring a willingness of mind to part.

[Intention of marriage between John Martin of Edgcot, & Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Sellat of Hogshaw. Robt. Jones, James Smith, James Stevens & Thomas Barton appointed to inquire.]


[Assent given to John Martin & Elizabeth Sellat. (Vide under date 2.v.79)]

A letter (bearing date from Sherrington Meeting ye 17th day of ye 5th moth: last, & subscribed by 16 of ye Friends of that Meeting) was delivered here, in wch is signified yt Thomas Whippum & Eliz: Parks (who at ye last Meeting here did openly renounce their purpose of marriage) have in their Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in marriage. And inasmuch as they had been formerly at this Meeting upon ye same account, ye Friends of that Meeting desire a Certificate from Friends here concerning our approbation thereof. To wch, Answer was returned as followeith, vizt.

Dear Friends

Upon ye receipt of your letter (dated from your Meeting ye 17th past) & due consideration of ye contents therof, relating to Thomas Whippum & Eliz: Parkes, These are to acquaint you, That we cannot give any manner of approbation to their marriage, having found them so unconstant, uncertain & fickle in their pretended affections to each other, & so very far out
of & contrary to Truth in ye rise & beginning of their league yt was between them, & false & deceitful in ye carrying of it on.---

It stands recorded in our Meeting-Book, That at ye last Meeting Tho: Whippum & Eliz: Parkes, being made sensible yt both ye rise and progress of their affection to each other was wrong & altogether contrary to Truth, did by mutual consent & agreement between themselves, renounce their former purpose of Marriage, & release each other from any engagements made between each other in order thereunto, each of them declaring a willingness of mind to part. And so forward they were to part, yt if it could then have been effected, it is very probable they would then have sealed Releases one to another, wch they spake of doing. Al wch considered we cannot but fear, that if they proceed to marriage, it wil tend to bring dishonour to God, reproach to his Truth, and vexation & trouble to his People: for wch reasons we are by no means willing to touch or meddle wth them in this business, lest we should be defiled therby. Thus having given you ye sense we have of ye matter, we remain

From our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill ye 6th: of ye 6th month 1679.

Robt. Jones
Tho: Dell
Danl. Akehurst
John White
Hen: Ball
Tho: Ellwood
Tho: Barton
Wm. Kidder

John Puddivat
Wm. Grimsdall
John Dollin
Hen: Child
John Foster
Geo: Mead
Richd. Clipsham

Your Friends in ye service of Truth

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d: of 7th: mo: 1679.

An Account being given by some friends of Weston Meeting, yt some professing Truth in & about Berkhamstead have of late attempted to set up a Meeting there in an irregular & disorderly way, wch it is feared may turn to ye dishonour of Truth, if not in time
prevented; this Meeting did therefore make choice of William Kidder Henry Child & Tho: Ellwood to visit ye Friends chiefly concerned therin, & to inform them of their miscarriage in yt business, & to advise & exhort them as occasion shal offer, either wholly to desist from their said attempt, or to proceed therin (if it be judged needful) with the consent & unity of Friends.

[45 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: of 8th mo: 79.

Upon occasion of ye visit wch Wm Kidder, Hen: Child & Tho: Ellwood (by order of last Meeting) made to ye Friends in & about Berkhamstead, divers of them (both men & women) came to this Meeting, & did both acknowledge yt they had (for want of a right understanding) missed ye right order & method of setting up a Meeting, & declare yt (now) they have no intent to proceed in setting up a Meeting there without ye consent & approbation of this Meeting. But withal did desire yt there might be a publick Meeting settled there, to be held monthly in ye Barn wch they have already hired for yt purpose, offering some reasons both for ye need & service of it: wch Friends having wel & seriously waighed & understanding ye fewness & withal perceiving ye weakness of ye Friends concerned in it (very unfit & unlikely in either respect to bear up & support a Meeting of yt kind) did unanimously agree in this sense, & gave it as their advice to ye Friends concern’d, yt it would most conduce to ye honour of Truth, & to their own inward & spiritual advantage & welfare, for al those in & about Berkhamstead, yt are convinced of ye way of Truth, to meet together once a week or [erasure] oftener (as their Occasions wil permit) at some one of their own dwellinghouses, & there sit down together in silence waiting upon ye Lord, to feel ye arisings of his life & power in & amongst them, yt therby they may be settled & established in Truth & grow up therin. And when at any time any publick Labourer in ye Lord’s vineyard shal come to visit them with a publick Testimony, then to make use of the Barn yt they have hired, for the more commodious receiving ye people of ye world, at such times & upon such occasions, but not otherwise:
Henry Arnut of Oulsweek & Mary Newnam of Bril both in ye County of Buck, proposed their intention to take each other in marriage, desiring ye advice of this Meeting therin; It was refer'd to John White & Henry Costard to inquire into ye clearness of their proceedings & give an accompt therof at ye next Meeting.

In pursuance of an agreemt. of ye last quarterly Meeting for raising ye sum of 7li - 11s - 6d in ye several Meetings belonging to this monthly Meeting for ye assistance of the Friends of ye lower side ye County to discharge for ye diet & cure of George Cooper (a poor Orphan, in danger of losing his limbs by ye Kings Evill) there was collected at this Meeting 7li - 11s - 6d. to wch ye stock remaining from ye 3d. mo: * (see 3d: mo: 79) last (being 9s) being added, made in al the sum of 8li - 0os - 6d. Out of wch, 7li - 11s - 6d was paid to Richd. Marks of Sherrington for ye use above mentioned *(see 8th: mo: 80), & ye

li s d

Stock remaining is ................ 00 - 05 - 00

[46 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 9th mo: 79.
[Assent given to Henry Arnutt & Mary Newnam. (Vide under date i.viii.79)

Intention of marriage between John Costard of Amersham Mealman, & Ruth Ball of Coleshill. Henry Child & Thomas Ellwood appointed to inquire.]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d: of 10th: mo: 79.
[Assent given to John Costard & Ruth Ball. (Vide under date 5.ix.79)]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 11th: mo: 79.

A letter (dated ye 14th: of 6t. mo: past) from ye Meeting of sufferings in London to ye quarterly Meeting of this County, concerning a Collection to be made for ye Redemption of friends Captives
in Algier, being read at ye last quarterly Meeting, & referd hither wth respect to this side of ye County, was now read, & agreed to be recommended to ye several Meetings belonging to this.

Some intimation having been yt Mary Weston of Prestwood hath not been taken care of in her necessity, ye Meeting desired yt Robt. Jones & Wm. Kidder wil make inquiry into ye business, & give ye Meeting an Account therof.


Also between John Gadsden of Alisbury & Mary Littleboy of Cheping Wiccomb. Nicholas Noy, Wm. Loddington & James Smith appointed to inquire.]

The Collection agreed in ye 5th: mo: last to be made for ye general & publick service of Truth, being (through some delay in ye lower side of the County) not compleated til very lately, was since ye last Meeting sent up to London & ye Account therof stands thus, as on ye following page appears, vizt.

*(1679.)*  
| *Wiccomb* | 04 - 00 - 00  
| *Wooburn* | 00 - 14 - 06  
| *Chalfont* | 04 - 13 - 10  
| *Amersham* | 01 - 10 - 00  
| *Chesham* | 02 - 09 - 00  
| *Missenden* | 00 - 18 - 00  

In June 1679 Yearly Meeting considered the matter of Friends taken prisoner by Barbary rovers and referred it to Meeting for Sufferings. In August of the same year Meeting for Sufferings sent down a letter to Quarterly Meetings, saying they had set about the redemption of two Quaker captives at a cost of £120, and mentioning others, among whom were the Quaker passengers of a ship captured on her way home from Virginia. Meeting for Sufferings asked to be informed of further captures, and appealed for a strictly private collection, limited to members of the Society, "that our adversaries may not take advantage by this our public collection, to inform thereof, thereby to advance the ransom of Friends for the future." In 1682 there were 20 Quaker captives at Algiers who had their own Meeting for Worship; all of these were redeemed by the end of 1686, some of them having been converted to Quakerism during their captivity. George Fox, writing to Friends at Algiers in 1683, says, "I think you have more liberty to meet there than we have here; for they keep us out of our Meetings and cast us into Prison and spoil our Goods."
Robt. Jones & Wm. Kidder acquaint ye Meeting yt they have inquired into Mary Weston's business, & find ye neglect to arise from an uncertainty what Meeting she belonged to, wch being removed by her declaring her willingnes & intent to joyn wth Missenden Meeting, ye friends of yt meeting have undertaken ye care of her for ye future.

An intimation being given here, yt Jacob Treacher of Prestwood hath been at some charge in repairing ye said Mary Weston's house, John Raunce & Nicholas Noy have undertaken to inquire into yt business, & give an account thereof at ye next Meeting.

Daniel Akehurst & Mary Noy, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive ye answer of ye Meeting, & though many of ye Meeting declared yt by reason of ye contempt & disrespect yt they shewed to the women's Meeting (wch was set up & establisht in ye wisdom & power of God as wel as ye mens) they had not unity wth their proceeding, nor had freedom to give consent therunto: yet in as much as there appeared no other obstruction, ye Meeting agreed to return them this Answer, That ye Meeting was contented to leave them to their liberty to accomplish their intended Marriage, which Answer was given them accordingly.
John Gadsden & Mary Littleboy who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of marriage, came now to receive ye answer of the Meeting, & were left to their liberty in like manner as ye former.

Richard Underwood of Blechly in ye parish of Eaton cum Membris in ye County of Buck & Mary Boucher of Berkhamstead in ye County of Hertford, proposed their intention of Marriage. Robt. Jones & Henry Geary were appointed to inquire concerning ye maids cleares, & ye young man was ordered to bring a Certificate from ye monthly Meeting to which he belongs.

Thomas Allen of Chipping Wiccomb Blacksmith & Susanna Grace of Weston Turvill in ye County of Buck (who in ye 10th mo: last came to this Meeting with intention to propound their purpose of marriage, but ye Meeting perceiving yt ye man was not so much as in ye profession of Truth, they were put by; ye man being tenderly advised to seek ye kingdom of Heaven & ye Righteousness therof, by waiting upon ye Lord to be taught ye way of Truth, & to be brought to walk therein; & ye maid being gently reproved for joyning her affection to a man of ye world, wheras she herself had made a profession of ye Truth for many years) came now again upon ye same account, ye man appearing to have some convincemt. upon him, and expressing a desire to receive ye Truth & to live in it. But many of ye Friends being not satisfied to lay hands so suddenly on a man but newly come among us, without having some better & further experience of him, & judging it more safe for ye honour of Truth, more agreeable to ye way & method of it, & more conducing to his own advantage in {the spiritual travel} his entrance into ye spiritual travell, to defer ye business of marriage, & mind more his inward exercise, he was advised to wait diligently on ye Lord, yt he might feel ye work of ye Lord wrought in him, & yt Friends might have some sense & satisfaction of his growth & establishment in Truth.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of 1st: mo: 1680

The business of Jacob Treacher (committed last Meeting to John Raunce & Nich: Noy, being not by them so far inquired into as yt an

(18) Figurative—"accept as a member." There was no formal membership until 1737.
78 MARCH - APRIL 1680

account could be given of it yet,) was deferred til another Meeting.

[Assent given to Richard Underwood & Mary Boucher. (Vide under date 4.xii.79)]

Thomas Allen & Susanna Grace came now again to press ye Meeting for a dispatch of their business of marriage; but some friends of ye Meeting being much dissatisfied wth ye ground & beginning of their business, & very many wth the [erasure] sudden hastiness of their proceedings therin, it occasioned some debate in ye Meeting what answer should be returned them; wch while friends were in consideration of, ye said Thomas & Susanna (being brought in by one who was privy to their design, & earnest for ye carrying it on) {attempted & began} under pretence yt they had somthing to offer to ye Meeting, did endeavour to surprise & abuse ye Meeting by attempting & beginning to take each other in Marriage in this Meeting, but were immediatly stopt by several Testimonys publicly given agt. it & them; & ye man being asked by whose advice or instigation he made this attempt, did in a very surly manner refuse to give an account therof, & being afterwards desired to come in again, yt he might be made sensible of his Miscarriage, he positively refused, discovering therby an obstinat mind. Al wch ye Meeting taking into consideration, unanimously agreed & declared (Friends of Wiccomb also concurring herein) yt ye said Thomas & Susanna have herein committed a great disorder, & put a foul abuse upon ye Meeting, for wch they ought to own their condemnation.

[47 v]

Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 7th: of 2d: mo: 8o.

The business of Jacob Treacher (committed formerly to John Raunce & Nich: Noy) being not yet inquired into, was referd to another Meeting.

A Proposition being made at ye last quarterly Meeting by Friends of Sherrington Meeting, on behalf of John Bedford a poor friend & shoemaker of Sherrington, with desire yt this Meeting would assist ye said John with 5li, they themselves undertaking to give him 5li more, It was consented unto & agreed by this Meeting to supply ye said John wth 5li upon these terms, vizt. That if ye Lord should hereafter unable him to repay it, he should; else it should not be expected
from him. And there being 5li in Tho: Ellwood's hands of ye stock of this Meeting (wch was given by ye widow Duncomb of Oulsweek (mother to John Whites wife) for ye service of Truth & releif of Friends, ye Meeting ordered yt mony for this use, yet with this re-serve, yt in case John White (to whom his Mother committed it, & who was now absent) should not be satisfied in ye dispose of it this way, ye Meeting would make it good. This 5li. was delivered to Richd. Baker of Biddlesden together wth a letter directed to Richd. Marks of Sherrington.

[Intention of marriage between Daniel Cooke, Clothworker, and Sarah Kingham, both of Rickmansworth. George Belch & Thomas Dell appointed to inquire.]

Also between William Greenhill, Wheelwright, & Mary Cooke, both of Rickmansworth. George Belch & George Mead appointed to inquire.

Also between John Hudson of Ryslip, Co. Middlesex, Bricklayer, & Hannah Hookes of Watford. John Wells, George Mead, & Thomas Dell appointed to inquire.]

This Meeting being sensible of ye miscarriage & disorder comitted at ye last Meeting here by Thomas Allen of Wiccomb & Susanna Grace, did agree yt ye said Thomas & Susanna should be visited by some friends from this Meeting, & in ye name of this Meeting should be reproved for ye same. And ye question being put who were free to go, Tho: Ellwood & Henry Child expressed their Willingness to undertake yt service as from this Meeting, & were approved by the Meeting therin.

The Collection agreed in ye 11th mo: last to be made

[48r] for the Ransom of friends Captives in Algiers, being not compleated til ye last quarterly Meeting is now ready to be returned to London by ye first safe opportunity, & is as followeth, vizt.

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<td>Amersham</td>
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This 22li - 1os - 07d being committed to Tho: Ellwood, was by his order paid by ye hand of Philip Ford unto James Claypoole of London, as by his receipt, hereunto annexed, appeareth.\(^{19}\)

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 3d: mo: 8o.

An Accompt being given in by Nicholas Noy of ye particulars of ye charge yt Jacob Treacher was at in repairing Mary Weston’s house at Prestwood, ye Meeting thought fit he should be reimbursed, & it appearing yt there is in Tho: Ellwood’s hand 2os (wch being part of a greater sum given to friends by Tho: Rogers of Prestwood, *(was) formerly lent wth other monyes to Joseph Winch of Amersham, & since by him repaid) it was agreed yt that 2os should be sent to Jacob Treacher to reimburse him, & accordingly it was then delivered by T. E. to Nicholas Noy for yt use. *(see 8: mo: 72, 4: mo: 74, 1: mo: 77, 3: mo: 77)*

John White of Meadle expressing a dissatisfaction yt ye 5li: formerly given to friends by his wife’s mother (& lent at our last Meeting to John Bedford a friend of Sherrington) should be wholly expended or given away, & desiring that ye Principal should be secured & continued as a stock, This Meeting therupon did ingage (& ordered yt it should be entred so in ye book) That in case ye said 5li: should not be repaid by ye said John Bedford, This Meeting will make it good.

Samuel Jenings acquainting ye Meeting that he hath an intention (if the Lord permit) to transport himself wth his Wife & Children unto West-New-Jersey, & desiring a

\(^{19}\) The receipt has been lost.
Testimonial from this Meeting of their honest and blameless deport-
ment, The Meeting did committ to John Smith & Daniel Akehurst
to make inquiry concerning them, & give an account therof at ye
next Meeting here.

Thomas Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting, yt he wth Hen: Child &
Robt. Jones, having (according to ye agreemt. & desire of ye last
Meeting) visited Thomas Allen & Susan Grace of Wiccomb, & wth
much tenderness laboured to bring them to a sense of ye Evil & Dis-
order they committed at ye Meeting here in ye first month last,
found them in a hard, obstinate & resolute frame of mind, justifying
themselves & blaming ye Meeting. And ye said Thomas & Susan hav-
ing since sent a letter by Nicholas Noy, directed to this Meeting &
subscribed wth their Names, wherin they highly justify themselves
in ye disorder & evil by them committed as aforesaid, & charge ye
Meeting wth injustice towards them; The Meeting being sensible of
ye unsavouriness of their letter, & unruliness of their spirit, yet de-
sirous (if possible) by gentlenes to draw them to a sight & sense ther-
of in themselves, did think fit to give them another visit, wch Wil-
liam Lodddington & Daniel Cooke undertook to do, as from this
Meeting.

[Assent given to Daniel Cooke & Sarah Kingham. (Vide under
date 7.ii.8o)

Also to William Greenhill & Mary Cooke. (Vide under date
7.ii.8o)

Also to John Hudson & Hannah Hookes. (Vide under date 7.ii.8o)

Intention of marriage between Edmund Barton & Mary Grove of
Flanden. Robert Jones & Edward Butterfeild to inquire.] The man
was ordered to get a Certificate from yt Meeting of Bedfordshire, to
wch he lately belonged.

Friends considering yt ye next Meeting wil in course fal at ye
same time wth ye general Meeting at London, have thought fit for
ye service of Truth, & conveniency of Friends, to alter ye day for yt
time only. So yt it is ye agreemt. of this Meeting, That ye next
Meeting shall be held here on ye fourth day in ye † (last) week of this
month; & friends are desired to give notice therof in their respec-
f
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 26th: of 3d: mo: 8o:

William Loddington acquainted ye Meeting yt he & Daniel Cooke had been with Thomas Allen & his Wife, endeavouring to make them sensible of their miscarriages, but found them so hard & shut up from Counsell, that they could not make any impression upon them, stil justifying themselves, & condemning ye Meeting; wch ye Meeting taking into consideration, did conclude it necessary yt a Testimony be given agt. ye disorder committed by them, & yt unruly & unsavoury spt. by wch they are acted; Yet being very desirous to exercise al manner of tenderness towards them, ye Meeting was content to forbear any further prosecution of ye Matter until ye next Meeting, if haply in the mean time any sense may arise {from} †(in) themselves wch may bring them to acknowledge & condemn those Evils committed by them.

A Certificate was given to Saml. Jenings, as followeth.

Wheras Samuel Jenings late of Alisbury in ye County of Buck Salesman, hath signified unto us yt he hath an intention (if ye Lord permit) to transport himself wth his Wife & Children unto ye Plantation of West-new-Jersey in America, & hath desired a Testimonial from this Meeting, for ye satisfaction of friends there or elswhere, unto whom he may be outwardly unknown. We threfore whose names are hereunderwritten do hereby certify al whom it may concern, yt ye said Samuel Jenings & Anne his Wife, having lived in these parts for many years, have walked conscientiously & honestly amongst us, agreeably to ye profession & testimony of truth according to ye best of our knowledge & observation of them. In witness wherof we have hereunto set our hands, at our monthly Meeting, holden at Coleshill for ye upper side of ye County of Buck, ye 26th: of 3d: mo: in ye year 1680.

Hen. Costard         Tho: Ellwood        Ralph Trumper
Rowland Foster of Wiccomb complaining to this Meeting, yt Joyce Olliffe formerly of Alisbury, having for some time entertained him in ye way of a Sutor in order to Marriage, is lately removed to London, in order to transport herself beyond ye Seas, to his great trouble & dissatisfaction; The Meeting desired T. Ellwood to speak with the said Joyce at London, & acquaint her, That it is ye Judgmt. of this Meeting, yt she ought (before her departure) to endeavour to give ye said Rowland satisfaction in this case, & yt if he shal desire to have ye business heard by some Friends of London, to be chosen indifferently by him & herself, she ought not to refuse it.

Edmund Barton & Mary Grove, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting. But it appearing yt ye said Edmund & Mary had before laid their business before ye Women’s Meeting, & left it there depending, & had since, in contempt of ye womens Meeting, not only refused to go thither again to receive their Answer, but yt ye said Edmund had wth reproachful & slanderous words abused & vilified ye said Meeting; it occasioned a dissatisfaction in many, so yt ye Meeting could not give way to ye passing of their business at present, until satisfaction be given by them to ye Women’s Meeting for ye injury & abuse offered therunto.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of ye 5th: mo: 80.

Friends not having received any satisfaction from Thomas Allen & Susan Grace of Wiccomb for the disorder & abuse committed by them at this Meeting formerly & by their letter since; nor finding any further drawings in any to visit them any more: It was ye unanimous agreement of this Meeting yt a Paper be drawn up as a Testimony & Judgement. agt. their disorderly Proceedings, & yt spirit of (10) It appears from the Women’s Minute Book that Barton told a woman Friend “shee was in a ranting sperit,” for which he afterwards apologized.
obstinacy in which they stand; & it was left to T. Ellwood to draw up ye said Paper agt. ye next Meeting.

Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting yt (according to ye direction of ye last Meeting) he had delivered their Message to Joyce Olliffe, who received it very kindly; & yt afterwards, Rowland Foster & she discoursing together, did wholly end ye Controversy yt had been between them, each of them solemnly releasing ye other by a writing under their hands.

Jane Folliat of Oxford, having formerly lived in this County, & being now upon a Treaty of Marriage to a Friend of Oxfordshire, came hither to desire a Certificate from this Meeting of her clearness & orderly walking whilst among us. The Meeting appointed Tho: Dell, John Costard & Tho: Olliffe to make inquiry concerning her, & give an Account therof at ye next Meeting.

A Paper, directed from ye last yearly Meeting to the quarterly & monthly Meetings of this County, being read in our last quarterly Meeting, & from thence recommended to this, was here read, & some particulars of it, relating to ye first entrance of Truth in this County, being transcribed, were by ye agreement of this Meeting recommended to ye care of ye respective Meetings belonging unto this.

[50r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 6t. mo: 80.

The friends imployed to inquire concerning Jane Folliat gave Meeting an Account yt Charles Noy (who formerly claimed an interest in her) had in writing under his hand given her a Discharge, wch they produced here, & yt upon ful inquiry made they did not find any Matter in our County wch might be an obstruction to her marriage. Wherupon ye Meeting signed ye Certificate following,

To our Friends & Brethren at their monthly Meeting in or near the City of Oxford.

Wheras Jane Folliat of ye City of Oxford Spinster, having formerly lived some time in this County, & being now (as we are given to understand) in a Treaty of Marriage with a Friend of
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your County, hath (in order to your satisfaction) desired a Testimonial from this Meeting concerning her:

These are therefore to certify you, yt (upon full inquiry made) we do not find but yt ye said Jane Folliat is clear & free from any Engagement of Marriage to any person in this County, & yt while she lived amongst us, she was of an orderly conversation; nor do we know any cause on her part to hinder her from proceeding to Marriage, according to ye good Order of Truth. To wch recommending you in ye management of this & al ye affairs of Truth, we remain

Your Friends & Brethren

Henry Costard  Tho: Ellwood  John Puddivatt
Robt. Jones    Wm. Kidder    John Dollin
Wm. Loddington Edw. Hoare  Richd. Clipsham
Thomas Dell    Tho: Olliffe  John White

Edmund Barton of Flanden having, since ye meeting in ye 3d: mo: last, been wonderfully reached unto & wrought upon by ye Lord, & judged & condemned in himself in ye most of his Opposition & gainsaying, insomuch yt he hath been made publickly in Meetings to confess his Errour, & condemn himself, came this day to ye womens Meeting, & did there freely & fully acknowledge his fault in having despised, contemned & vilified their Meeting, condemning himself & judging yt spirit by wch he had been led into yt evil frame & temper of mind. And having given satisfaction to ye Women Friends for ye injury & abuse done to their Meeting & to them, He and his friend Mary Grove did propose anew their intention of taking each other in Marriage, desiring ye advice & assistance of ye Women’s Meeting therin.21 Wherupon two women-friends being chosen by their Meeting came wth them to this Meeting, & having acquainted this Meeting with ye business, the said Edmund & Mary did again propose their intention of taking each other in Marriage, & desired ye advice of this Meeting therin. Robt. Jones & Edward

(21) The Women’s Minute Book says that this couple were “desired to be very waity, considering their great disproportion in years.”
Butterfeild, who were imployed in ye former inquiry, to inquire anew.

A letter was read from Francis Holden a friend of Kingston upon Thames, complaining agt. Robt. Kingham of Farnham Mill, for non-paymt. of a Debt owing to him, & for frequent breach of promise thereupon, & desiring ye advice of this Meeting therupon. Whereupon ye Meeting desired Robt. White, Wm. Sexton, Geo: Salter & John Dollin, to speak with Robt. Kingham about it, & let him know ye Meeting expects he should satisfy ye said Francis before ye next Meeting or come himself to the next Meeting, yt Friends may more fully understand the matter.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye first of ye 7th: mo: 8o.

According to ye agreeemt. of this Meeting in ye fifth month last, a Paper was drawn up by T. E. as a Testimony agt. ye disorderly acting & unruly obstinate Spirit of Tho: Allen of Wiccomb & Susan Grace, wch there not being room for at the last Meeting, was now presented, approved & signed as followeth.

Forasmuch as Thomas Allen of Cheping Wiccomb in ye County of Buck Blacksmith & Susanna ye daughter of John Grace of Weston-Turvill in ye said County, having laid before this Meeting their intention of taking each other in Marriage, while their business was here depending, & actually under consideration, having by guile & falsehood obtained liberty to come into ye Meeting, did deceitfully & treacherously attempt & offer to obtrude & impose a rude & disorderly Marriage upon ye Meeting, contrary to ye order & way of truth; And did not only then persist in their disorderly undertaking, against ye manifest & express dislike of ye Meeting, but have also since (as an aggravation of their Evil) by their letter directed to this Meeting (bearing date ye 5th of ye 3d: mo: last past) undertaken to justify themselves & their proceedings & to judge & condemn ye Meeting of injustice. And inasmuch as this Meeting hath exercised very much xtian care & tenderness towards ye said Tho: & Susanna, & hath dealt with them according to
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Gospel-Order, by sending divers of ye Members of this Meeting, at several times (as well before ye said Letter was received, as since) to visit ye said Tho: & Susanna, & to lay before them ye Evil of their doings, & to reprove, admonish & exhort them to Repentance; which tenderness & counsell they ye said Thomas & Susanna have rejected, obstinatly persisting to justify themselves in their deceitful working & unruly disorderly carriage aforesaid. We therefore whose names are hereunder-written, being met together in ye holy fear of ye Lord, to take care of ye concerns of ye Church of Christ in these parts, & being sensible both of ye abuse & contempt offered unto this Meeting, by ye said Thomas & Susanna, & of ye evil tendency & dangerous consequences of such unruly & disorderly practises, do feel a weighty concern upon our spirits to testify agt. them. And therefore in ye authority & power of Truth, wch God almighty hath placed amongst us, & in wch we meet & act, do we judge & condemn & hereby solemnly testify agt. their deceitful and treacherous dealing, their unruly disorderly practice & their unsavoury letter, as being al brought forth & acted out of ye Truth, & in opposition therunto. And as we utterly deny & disown yt spirit by wch they were led into these Evils: so we also declare, That we neither have nor can have fellowship with them ye said Thomas & Susanna, so long as they continue to be acted & guided by yt spirit. In witness wherof we have hereunto set our hands, at our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill for ye upper side of ye County of Buck, this first day of ye 7th: mo: 1680.

The original Copy of this Paper was signed by

Edward Hoare  Robt. Jones  John Costard
Edmund Belson  Henry Costard  Richard Clipsham
John Wells  Henry Child  Daniel Cooke
John Jugger  Thomas Dell  William Kidder.
Thomas Ellwood  John White

And it was ordered by ye Meeting to be sent to the said Thomas & Susanna.

(22) See Matthew XVIII. 15.
[Assent given to Edmund Barton & Mary Grove. (Vide under date 4.vi.80)]

Those friends yt were appointed to speak wth Robt. Kingham about ye concern between him & Francis Holden of Kingston upon Thames, acquainting ye Meeting yt they understood by Robt. Kingham, yt he had sent some Wheat to Francis Holden, in part of satisfaction of his debt, & intended to take speedy care to clear ye remainder, it was thought needful yt a few lines should be directed from this Meeting to Francis Holden in answer to his letter, wch accordingly was done, as followeth,

Friend, We received thine, & have imployed some Friends to speak with Robt. Kingham about ye business contained in it, by whom we understand yt he hath sent some wheat to thee, which he intends in part of payment of thy debt. How far yt wil satisfy ye Debt we know not, but are informed he intends to pay more suddenly. And we purpose to lay it closely upon him to go over to thee, & give thee ye best satisfaction he can of his real intention to pay thee fully, & yt with as much expedition as may be. And indeed we are desirous (if possibly it may be prevented) yt nothing may break out between you wch may tend to the dishonour or reproach of Truth, as certainly it would if thou shouldst fal upon him by law, inasmuch as he bears a Profession of Truth, & we hope hath no design of dishonesty, though his present straits make him more backward than he should be. So wth true love to thee we remain

Thy Friends &c.

Signed at ye request & on ye behalf of ye Meeting by Tho: Ellwood.

[Intention of marriage between George Belch, son of Geo: Belch of Charlywood in the parish of Rickmansworth, Co Herts., & Elizabeth Fisher, daughter of William Fisher of Flanden in the said County. John Wells & Philip Thompson apointed to inquire.

Also between Henry Higgins of Pen & Ursula Colegrove of Wiccomb. William Kidder & Thomas Dell appointed to inquire.]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6th. of 8th mo. 80

Friends understanding yt Robt. Kingham hath neither paid his debt to Francis Holden of Kingston, nor gone over to him to give him any satisfaction about it, but stil delays time with excuses, Friends were displeased wth him; yet inasmuch as he hath now set a certain time (of two or three weeks) to pay ye mony in, & proposed a way to raise ye mony †(by) threshing & selling corn, ye Meeting thought meet to send to him once more by ye Friends imployed for-merly in it to let him know yt if he fail of his promise now, & do not discharge ye debt within ye time prefixed, they wil not mediate any further for him, but leave ye Friend to do in his own concern as he himself shal think fit. Also ye Meeting thought fit to write to Fran-cis Holden again, as followeth:

Friend, in pursuance of what we writ to thee before, we have taken ye best course we can to promise thee satisfaction from Robt. Kingham, whom we have earnestly prest to go over to thee about it; but find him very unwilling to see thee without mony, wch we hope proceeds rather from modesty than de-sign; & ye rather because he hath assured us yt he is using his best endeavours to raise ye mony wth al speed, & in order ther-unto is setting men to work to thresh out of his corn enough to satisfy thy debt; & in two or 3 weeks time at ye most he pro-mises to have it ready. This we were willing to give thee an account of, & if upon Truth's accompt thou art willing to pro-long thy patience a little, we shal be glad; & if thou please to write a few lines to him once more upon this fresh promise of his, to let him know thou dost expect it within yt time, we hope it wil quicken him. So wth true love to thee, we remain thy friends in truth,

Signed at ye request & on ye behalf of ye meeting by Tho: Ellwood:

[Assent given to George Belch & Elizabeth Fisher. (Vide under date i. vii. 80)]
Also to Henry Higgins & Ursula Colegrove. *(Vide under date 1.vii.8o)*

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Collected now for ye service of Truth . . . . . 1 - 15 - 0

Remainder of Stock from ye 8th: mo: 79 was . . . 0 - 5 - 0

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*(see 31th: 11th: mo: 8o)*

**[52r]**

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of ye 9th: mo: 8o.

Friends understanding yt Robt. Kingham, notwithstanding his so sollemn engagemt. before ye last Meeting to pay off his Debt to Francis Holden of Kingston wth in two or three weeks at furthest, hath not paid it yet, were very sensible of his unfair dealing both towards Francis Holden & ye Meeting. Wherupon William Sexton & Robt. White were desired to speak wth ye said Robt. Kingham, & let him know that this Meeting doth expect he should come to the next Meeting here to give an account of his miscarriage herein; Otherwise ye Meeting wil be necessitated to disown his dealing & him for it.

[Intention of marriage between John Nash & Elizabeth Winch, both of Amersham. William Grimsdale & Henry Child to inquire.]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye first of ye 10th mo: 8o.

Robt. White acquainted ye Meeting, yt Wm. Sexton & he had delivered ye Message of ye Meeting to Robt. Kingham, who desired to be excused from coming to ye Meeting and promised to pay ye mony due from him to Francis Holden into ye hands of Tho: Dell before this Meeting. Tho: Dell added, yt Robt. hath paid him 6li: 10s. (wch is about half ye debt) & promised to pay him ye rest within a week: & yt having lately spoken wth Francis Holden, he finds him satisfied wth friends care in ye business, & content to wait a while longer. Wherupon ye Meeting desired ye Friends before employed in it, to continue to press Robt. Kingham on until ye debt be cleared.

[Assent given to John Nash & Eliz: Winch. *(Vide under date 3.ix.8o)*]
Intention of marriage between John Boon of Chipping wiccomb & Dorothy Prat of the same. Jeremy Stevens & James Smith appointed to inquire.

[52 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 5th: of 11th: mo: 8o

[Assent given to John Boon & Dorothy Prat. (Vide under date 1.x.8o)]

Friends taking notice yt ye next Meeting here wil in course fall on ye same day yt Beconsfeld fair wil be on, at wch fair many of ye friends of this Meeting are usually engaged in business, have thought fit, yt neither Friends may be strained in their occasions, nor ye service of Truth neglected, to alter ye day for yt time, & have agreed to Meet heer on ye last day of this month, wch wil be ye second day of ye [sic] that week wherein ye Meeting in course falls. And it is desired Friends wil give notice of it to ye Friends of their respective Meetings, yt no disappointmt may be occasioned therby.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 31th: of 11th: mo: 8o.


A Proposition being made by Friends of Chesham for altering this Meeting from ye fourth day of the week to some other day, in regard yt this Meeting being on ye 4th day is prejudicial to many other Meetings, wch are, or should be, on ye same day; & also excludes Chesham Friends from ye service & benefit of it by reason yt Chesham market is on yt day; it was considered & somewhat debated, but ye further debate & discussing therof was refer’d to ye next Meeting.
Dispos'd by order of Friends & for ye service of Truth.
(to T. W. C. P.)
Stock remaining is.

*(see 9th: mo: 81)

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of first mo: 88.

[Assent given to John Newman & Sarah Putnam. (Vide under date 31. xi. 80)]

The Proposition made last Meeting for ye altering ye day wheron this Meeting hath hitherto been held to some other day of ye week, was resumed, & upon a ful consideration of ye matter, it was unanimously agreed that the monthly Meeting here shall be held for ye future on the first second day of ye week in each month; & to begin so ye next Meeting.

A letter from ye Meeting of sufferings in London (bearing date ye 21th of 11th. mo: 80.) was read; & it was agreed, that (pursuant to ye said letter) al late-sufferings of Friends upon ye penal statutes, be collected & speedily sent to London.

A letter from ye Meeting of sufferings in London (bearing date ye 18th: of 12th: mo: 80) proposing a more effectual way of spreading friends bookes amongst ye world, by exposing them to sale in market towns & other places where Friends keep shops, was read, & ye method approved; & ye Friends of each meeting yt were now present, were desired to confer with ye rest of ye Friends of their several Meetings, & consider amongst themselves who are most fit & willing in their respective Meetings to undertake it, & make report therof at ye next Meeting.

Thomas Olliffe acquainting ye Meeting, that his Sister Joyce Olliffe (who ye last summer went from England to live in New Jersey in America) hath by letter desired him to move this Meeting for a Certificate on her behalf. The Meeting in order therunto desired

(23) Perhaps the initials of Friends appointed to receive collections. Thomas West and Clement Plumstead both appear as members of Meeting for Sufferings at this time, and West was a Buckinghamshire man.
John Archdale, Nicholas Noy & William Kidder to make inquiry concerning her clearnes, & to speak particularly with Rowland Foster.

[53v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 4th: 2d mo: 8 i.

The friends of ye respective Meetings, having considered of ye most convenient places & fit persons, in wch & by who. Friends books may be exposed to sale, pursuant to ye agreemt. of ye last Meeting, did now acquaint ye Meeting, yt that service wil be undertaken by William Kidder & John Gadsden in Wiccomb, by John Grover in Chesham, by James Smith & Tho: Olliffe in Alisbury, by William Aires in Watford, & Daniel Cook in Rickmansworth. Of wch Tho: Ellwood is desired to give accompt to ye Friends of ye Meeting of sufferings in London, in answer to the letter received from them about it.

William Kidder acquainted ye Meeting, yt having spoken with Rowland Foster concerning Joyce Olliffe, ye said Rowland did leave ye matter wholly to Friends of this Meeting to do therin as they should think fit. Wherupon ye Meeting, finding nothing to obstruct, did give & subscribe ye following Certificate:

Forasmuch as Joyce Olliffe (who, ye last summer, removed from Alisbury in this County into New Jersey in America) hath by her brother Thomas Olliffe of Alisbury aforesaid, desired a Certificate from this Meeting concerning her clearness in Relation to Marriage; These are therefore to certify al whom it may concern, that upon inquiry made concerning her, we find that, there having formerly been some affection tending to Marriage between ye said Joyce Olliffe & one Rowland Foster of Wiccomb in this County, wch afterwards upon more serious thoughts through a dissatisfaction on her part, was wholly laid aside, ye said Rowland Foster, by a Writing under his hand, bearing date ye second day of ye 4th mo: 1680 did acquit her & leave her perfectly free, with this proviso, yt she ye said Joyce Olliffe should keep herself free from ingaging in Marriage to Isaac Marriot for ye space of one year. And, unless
there be some affection tending to Marriage between her & ye said Isaac Marriot (wch we have no certain knowledge of) we do not know, nor have ground to suppose yt she is under any engagement to or entanglement with any person in England, but we do look upon her to be clear & free as aforesaid, so far as we have been able to inform ourselves. In witness wherof we have herunto set our hands this 4th day of ye 2d mo: 1681.

To ye Friends of Truth at their Mens & Women's Meetings in New Jersey in America, From our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill for ye upper side of ye County of Bucks.

John Heywood. James Smith John Puddivat
Thomas Dell. John Morton Rich: Clipsham
Robt. White Wm. Kidder John Grover
Henry Child. Tho: Olliffe Elias Littlepage

[54r]


An account being given by friends of Watford & Flanden Meeting, yt one Edward Temple of Common-Wood in Cashaw Hamlett in ye parish of Watford in ye County of Hertford, having long made a profession of ye Truth, hath of late been joyned in Marriage by a Priest to a woman of the world: The Meeting did therupon desire yt John Heywood, Tho: Ellwood, Joseph Welch & Henry Child, or some of them, wil take some convenient opportunity before ye next Meeting here, to visit ye said Edward Temple, & endeavour to bring him to a sense of his miscarriage therin.

John Hughes of Oxford desiring a Certificate on the behalf of Elizabeth Robsort (now) of Oxford (formerly of Wiccomb) concerning her clearness in relation to Marriage, it was refer'd to Tho: Dell & Wm. Kidder to make inquiry concerning her, & to speak particularly with Jonathan Kingham about her.

The Meeting being informed yt Mary Lane of Tring hath received a proposition tending to marriage from one William Foster a man of ye world, & hath in some measure entertained & countenanced him therin, did desire Robt. Jones, Henry Child, Joseph Welch & Tho: Ellwood to visit ye said Mary Lane, & to endeavour to make her sensible of her Evil therin, & acquaint her wth ye sense of this Meeting, vizt. That for any Friend to joyn in Marriage wth any of the world, is utterly inconsistent wth & contrary to the Truth, & is that wch this Meeting, nor any friend in Truth, can in any wise consent to, allow of or be concerned in.


The friends appointed at ye last Meeting to visit Mary Lane, acquainted ye Meeting yt they had been with her, & found her pretty tender, & seeming willing to be advised by friends to give up ye matter, & not entertain it any further. But ye Meeting, being now informed yt she continues to receive & entertain the man in ye same manner as formerly, did think fit to visit her again, & therupon did order Wm. Kidder, Wm. Loddington & Joseph Welch to visit her & endeavour to shew ye Evil of her undertaking.

The friends yt were appointed (by ye Meeting in ye third month last) to visit Edward Temple of Watford parish, who was lately joyned in Marriage by a Priest to a woman of ye world, acquaint ye Meeting now yt they have spoken wth ye said Edward Temple, & laid before him ye Evil of what he has done, which he acknowledged himself to have some sense of, and confesseth he saw it to be evil before he undertook it, yet saith he is not without hope yt God wil give him Repentance. Wherupon it was ordered yt Henry Child & Joseph Welch, with some friends of Watford Meeting should visit him again, & endeavour to make him yet more sensible of his Evil.
An Account being given yt one Margaret Judson of Wendover (who hath professed Truth many years, & is reputed a Quaker) hath received & entertained a man of ye world in order to Marriage, so far as to engage herself by promise unto him; John Brown, James Smith and Tho: Olliffe were ordered to visit her, & lay before her ye Evil of her undertaking, & how contrary it is to Truth.

[Intention of marriage between Joseph Graveney of Coblers on the Hill in the parish of Great Hampden & Mary Arnott of Prestwood. Robert Jones & Edward Hoare appointed to inquire.]

The friends imployed to inquire concerning Eliza: Robsort of Oxford gave ye Meeting Account yt Jonath: Kingham doth not pretend any interest in her, & yt they did not find any thing that might hinder her Marriage; wher-upon ye following Certificate was signed by this Meeting, vizt.

To our Friends & Brethren of ye Monthly Meeting belonging to the City of Oxford.

Whereas Elizabeth Robsort of ye City of Oxford (having formerly lived at Cheping Wiccomb in this County) hath signified unto this Meeting, yt she is likely to be joyned in Marriage to one John Hughs a friend of ye same City. And (in order therunto) hath desired a Certificate from this Meeting, concerning her clearnes from other men:

These are now to certify al whom it may concern (that upon inquiry made, as is usual with us in like cases) we do not find yt ye said Eliz: Robsort is under any engagement for Marriage to any person in this County. Nor do we know any thing (on her part) wch may hinder her from proceeding to joyn herself in Marriage wth ye said John Hughes, according to the good order of Truth. So with the salutation of our love to you, we remain

Your friends & Brethren in ye Service of Truth

From our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, for ye upper

John Archdale
Nicholas Noy
JULY - AUGUST 1681

Side of ye County of Buck,
this 4th day of ye 5th: mo:
1681.

Wm. Kidder
Robt. Jones
John Brown
Robt. White
Thomas Dell
Tho: Tanner
Edw: Hoar
Geo: Salter
John Dollin

[55v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye first of 6th mo: 81.

The friends employed to visit Mary Lane, gave account yt they found her stil tender, & yt although it seem’d hard to her to let go her hold of ye man, yet at length she declared yt if friends could not have unity wth it, she would not go on any further in it. Wherupon ye Meeting left it with Joseph Welch to make inquiry how she de-means herself towards ye man, & according as he shall find occasion, to visit her again, & speak to her further about it.

The friends employed to visit Edward Temple, gave account yt they found him much as he was at ye former visit, vizt. acknowledging yt he is sensible he hath done Evil, & yt he is sorry for it. Wher- upon it was left to the friends of Watford Meeting to visit him again, & to endeavour to make him yet more sensible of his miscarriage & to assist him (if he desires it) in drawing up a Testimony for ye clearing of Truth.

The friends employed to visit Margaret Judson, gave account yt they found her somwhat tender, but very dark & ignorant, hardly sensible of any Evil in going to a Priest for Marriage. The same friends, wth Tho: White, were desired to visit her again, & en-deavour to open & inform her understanding, & let her know yt what she hath already done in engaging herself to a man of ye world is contrary to Truth, & condemnable by it, & yt if she proceed ther-in, a Testimony for ye clearing of Truth, wil go forth agt. her.

[Intention of marriage between John Bull of Mile End London & Lucie Finch of Watford, spinster. George Mead & John Wells ap-pointed to inquire.]
Thomas Barton (formerly of Alisbury Meeting, now an Inhabitant in New West Jersey in America) desired a Certificate from this Meeting concerning his clearness & orderly conversation. In order to wch Tho: Olliffe & James Smith were appointed to make inquiry concerning him, & give an account therof at the next Meeting.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of ye 7th mo: 81.

Joseph Welch acquainting ye Meeting, yt Mary Lane hath declared, that she hath not, since ye former visit of Friends, given any encouragmt. to ye man to frequent her company, & that she is removed from Tring to her father's for a while; it was judg'd convenient to forbear visiting her any more at present, untill further occasion be offered.

The Friends of Watford Meeting, to whom it was committed to visit Edward Temple again, have not yet taken opportunity to do it, but intend before next Meeting.

The Friends imployed to visit Margaret Judson acquainted ye Meeting yt they have delivered to her ye sense & judgmt. of this Meeting concerning her business, but find little ground in her to receive advice.

[Assent given to Joseph Graveney & Mary Arnott. (Vide under date 4.v.81)]

Also to John Bul & Lucie Finch, (Vide under date 1.vi.81)

Intention of marriage between Thomas Sexton of Hugely Dean in the parish of Farnham Royal & Mary Child of the same. Thomas Dell, Robert White, John Morton & Daniel Cooke appointed to inquire.

The friends yt were ordered at ye last Meeting to make inquiry concerning Thomas Barton, acquainting ye Meeting yt they found nothing but clearnes in his business, a Certificate was therupon signed & sent.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of ye 8th: mo: 81.

Friends understanding that Mary Lane is about returning to Tring, & judging it better for her to settle elswhere for the present, until ye man of ye world yt she was in league with, hath given over his
pursuit after her, did desire Henry Child & Joseph Welch or one of them to speak with her, & give her the sense & counsel of the Meeting therin, & let her know that friends have taken care to inquire out a place for her, & that she may be with Susan Aldridge.

Thomas Sexton & Mary Child, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive ye answer of ye Meeting, & the Meeting finding them to be but young & little in truth, did order some friends to go out & give them ye sense & counsel of ye Meeting, wch was, that it would be more for their advantage to delay their proceeding for a time, & wait to feel ye work of Truth carried on in them, yt so a settlemt, & establishmt. in Truth they may witness in some measure, before they enter into a married state: which counsel being tenderly & in true love delivered, they ye said Thomas & Mary received, declaring their willingness to wait longer.

[Intention of marriage between William Batchelor of Dorne] & Elizabeth daughter of William Barre of the same. Thomas Dell & Robert White appointed to inquire.] & ye man was ordered to bring a Certificate from his Parents of their consent.

Tho: Ellwood acquainting the Meeting yt Joseph Winch unto whom this Meeting did lend 7li. in ye 8th mo: 1672. hath in all this time repaid but 3li. of it, & is grown so poor yt it wil be hard for him to pay any more. The Meeting, considering ye poor man's condition, thought fit to forgive him the Rest of ye Debt, & therupon ordered T.E. to give him in his Bond. *(see 8th: mo: 72 4. mo. 74 3. mo. 80)*

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 7th: of 9th: mo: 81

Friends being sensible that Mary Lane hath dealt falsly & deceitfully with them, in pretending a willingness to be advised & ruled by them, & yet secretly acting contrary to their advice, in entertaining a Correspondence wth ye man as formerly, & rejecting their Counsell & care in providing a place for her to sojourn in, It was ye judgmt. of Friends, yt ye sense the meeting hath of the falseness of her spirit, should by way of Reproof be signified unto her, & it was left to James Smith to signify the same.
[Intention of marriage between Robert Briggs of Coleshil, Husbandman, & Mary Child daughter of John Child of Coleshil, yeoman. Henry Child & John Costard appointed to inquire.]

Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting, yt pursuant of the Order of ye last Meeting, he had delivered Joseph Winch his bond.

Disposed of, since the last Meeting, by ye Order of li Friends, & for their Service (to T.W.C.P.) ... 01 - 0 - 0

*(No stock.)*

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 10th mo: 81.

Susan Dover of Amersham having often walked disorderly, & been often admonished & reproved therfore, and having lately in a more remarkable manner abused herself with drink, to ye great scandal & reproach of Truth, of wch an Account was given to this Meeting; It was agreed yt Friends of Amersham Meeting should go to her, & lay the weight of her wickednes upon her.

William Batchellor & Elizabeth Barre, who in ye 8th: mo: past proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, came now to receive ye answer of ye Meeting. But Friends understanding yt ye said Elizabeth Barre had not asked her Father's consent, did not find freedom to pass it, but put off ye business til another Meeting, & advised her in the meantime to acknowledge her Offence to her Father, & endeavour to obtain his consent.

[Assent given to Robert Briggs & Mary Child. (Vide under date 7.ix.81)]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 11th mo: 81

Henry Child acquainted Friends yt in pursuance of the Agreemt. of ye last Meeting Divers of ye Friends of Amersham Meeting had been with Susan Dover, & laid her evil doings before her, which she pretended to be sorry for, & as she had often done before, promised amendment. But yt they could not †(find) in her a right sense of Truth, or true godly Sorrow. Nevertheless, she being willing to give forth a Paper of Condemnation for clearing of Truth, they thought fit to take that; & accordingly a Paper being drawn she did set her hand therto, & did go & deliver two Draughts therof at two
of those Alehouses wch she had most frequented. Of wch Paper so
given forth under her own hand, this wch followeth is a true Copy.

Forasmuch as I Susan Dover have for many years frequented
the [sic] Meetings of the people called Quakers, & have
made Profession of ye way of Truth which they walk in; & yet
notwithstanding have walked disorderly myself, keeping evil
Company, spending my time in Alehouses,

[57 v]

and abusing myself with drink; wherby I have not only brought
trouble & sorrow upon myself, but given Occasion unto others
to speak Evil of ye way of Truth which I have made a profession
of, & of the people called Quakers who walk therin. I do thera-
fore hereby acknowledge & declare, yt I have been often
blamed, reproved & condemned by ye Quakers for such my
disorderly walking, & exhorted to amendment of life. And I
am sensible, that if I had been faithful to yt Religion wch I pro-
fessed, I should have been preserved out of those Evils, which
I have run into. And therfore I desire al those that have know [n]
or shal hear of my course of life, that they wil not charge my
evil conversation upon ye way of Truth I have professed, but
upon my unfaithfulnes therunto.

William Batchelor & Elizabeth Barre who {were} had formerly
at this Meeting propounded their intention of taking each other in
Marriage, & at the last Meeting were put by upon ye account that ye
Maid had never asked her Father's consent, came now again, & it
appearing yt she had now asked her Father's consent, & yt he was
not against it, they were left to their liberty to accomplish their in-
tended Marriage according to ye way of Truth.

Thomas Sexton & Mary Child, who in ye 7th mo: last having
proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, were in ye
8th month advised to delay their proceeding for a time, & in ye
mean time to wait to feel ye work of Truth carried on in them, came
now again to receive Friends answer. And the Meeting not finding
them in such a state as they could have unity with, & yet willing to
exercise tendernes towards them, in hopes yt in time they may
come to a sight of their weakness & miscarriage, did by way of con-
descention permit them to proceed to the accomplishing their in-
tended Marriage.

[Intention of Marriage between Thomas Liberty & Mary Eveling
both of Coleshill. Henry Child & John Costard appointed to in-
quire.]

[§8 r]
Att a meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6th: of 12th mo. 81.

[Thomas Liberty & Mary Eveling (vide under date 2.xi.81) given
liberty to accomplish their marriage.]

Sarah Warn spinster late of Amersham, now of London, desired
a Certificate from this Meeting to the Friends of London, concerning
her orderly Walking & clearness in relation to Marriage: In order
wherunto this Meeting appointed John Costard & Henry Child to
make inquiry concerning her, & give an account therof at ye next
Meeting.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6th: of 1st: mo: 168½.

The Meeting being satisfied concerning Sarah Warne, a Certifi-
cate of her Clearness & orderly Conversation amongst us, was signed
by R. Jones, H. Costard, T. Ellwood, J. Archdale, R. White, W.
Morton, W. Grimsdall, A. Axtell, G. Salter, & directed to Friends
of ye City of London.

[Intention of marriage between Thomas West son of William
West of Long Crendon & Rachel Gillpin of Haddenham, spinster,
dughter of Thomas Gillpin of Warborow, Oxon. Henry Costard &
Edmund Belson appointed to inquire.]

James Stevens acquainting the Meeting, yt James Paxon and Wil-
liam Paxon, both of Marsh Gibborn in the County of Buck Labourers
and John Martin of Edgcott in ye said County Carpenter, intending
to transport themselves and Families to Pensylvania in America, did
severally desire a Certificate from this Meeting concerning their or-
derly Walking here, for the satisfaction of Friends there or elswhere
where it may be their lott to come. The Meeting did therupon ap-
point ye said James Stevens, wth Thomas Olliffe & Alexander Mer-
ret, to make inquiry concerning ye said James Paxon, William Paxon, John Martin and Elizabeth his wife, & give an Account therof at the next Meeting.

Timothy Child & Mary Sexton, both of Hedgerly in ye County of Bucks, proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, but refused to go to ye womens Meeting; & being asked a reason of such their Refusal: he alledged yt Women must be silent in ye Church, & are not permitted to speak. He also spake reflectingly on the Womens Meeting; yet confess, He did not believe he should sin, nor be condemned by the Lord if he did go. The Meeting perceiving ye great darkness & confusion they were in, did not press them to go, but in great tenderness did advise & exhort them to stand stil, & wait upon ye Lord, yt ye right Eye might be opened in them, yt they might see his Wil, & not reject [? refuse] it.

[58 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of 2d. mo: 82.
[Consent given to Thomas West & Rachel Gillpin. (Vide under date 6.i.8½)]

An Account being given to this Meeting, yt Thomas Martin of Dancers End, who hath long made Profession of Truth, hath of late (as is reported) entangled himself in affection, in order to Marriage, with a young lass of the world, wch tends to his own hurt & Truth's dishonour. It was agreed he should be visited from this Meeting, & Tho: Dell and Nicholas Noy, with ye consent of the Meeting, undertook it.

The Meeting having formerly understood by John Archdale, yt a Report had been brought unto him of certain words pretended to be spoken by some Friend or Friends, wch cast an abusive Reflection on them. The Meeting being sensible yt ye tendency of yt Report was to slander some friend, & to † (sow) {sew} discord & make division & judging it needful & fit yt ye Author thereof should be discovered, & brought to shame, did appoint Tho: Dell & Henry Child, or one of them, to speak wth John Archdale as from this Meeting, & let him know ye Meeting desires he wil acquaint them who it was brought yt Report to him.
The Meeting receiving a good Account concerning James Paxon, William Paxon, John Martin & Elizabeth his wife, did therupon give them three distinct Certificates concerning their honest & orderly Walking in Truth. All which were signed by

N. Noy.

Tho: West & Rachell Gilpin, intending to be married at Warborow in Oxfordshire, had a Certificate from this Meeting, to satisfy Friends there, of their orderly proceeding and the Consent of the Meeting.

Timothy Child, & Mary Sexton came again in pursuance of their former proposal, & with them as before at ye former Meeting came a great weight & burden upon Friends in ye sense of an opposit spt. in them working agst. ye life of ye Meeting. They were dealt with in much tenderness but continued insensible; hard & obstinate, appearing in a more wilful & resolute Opposition than before; ye young man still urging, yt women must be silent in ye Church, & yt they are not permitted to speak &c. After a very great travail & exercise of spirit throughout ye Meeting, with much labouring to manifest unto ye young man ye darknes & confusion of his spirit, ye Meeting thought to renew their former Counsell to them, That they should wait diligently upon the Lord, to have ye vail taken off, & their Understandings opened, yt they might see their way clear before they proceeded, & not rush on in a heady, blind, wilful opposition agst. ye mind & counsel of the Lord.

[59 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye first of 3d mo: 82.

Tho: Dell & Nicholas Noy acquainted the Meeting that they had severally visited Tho: Martin, but found him reserved & averse to the Counsel of Friends.

Tho: Dell & Henry Child acquainted the Meeting that they had spoken with John Archdale about ye business they were imploidy in
from ye last Meeting, & yt he gave them to understand he had thoughts to be at this Meeting himself, or if not, to send an Answer to ye Meeting. But he not coming, nor sending any Answer, ye Meeting desired ye same friends to remind him of it.

The Meeting considering that the next Meeting wil in course fall in ye same Week with ye yearly Meeting at London, which may Occasion some strait to some friends who may be concerned or have a desire to go thither, & may also be likely to lessen the Meeting here, have thought fit, for ye service of Truth & conveniency of Friends in that service, to alter the day for that time only; So yt it is the agreement of this Meeting, that ye next Meeting here shal be held upon this day four weeks, which wil be the second day in the last week of this Month. And friends are desired to give notice therof in their respective Meetings, yt no disappointment may be occasioned therby to any.

Timothy Child & Mary Sexton came again, more hard & obstinat than before. He said, They were come once more to know our minds. They were answered to this effect That ye mind & desire of Friends was, yt they might be rescued out of ye Snare of ye Enemy, in wch they were held, & might not ruin themselves by running on in a wrong spirit, & in an heady self-wil, agt. ye life & unity of Friends in ye Truth. Much reasoning past, & Endeavours were used to make them sensible of ye tenderness of Friends towards them, & their Ungrateful & evil requital, in slighting ye Care & rejecting the Counsell of ye Meeting; Shewing them, yt their tarrying from one Meeting to another, in yt frame of mind yt they were in, & after ye manner yt they did, was not a waiting upon ye Lord, but an eager pursuing of their own desires, with as much hast as they could make. Informing them also what a right waiting upon ye Lord is, & again recommending it to them, desiring they would yet at length take ye Counsel of the Meeting. But ye young man in an angry discontent replied, He did not know yt they should trouble us any more.

[59

Att a Meeting at Tho : Ellwood's on ye 29th: of ye 3d: mo: 82.

It was agreed yt Thomas Martin be again visited by Thomas Ellwood & Henry Child.
John Archdale acquainted ye Meeting yt he had endeavoured to find out ye Original Author of yt Report wch he had formerly mentioned to this Meeting, but had not yet obtaint such opportunity as he desir’d to satisfy himself therin: but yt he intended to search further after it, & desired yt inasmuch as ye business did cheifly concern them at Wickham, it might be left to their Meeting to examin.

John Archdale did also acquaint ye Meeting yt he hath an intention to go shortly to Carolina for some little time; And did desire a Certificate from this Meeting both for himself & his Daughter Ann, who is to go wth him.

Thomas Redman did also desire a Certificate for his brother John Redman, who is already gone to † (Virginia) {Carolina} but had not time to obtain a Certificate before he went. Jeremiah Stevens & William Kidder were appointed to make Inquiry concerning them, & give an Account therof at next Meeting.

Giles Child, Father of Timothy Child, delivered a letter directed to ye Meeting, & subscribed Timothy Child & Mary Sexton, wch was read, & appear’d to be not dictated by them but by sombody else. In yt letter they charge ye Meeting with urging them to go to ye women’s Meeting. This was manifested to be a false charge; for † (the Meeting) {friends} finding them dark & blind, did not urge them to go, nor put them upon moving or acting, but advised them to stand stil, & not move or go forward one way or other, but wait upon ye Lord for sight & guidance, yt they might proceed aright. They also say in yt letter, yt they desire yt al ye womenfriends might be amongst ye men; & make as if ye ground of their Refusal was because it is a distinct Meeting of women. This was manifested to be insincere as being utterly inconsistent wth his allegation, so often insisted on, agt. womens speaking in ye Church: for to what end should women be wth ye men in Meetings for business, where Matters are to be examined & spoken to, if they are not permitted to speak there, but must be silent, as he ignorantly intimates. In that letter they also desire a ful & plain Answer, Whether ye Meeting intend to pass their Marriage without going to a distinct womens Meeting or not. After deliberate & weighty consideration, ye Meeting returnd this Answer, That they had not hitherto delayd this
Couple, meerly for not going to ye Womens Meeting, but because it was evident their refusing to go was not upon a conscientious score. For although ye Meeting be satisfied yt where Conscience is rightly informed, there can be no just cause for a conscientious scruple in this case, yet so tender a regard is had to conscience, yt wher any through weakness, shortsightedness or misinformation, have made it really matter of conscience not to go to ye womens Meetings, in such cases this Meeting always hath been, & stil is ready to exercise a condescension. But in ye present Case the Meeting being fully satisfied, both from an inward sense, & outward demonstration from the man's own words, yt it is not matter of Conscience in him, they have cause to beleive it proceeds from an obstinat, wilful, perverse spirit, which seeks to make division in ye Church, wch they cannot answer or gratify; but do earnestly desire both he & ye Lass may be delivered therfrom; & in order therunto cannot but again press them to wait low before ye Lord, yt ye Lord may give them a sight of their condition, wch at present is very dangerous. This being ye Substance of what was discoursed in the Meeting & agreed upon by ye Meeting was sent unto them by two friends of the Meeting: The Fathers of ye Couple, (viz. Giles Child & William Sexton) being both present while ye Letter was read, & ye particulars therin discoursed of.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d: of ye 5th: mo: 82.


Henry Child acquainted ye Meeting, yt he having opportunity (in Tho: Ellwood's absence) to visit Tho: Martin, had spoken wth him,
in presence of Tho: Dell, & found him wholly shut up from any advice or admonition from this Meeting, and rejecting ye care & concern of ye Meeting for him.

The Meeting being informed yt one Mary Bonum of North Marston, who goeth under ye profession of Truth, hath let out her affection to a man of ye world in order to Marriage. It is desired & agreed yt James Stevens & James Smith do visit her from this Meeting, & shew her the evil of her undertaking.

An Account was given unto the Meeting, yt at the last quarterly Meeting at Weston on ye 28th past, Timothy Child, assisted by his Father Giles Child, Charles Harris, Wm. Sexton, John Boon & others, did exhibit a Complaint against this monthly meeting for not doing him justice in the case of his proposed Marriage, & did then & there enter an Appeal from this Monthly Meeting to the quarterly Meeting.

Report being made to this Meeting, yt at ye last quarterly Meeting at Weston, Charles Harris did openly affirm That whores & Rogues come to ye Mens & womens Meeting. This Meeting resenting it as a most foul Reproach & infamous scandal cast upon ye Meeting, did order Tho: Dell & Henry Child to speak wth Charles Harris about it, & let him know This Meeting doth expect he should make good his Charge, or own his condemnation for so foul a slander.

John Stratton of Abots Langly in Hartfordshire, & Ellen ye daughter of John Higs of Rowsam in Buckinghamshire, proposed their intention of marriage, refusing to go to ye women’s Meeting, of wch a reason being asked, ye young man replied, because of ye separation, wch he explained to be, their meeting distinct or apart from ye Men. To wch an answer was given, manifesting yt his Objection proceeded from an Error in his own judgmt., & his ignorance of yt wherin ye true Unity stands. He had not ye appearance of a friend,

(15) By Friends of Lowerside Monthly Meeting. She had been maidservant to Henry Paxon, and had removed to the Upperside district in June 1682. The request that she should be visited was made by her employer to Lowerside M. M. in April 1682, and passed on by them to Upperside at this meeting. (Biddlesden & Hogshaw M. M. Minute Book).

(16) The Separatist party, of which Harris was a member, considered that Monthly Meeting should be composed of selected delegates only.
but of one whose mind was roving & at liberty, though he pretended
to have been long convinced; therfore ye Meeting, finding no sense
nor shew of Truth in him, did wth much tenderness advise him not
to be hasty in pursuit of marriage, but wait upon ye Lord, yt he
might know Truth, & come in some measure into obedience to it.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 6th mo: 82.

James Smith acquainted ye Meeting that James Stevens & he had
visited Mary Bonum, & found her dark, hard & pretty obstinat, & yt
they had little hopes of reclaiming her. However, ye Meeting to
clear themselves, & discharge their own duty, did think fit to visit
her again, & therfore desired James Smith & Thomas Olliffe to speak
with † (her) as from this Meeting, & lay the Evil of her undertaking
before her.

The Meeting taking notice of ye Complaint exhibited agt. this
Meeting by Timothy Child & others at ye last quarterly Meeting, &
of ye Appeal then made from this Meeting to that, did nominat and
appoint Wm. Kidder, Nicholas Noy, Tho: Dell, Jo. Dollin, Wm.
Grimsdale, Geo: Salter, Tho: Ellwood, Hen. Child, Jo. Costard,
Jos. Welch, Abr. Axtell, Edw. Hoare, Hen. Costard, John White,
Robt. Jones, Ja. Smith, Tho: Olliffe, & Phil. Tompson to meet to-
gether to consider of ye said Complaint & Appeal, in order to an-
swer it at ye next quarterly Meeting. And these Friends agreed to
meet at T. Ellwoods this day month by ye 8th. hour in ye Morning.

Tho: Dell & Hen. Child acquainted ye Meeting, yt they had spo-
ken wth Charles Harris about ye words spoken by him at ye quar-
terly Meeting, & yt he denies yt he spake those very words charged
on him, & says yt what he did there speak was not intended of any
Meetings in this Country. John Boon also delivered a paper from
Charles Harris to this Meeting of ye same purport; wherupon this
Meeting thought fit to refer ye further examination of this business
to ye quarterly Meeting where ye words were spoken.

John Stratton & Ellen Higs came again, in pursuance of their for-
mer proposal, & with them came a great weight upon ye Meeting,
& friends felt a great stop & bar in their spirits (so) that they could not yield unto what ye man desired, nor anyways touch with him. Which when he perceived, he drew forth a Book written (as he said) wth his own hand & having his name to it; In wch he rails at & reviles Friends most shamefully, comparing them to the Papists, to ye New England {Profess} Persecutors, to Capernaum, to Muggleton & Reeve, & pours forth a flood of Envy, malice, rage, contradiction & confusion, declaring himself in express terms to be a Latitudinarian. This being both directed & delivered by him to ye Meeting, was (at his desire) read publickly, after wch, & some discourse wth him concerning it, he was desired to withdraw, & friends, wth great tenderness & pity to ye Lass, advised her not to be hasty or forward in joyning herself to a man of so wrong a spirit; but to stand stil & wait upon ye Lord, if peradventure ye Lord might work a change upon ye man, by bringing him into a true subjection to ye Truth, or else might open a way for her to be delivered from him. After wch, ye man coming in again, several friends bore Testimony agt. both his book & his spirit, & the Meeting unanimously declared, yt they had no unity wth him nor could receive or own him as one of us; & that (he having declares himself to be a Latitudinarian, a name not owned by any friends of Truth, nor agreeable to Truth) they could not consent yt any friend should be joyned in marriage to him, in ye State wherin he at present stood.

Att a Meeting at Tho : Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 7th mo: 82.

James Smith & Thomas Olliffe acquainted ye Meeting, yt having visited Mary Bonum again, they found her under some exercise of mind, pretty low, & somwhat tender, & sensible in some measure of ye evil of her undertaking. Wherupon the Meeting thought fit to visit her again, & recommended it to ye same friends, to endeavour to make her more fully & effectually sensible of her Evil, yt she may be reclaimed therfrom.

The Friends appointed to take notice of ye Complaint and Appeal made agt. this Meeting by Timothy Child & others at ye last quarter-

(27) Apparently alluding to Matt. xi. 23.
(28) The Muggletonians, founded by John Reeve and William Muggleton about 1652 were a sect which held certain beliefs, such as condemnation of war and persecution, in common with Friends, but on other points were fiercely opposed to them.
ly Meeting, did now acquaint this Meeting, that having met together, & waited solemnly upon ye Lord, they felt ye presence of ye Lord with & amongst them, & ye testimony of his spirit bearing witness with their spirits, yt in ye management of Timothy Child’s business, this Meeting had not swerved from ye way of Truth, nor refused to do him justice, but had acted towards him in great tender-ness, & wth uprightness towards God. And yt it was their sense & judgmt, yt this Meeting might very justly deny ye charge, & put it upon ye tryall; wth wch ye judgement. of ye Meeting concurring, the Meeting did nominate choose & depute Tho: Ellwood, John Wells, Wm. Kidder & Wm. Grimsdale, to appear at ye next quarterly Meeting & in ye name & on ye behalf of this Meeting, there to assert ye justice & fairness of this Meetings proceedings in yt business, & to give such answer unto ye said charge, † (& appeal) & make such defense for this Meeting, as the Lord shall enable them to give & make.

[61 v]

James Smith acquainted ye Meeting, yt within a few days after ye last Meeting here, John Stratton & Ellen Higs did take each other in marriage; wch thing ye Meeting taking into consideration, & considering, yt ye said Ellen hath long gone under ye profession of Truth, thought fit to visit her, in order to make her sensible of ye evil she hath done. Wherupon ye Meeting ordered James Smith & John Morton to visit her as from this Meeting, & to reprove her for joyning herself in marriage to one yt is not in Truth, & yt in an irregular & disorderly manner, not agreeable to ye way of Truth, & agt. ye advice & counsel of this Meeting.

The Meeting understanding yt William Higs, (son of John Higs of Rousam) who hath long gone under ye profession of Truth, is lately married by a Priest to one yt is not so much as in ye profession of Truth, thought fit to visit him, in order to make him sensible of ye evil he hath done, yt he may come to repentance, & obtain mercy. John Morton & James Smith were ordered to go to him as from this Meeting, & reprove him for the evil he had done.
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 2d: of 8th mo: 82.

James Smith acquainted ye Meeting yt Mary Bonum continues tender & sensible of her outgoing of mind, & desirous (in order to her recovery † (out) of yt snare into wch she was running) to put herself into service amongst Friends, so soon as her health wil enable her to perform it; & James added, yt he did not doubt but by yt time a place may be provided for her.

The Friends deputed by ye last Meeting to make Answer in the name of this monthly Meeting to the Complaint & Appeal exhibited agt. this Meeting by Timothy Child & others at the quarterly Meeting in the 4th month last, did now give unto this Meeting a short Account of ye managemt. of yt business at ye last quarterly Meeting; ye result wherof was, yt upon a long debate of ye matter, ye Friends yt were there from ye lower side of ye County, did give their sense & judgment. of it, wch, at their desire, was entred in ye quarterly Meeting book, as followeth, vizt.

Upon a large hearing of the matters charged at ye last quarterly Meeting by Timothy Child & others agt. ye monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, & ye defense made by ye Friends deputed therunto by the monthly Meeting; It is ye sense & judgment. of those Friends here present from ye lower side of ye County especially, as not having been actually concerned in ye business or parties to it, that ye monthly Meeting, in their proceedings towards Timothy Child, have not done him any {wrong} injustice or wrong, or refused to do him justice in his Cause, but yt ye Counsel given by yt Meeting to him was agreeable to Truth.

The Meeting looking upon itself as acquitted from ye Complaint of Timothy Child &c. by ye forementioned Judgmt. of ye Friends of ye last quarterly Meeting, & yt his Appeal was issued & determined therby; And being also informed, that ye said Timothy Child & Mary Sexton, not having patience to wait for ye Event of ye said Appeal, nor stay until the same was tryed, did within a few days after ye
Appeal was entered, in a disorderly manner, without ye Consent, approbation, allowance, (or) permission or knowledge of either ye quarterly or monthly Meeting, take each other in Marriage, contrary to ye way of Truth, & yt good, right, commendable & regular Method, wherein ye Lord leads his people: And being sensible withal, that such disorderly practises are not only hurtful to them yt commit them, but may also prove (if not seasonably reproved & condemned) pernicious Examples and evil Precedents unto others, by drawing them from the right order of Truth, into a disorderly liberty out of & agt. Truth; it became a concern of duty upon this Meeting to bring such disorders & ye Actors therof to judgmt. & in order therunto, James Smith, Wm. Grimsdall & Joseph Welch, declaring they felt some drawings in themselves to this service, were ordered by this Meeting to visit ye said Timothy Child & Mary Sexton, & to reprove them for the Evil they have done, and endeavour to make them sensible therof.

James Smith & John Morton acquainted ye Meeting, yt having visited John Higs his daughter Ellen, they found her pretty tender, & under some exercise of mind for what she had done, expressing herself to this effect, yt None knew ye sorrow she had undergone for it, since she was married. Wherupon ye Meeting thought fit to visit her again by Thomas Dell & John Morton; if perhaps ye Lord might give her repentance, & bring her to a more ful & open acknowledgmt. of her fault.

James Smith & John Morton acquainted ye Meeting, yt having visited William Higs, they found him somewhat rough & hard, not sensible of ye Evil he had done, nor of ye love & kindnes of Friends towards him in seeking after him. Notwithstanding which, ye Meeting, desirous to clear itself by a fair & ful discharge of its duty, thought fit to visit him again by James Smith & Tho: White, or some other Friend of that side.

[Intention of marriage between Samuel Darvall of Nashleith in the parish of Chesham and Mary Collindrige of Wendor-Dean in the parish of Wendover. Robert Jones & Joseph Welch appointed to inquire.]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6th: of 9th mo: 82.

Joseph Welch acquainted ye Meeting, that James Smith & William Grimsdall & himself having visited Timothy Child, found him at first very hard & rough, but after some time of exercise with him, the power of ye Lord breaking forth greatly amongst them, he seemed to be somewhat tendered & his spirit a little bowed; yet not so as to be brought to an acknowledgment of his fault. Wherupon ye Meeting thought meet that both he & his Wife should be visited again, in ye tender love of God, wch seeks & desires the recovery of that wch is lost; And Robt. Jones, Geo: Salter & John Dollin expressing a willingness to undertake it, it was committed unto them to visit them accordingly.

Tho: Dell acquainted ye Meeting, that John Morton & he having visited John Higs his daughter Ellen, found her still broken in ye sense of ye love of Friends in visiting her; wherupon ye Meeting thought fit to renew their visit to her by George Mead & Henry Child.

James Smith acquainted the Meeting, yt John Morton & he having visited William Higs, found him more hard & stubborn than before, rejecting & slighting the care & concern of this Meeting: Wherupon ye Meeting desired Alexander Merrick & Tho: Olliffe to let him know, that although he slighted the love, & despised ye authority of this Meeting, yet ye Meeting hath so far to do with him as to clear Truth from his disorders, by a Testimony agt. both his disorders & himself, if he persisted in his Obstinacy.

[Assent given to Samuel Darvall & Mary Collindridge. (Vide under date 2.viii.82)]

Intention of marriage between John Jennings of Hitcham & Hannah Aldridge of Burnham. Thomas Dell & George Salter appointed to inquire.

Also between John West of London, Shoomaker & Judith Big of high Wiccomb. Robert Jones, Alexander Merrick, Henry Costard & Thomas Redman appointed to inquire.]}

The Meeting understanding by letter from Richd Baker of Biddlesden, that Friends in Northamptonshire are under sharp suffer-
ings, many of them being in prison upon the Oath, did desire Thomas Dell & James Smith to visit those suffering friends in prison there; & to make inquiry how it is with them as to outward support, & to leave five pounds amongst them, as a Token of love from their Brethren here, who truly sympathize with them in their sufferings for Truth.

[63r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of 10th mo: 82.

The Meeting, understanding that Timothy Child had not been spoken to, as from this Meeting, by those Friends that it was committed to at ye last Meeting, but yt only Robt. Jones had taken an opportunity to speak to him as from himself, did now commit it to Nicholas Noy Geo: Salter & Henry Child (if he can) to visit both Tim. & his Wife; & endeavour to make them sensible of the evil they have done.

Henry Child & George Mead having attempted to speake wth Ellen Stratton (John Higs his Daughter) did miss of her & were disappointed; so yt yt service remains upon them yet to performe.

Alexander Merrick acquainted ye Meeting, yt Tho: Olliffe & he had delivered ye Meeting's Message to William Higs; and yt he received it in a surly resolute manner; expressing himself very slightingly of what ye Meeting could do to him.

[Assent given to John Jennings & Hannah Aldridge. (Vide under date 6.ix.82)]

Tho: Dell acquainted ye Meeting, yt James Smith & he had been at Northampton to visit ye Friends in prison there, who are about 30 in number Men & women, & for ye most part but low in ye Outward Condition. And yt they had left with them the 5li yt was sent from this Meeting as a token of love unto them, wch was kindly & thankfully received by them. This 5li being laid down at first by James Smith, was now collected, & sent him again by Alexander Merrick. The Collection upon this Occasion arose to seven pounds eleven shillings three pence; Out of wch ye 5li being paid to James Smith, there remained 2li - 11s - 3d. wch was left in T. Ellwoods hand for ye service of this Meeting.

(29) i.e. for refusing to take the oath of Allegiance, any form of oath being contrary to Friends' principles.
Ther was also a Collection made for to pay for hay laid in here by Henry Child for ye use of this Meeting. The Collect. came to three pounds eighteen shillings; Out of wch Henry Child was paid 3li. for ye Cock of hay, & T. Ellwood was ordered to pay John Mannock 7s for attending ye stables & meetings; & ye other 11s was left wth T. Ellwood for ye use of this Meeting. *(see 1st: mo. 8 3 5, mo. 8 5)

li s d
2 11 3

So yt there is in Stock at ye Meetings dispose - - - 0 11 0

[63 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye first of 11th: mo: 82.

Nicholas Noy & George Salter acquainted the Meeting that they had visited Timothy Child, & found him stiffe & obstinate, but the Meeting understanding that his wife had not been so effectually visited, as was desired, & being willing to exercise longsuffering towards them, did order that they should be both visited again (especially she) by John Morton & Henry Child.

The friends yt were appointed to visit Ellen Stratton having again been disappointed of their expectation of meeting with her, & ye Meeting being informed that she is at present at Rowsam; Tho: Olliffe & Matthew Roper were desired to speak with her, & endeavour to make her more fully sensible of the Evil she hath done in the matter of her Marriage; & in case they should not have opportunity to speak with her there, they are then to give notice therof to Geo. Mead & John Wells, yt they may visit her on the same account.

James Smith & Tho: Olliffe expressing a willingness to visit William Higs once again, it was committed by Friends to them to do.

Nicholas Noy, by order of the Meeting, did pay unto Tho: Ellwood ten pounds wch had formerly been lent to Sarah Lamburn of Alisbury, & from her had been some years ago turned over to ye said N. Noy. He also paid unto T. E. forty shillings for the use of ye said 10li. during ye time it had been in his hands. Al which mony (being 12li.) the Meeting did Order Tho: Ellwood to lay by & keep, until this Meeting shal find occasion to dispose of it. *(see 1st: mo: 8 5)
February 1683

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 12th mo: 82.

Timothy Child came & sate among Friends, & the power of the Lord fell upon them in a wonderfull manner. The life was manifest indeed, & very largely, & the Glory of the Lord did cover ye Assembly. And in the flowings of the life, & breakings forth of the heavenly power, great was ye travell of Friends in much brokenness of heart & tenderness of spirit, wth strong Cryes & plenty of Tears, poured forth in Prayer & Supplication to ye Lord, on ye behalf of Timothy, yt he might be brought to a sense of ye wrong spirit he was acted by, & ye wrong course he had taken, & the Evil he had wrought, & might bow in true judgment to ye appearance of God, wch was then so eminently manifested. And after sometime, John Morton & Henry Child gave ye Meeting an Account of the visit they had made to Timothy & his Wife, since ye last Meeting, & how stiff & obstinate they found them: wherupon divers Friends spake unto Timothy in great tenderness & gentleness of spirit, inquiring of him how it was with him at this time, & with much earnestness intreating him not to resist the strivings of ye Lord, & of his people, in so great love towards him. But ah alas! he remained hard & obdurate, persisting in his own justification, & laying blame upon the Meeting, & by the perverseness of his Answers did plainly manifest, that he was out of the sense of that divine life, wch friends were at that time filled with, & yt that overcoming Power, wch had melted the hearts of Friends into (such) a tender compassion towards him, had made no impression on himself, but hardness of heart possessed him. At length, (it being late, & other business remaining to be done) he was desired to withdraw, but would not; wch occasioned some further discourse wth him, wherin it was declared by Friends, yt in ye State & condition wherin he now stood he had no right to sit among friends as a Member of ye Meeting, but (in refusing to withdraw) was an uncivil Intruder upon ye Meeting. So at length he departed, & Friends refer'd the further consideration of his Case to another Meeting.

Ellen Stratton & Wm. Higs having been visited again, remain much as they were before. Their Cases also were left to another time.
[Intention of marriage between James Baker & Susanna Plucknell both of Amersham. Henry Child & John Costard appointed to inquire.]

[64v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of ye 1st: mo: 1683.

The Meeting taking the Case of Timothy Child & his wife again into Consideration, & being willing to try to the utmost whether any good can be wrought upon them by tender & loving visitations, & being also desirous to understand more particularly the frame of his spirit since the last Meeting, did think fit yet longer to forbear any publick Testimony agt. them, & to give them one visit more in the love of God, wch was committed to John Wells with John Dollin & John Gigger.

[Assent given to James Baker & Susanna Plucknell. (Vide under date 5.xii. 82)]

Robert Jones desiring a Certificate on behalf of his son Daniel Jones, who intends (if the Lord permit) to transport himself beyond the seas to the Province of Pensylvania; it was committed to Roger Dancer & John Puddivat to make inquiry concerning the said Daniel, & give account therof at the next Meeting.

Tho: Ellwood having given the Friends an Account at the last Meeting of some particular kindesses {done by} freely done for Friends by an Officer of the Court at the last Quarter Sessions, & being ordered by them to give the said Officer some Gratuity as an Acknowledgement of his kindness; did now acquaint them, that meeting with the same person very lately at the Assizes, he gave him ten shillings; wch the Friends did now order T. E. to reimburse himself out of the Stock remaining in his hands from the tenth month last. *(see 10:mo: 82)*

The Meeting understanding by Henry Child, that the widow Gray of Amersham, being poor, & imployned in making Laces, is in

(30) At the Christmas Sessions Richard Baker of Biddlesden, Thomas Morton of Drayton Beauchamp, John Bovingdon of Great Marlow, Robert Kingham, John Smith, George Salter & Robert White of Farnham Royal, John Dollin (spelt Dollynge) Andrew Brother & William Batchellor of Dorney, and Robert Dell & Robert Aldridge of Hitcham were presented and indicted for being absent from Church for 3 months. (Bucks Quarter Sessions Records I. 107.)
want of a small stock wherewith to buy her thread at the best hand, and that her daughter Elizabeth Gray will take care to see it repaid *(It was never repaid), did lend her twenty shillings, which Tho: Ellwood, by the Meeting's Order, did now deliver to Henry Child for her. This 2os was part of 4os paid in ye 11th mo: last by N. Noy to this Meeting for ye interest of 10li wch he had had some years in his hands, did now pay in; & it was left by ye Meeting wth T. E. *(see 11th: mo: 82)

The stock remaining is li s d

[65r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 2d mo: 83.

John Wells & John Dollin acquainted the Meeting, that they † (with John Gigger) had been to visit Timothy Child & his wife, but found them very hard & obstinate, being backed & strengthened by Charles Harris & James Cox, who came thither at the same time; & by their Cavilling did much obstruct & hinder the service, which otherwise those Friends might have had. And it being propounded whether a Testimony should yet be given forth agt. them, some friends moved that it might be deferred until another time, which ye Meeting consented to, several friends declaring their judgment. that that Marriage of Timothy † (Child) & Mary {Child} Sexton was a disorderly Marriage, & contrary to Truth, desiring also that if any one present were of another mind, or not satisfied with that Judgment, they would express their minds now, & not backbite the Meeting afterwards. But no man express any dissatisfaction therin.

[Intention of marriage between John Harvey junior of Linton in Cambridgeshire, & Elizabeth Woodhouse of Berkhamstead. John Pudivat & Robert Jones appointed to inquire concerning her.]

An Account being given by Friends of Watford & Flanden Meetings, that there is a bastard Child lately laid to one Wm. Fisher of Flanden, a Man that by going to Friends Meetings, hath gotten the name of a Quaker amongst his Neighbours, though not regarded by friends. The friends of those Meetings were desired & pressed to inquire narrowly into the Matter, & to search & examin it very closely and in case they find the man to be guilty, that then they take the best & speediest course they can to clear Truth by denying him.

[65 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 3d: mo: 83.

A letter was delivered by Samuel Troan from John Raunce, wch concerning the Quarterly more than this monthly Meeting, friends did not think fit to return Answer to the Particulars therof in Writing, but desired S. Trone to tel him, yt ye Friends do own & stand to ye Testimony given at ye Quarterly Meeting in the Case wch his Letter relates to, & being Reviled have learnt of Christ not to Revile again.

[Assent given to John Harvey & Elizabeth Woodhouse. (Vide under date 2.ii. 83)]

William Foster of Tring in the County of Hertford, Butcher, & Mary Lane of the same, Spinster, proposed their intention of taking each other in marriage, desiring Friends advice & Assistance therin. John Puddivat & Robt. Jones were appointed to inquire concerning them. And it appearing by this Book, yt the said Mary Lane had formerly let out her affection to ye said William Foster before he was in the Profession of Truth, & was visited by Friends & under the Reproof of this Meeting therefor. The Meeting did now imploy some Friends to speak with her about it, before she came in to lay her present Intention of Marriage before Friends; wch accordingly they did & having spoken wth her, acquainted the Meeting that they found her very tender & broken, sensible of her former miscarriage in that matter, readily owning it, & expressing Sorrow for it. And also that they found {they found} yt the old affection & familiarity yt had formerly been between them, had been laid aside & discontinued for more than a year’s space; & yt since yt time, ye Man hath been
reacht by Truth & joyned † (in the Profession thereof) to Friends, frequenting Meetings duly & walking orderly among Friends.

Friends of Flanden & Watford acquaint ye Meeting yt Wm. Fisher of Flanden, to whom a bastard Child is laid, hath of late sufficiently manifested himself not to be a Quaker, by his going to ye Steeple house & receiving the Sacrament, as it is called.

[66r]


Abraham Cocks, late servt. to Ralph Trumpet of Hunger Hill, being newly gone for Pensilvania, & not having time to get a Certificate from this Meeting before he went, did now, by a friend to whom he committed it, desire a Certificate, to be sent after him. In order wherunto ye Meeting did appoint John Morton, John Costard & Ralph Trumpeter to make Inquiry concerning him.

The Case of William Higs of Rowsam (who under the Profession of Truth hath been married by a Priest to a Woman of the world,) & hath been often visited by this Meeting therfore, but with much hardness & obstinacy hath rejected the love & care of friends & slighted the Authority of this Meeting was now again taken into Consideration. And the Meeting being satisfied yt they have faithfully discharged their duty towards him, by many tender visits of love, & feeling no further drawings that way, did judge it necessary to proceed to ye remaining part of their duty, to clear Truth by condemning his Evil Action: And to yt end did appoint Hen: Child, T. Dell & T. Ellwood to draw up a Testimony for yt purpose, agt. ye next Meeting.

The Case of Ellen Stratton being again taken into Consideration, & friends understanding that there doth yet remain some tenderness in her, which they are tender of, & desirous (if possible) to preserve, did agree to visit her once again, & committed it to John Wells & George Mead to do.

Timothy Child's business was again mentioned, & very tenderly considered of; & some friends having observed some tenderness in ye man in a publick Meeting † (this Meeting therupon) was willing yet a little longer to defer giving forth a publick Testimony agt. him,
& to wait yet a while, if perhaps ye Lord might give him Repentance, unto ye acknowledgment of his fault.

[Assent given to William Foster & Mary Lane. (Vide under date 7.iii.83)]

Intention of marriage between George Reading of Pinner, & Mary George of Watford. George desired to bring a Certificate & Mary likewise from London, where she hath lately lived. [George Mead & John Wells appointed to inquire concerning her.]

[66 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of ye 5th: mo: 83.


According to ye Agreement of the last Meeting, a Testimony being drawn up agt. William Higs was presented to this Meeting, & being approved of by ye Meeting was subscribed as followeth.

Although it plainly enough appears through ye Writings of both ye old & ye New Testament, yt they whom the Lord hath gathered out of ye world's ways & worships, to be a peculiar people to himself, & to walk before him in a distinct Profession & way of Worship from ye rest of ye world, have always been forbidden to joyn themselves in Marriage with others yt were not in the same profession of Religion & way of Worship with themselves; & yt such mixing in Marriages with ye people of ye world was even in ye old world so Offensive to God, yt it caused him in Displeasure to denounce yt Sentence, *My spirit shal not always strive with man:* Nay though it be evident, yt ye wickedness wch sprung from those Marriages, not only greived God at his heart, & made him repent yt he had made Man, but provoked him to pour down his displeasure in a floud, wch destroyed al Mankind, save Noah & his Family, Gen. 6. Yet such is ye frailty of Man's Nature, such ye preva-
lency of Satan’s Temptations, yt there want not Instances in former ages of some who transgressed ye holy Commandment, & proved unfaithful to ye Principle they professed. Nor is this present Age free from Instances of such Disobedience & unfaithfulness to Truth, but some who have made Profession therof, either not having received, or not abiding in ye divine power & vertue of it, wch would have crucified ye flesh with ye affections & lusts, have fallen into ye snare of ye Evil one, & been drawn aside from ye right way of ye Lord, so far †(as) to joyn themselves in Marriage with others of different Professions in Religion, & yt too by ye help & assistance of such a Ministry, as they themselves disown & account antichristian. By wch dissimulation & treachery to ye Truth, such bring ye wrath of God upon their own souls, scandal upon ye Profession they seemed to have walked, †(in) & sorrow upon ye Upright-hearted who walk faithfully with ye Lord. A late Instance of this we have in William Higs of Rowsam, whose Unfaithfulness in this kind to ye Principle he made Profession of, hath drawn this Testimony from us. He having walked among us the people called Quakers for some years, in an outward Profession of ye same Principle with us, so far as to go under the denomination of a Quaker, & be reputed & taken for such among his Neighbours, hath lately joyned himself in Marriage to one of a contrary Principle & Way of Religion to yt wch he made profession of, & (as we are given to understand) hath made use of a Priest for ye accomplishing therof. Now as we have not been wanting, from time to time, to deal with ye said William Higs according to Gospel-Order, & as became ye Church of Christ, by frequent visitations, reproofs, admonitions, exhortations, labouring in ye love of God to have brought him to a sense of ye Evil he hath done, yt in ye sense therof he might be truly humbled before ye Lord {before} therfore, & obtain from him Repentance & Remission therof: so, finding our tender love & Christian care by him rejected, & yt divine authority, which ye Lord hath committed unto his Church for the Edification & Preservation therof, slighted & disregarded, we are
necesitated at length to proceed to ye remaining part of our duty, by this public Testimony to clear ye blessed Truth & our holy Profession, from whatsoever scandal or reproach hath been, or may be, cast theron by means of such ungodly practices. And therefore in ye name & authority of ye God of Heaven, in whose holy fear we are met, & whose powerfull presence we feel among us, do we judge & condemn, declare & testify against all such corrupt Marriages & unequal Yokings, as springing from a false ground of fleshly liberty, out of ye holy Truth, & contrary to the very design & End of ye Lord in gathering to himself a peculiar & separate People. And although, as we have hitherto endeavoured, so we cannot but stil heartily desire both for ye said William Higs & others (yt have transgressed in ye like kind) yt they may yet come to be truly sensible of ye Evill they have done, & sincerely penitent for it: Yet withal we cannot but testify & declare, yt while he & they continue in a state of hardness & impenitency, rather justifying than condemning themselves in what they have done, we have no Unity nor Fellowship with them, nor can own or receive such to be of us, however they may at sometimes thrust themselves amongst us.  
—From our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, for ye Service of ye Church of Christ, this 2d. day of ye 5th mo: 1683.

Edward Hoare.  
John White.  
Ral: Trumper.  
Geo: Salter.  
Rich: Dell  
Wm. Kidder.  
Tho: Ellwood.  
Jos: Welch  
Robt. Jones

George Mead acquainted ye Meeting, yt John Wells & he having visited Ellen Stratton, found her stil tender & broken, acknowledging ye love & care of Friends to & for her, & expressing some sense she had yt she had done amiss, but not able as yet to come forth in a publick acknowledgmt. therof. Her tendernes inclined ye Meeting
to continue their visits in love to her, wch was committed again to Geo: Mead & Jo: Wells, as having ye fittest opportunities of doing it.

Timothy Child’s business was again considered of, & Friends understanding yt being lately taken among Friends at a Meeting, he is likely to go to Prison, were willing to respit the proceeding in his business for a while, to see what Effect imprisonmt. (if he do go) may have upon him.

[67 v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6. of 6. mo: 83.

John Wells acquainted ye Meeting, yt Ellen Stratton being very big & near her time, they had not had opportunity to visit her as yet, wherfore it was recommitted to him & Geo: Mead to take opportu

The Meeting understanding that Timothy Child hath been observed since his imprisonmt. to be somtimes tendered in Meetings & appeared as one under some Exercise of mind, thought fit to visit him again, wch was left to James Smith, Tho: Olliffe & Alexander (31) "A Justice of the Peace in this County, who was called Sir Dennis Hampson of Taplow, breaking in with a Party of Horse upon a little Meeting near Wooburn in his Neighbourhood, the 1st of the fifth Month 1683, sent most of the Men, to the Number of twenty-three whom he found there, to Aylesbury prison, tho’ most of them were poor Men who lived by their Labour; and not going himself to the next Quarter-Sessions at Buckingham, on the 12th of the same Month, sent his Clerk, with the Direction, That they should be indicted for a Riot. Whither the Prisoners were carried and indicted accordingly, and being pressed by the Court to traverse and give Bail, they moved to be tried forthwith, but that was denied them. And they, giving in writing the Reason of their refusing Bail and Fees, were recommended to Prison till next Quarter-Sessions. . . . And in the eighth Month following . . . a Jury was found, who brought in a pretended Verdict, that they were Guilty of a Riot, for only sitting peaceably together, without Word or Action; and tho’ there was no Proclamation made, nor they required to depart: But one of the Jurymen, afterwards did confess, he knew not what a Riot was; yet the Prisoners were fined a Noble a-piece, and re-committed to Prison during Life, (a hard Sentence) or the King’s Pleasure, or until they should pay the Said Fines." (History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood, Anno 1683.) Two non-Quaker prisoners were released before the trial, and four Friends had their fines paid by non-Quakers after it, one of them being Stephen Pewsey, whose fine was paid "by the Town and Parish where he lived, for fear his Wife and Children should become a Charge upon them." The remaining seventeen remained officially prisoners till James II’s Proclamation of Pardon 1686, but were actually allowed to return to their homes by the Gaoler. This often happened when Quakers were imprisoned, as it was well known that their word was as good as their bond and that they would surrender whenever required.
Merrick to Do as from this Meeting, wth ye Assistance of any other Friends of the Meeting.

[Assent given to George Reading & Mary George. (Vide under date 4.iv.83)]

The Meeting Understanding that Tho: Ellwood had expended some Monies {for} in his attendance at several Assizes & Sessions on behalf & by order of Friends, did require him to give an Account thereof; wch he did; and it appearing yt he was out of purse & had expended 2os in attending at three Assizes & Eight Sessions in ye years 81, 82, & 83, (of wch he gave a particular Account) the Meeting did order him to take 2os out of the Stock of this Meeting remaining from the first mo: last, wch was 2li - 1s - 3d. Out of wch the said 2os. being deducted

li s d

There remains in Stock 1 - 1 - 3 *(see 10 mo: 82, 1 mo: 83.)*

[68 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of 7th: mo: 83.

The Friends of Watford imployed to visit Ellen Stratton, not being here, no Account was given of that business.

The Meeting being acquainted that Timothy Child had been visited by the Friends to whom it had been committed, & that he did not carry himself with so much obstinacy & hardness as formerly, but alleadged that he did not see any Evil in what he had done, & therfore could not acknowledge it. And the Meeting understanding wthal, yt it was but very lately yt he was thus visited; It was thought meet & agreed to forbear proceeding agt. him at present, & see if it may please ye Lord to open his understanding, & give him a sight of ye Evil he hath done.

John West of London Shoemaker, & Judith Big of High Wiccomb (who in the 9th: mo: 82. did in this Meeting propose their intention to take each other in Marriage, but instead of coming to the Meeting again for an Answer to their Proposition, they brake off, parted and released each other † (in Writing) under hand & seal) came now again, & in this Meeting did again propose their intention to take each other in Marriage. Which proposition of theirs this Meeting taking into Consideration, appointed Robt. Jones Alexander Mer-
rick, Henry Costard, Thomas Redman & William Kidder to make Inquiry concerning their clearness in all respects relating to this concern, & give Account thereof at ye next Meeting.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st. of 8th: mo: 83.

John West & Judith Big, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting therunto. And the Meeting being satisfied concerning their Clearness from others, & the consent of their Parents (understanding also yt ye said Judith, who at ye last Meeting behaved herself otherwise than became her, had since been sensible of her miscarriage therin, & sorry for it) did leave them to their liberty to accomplish their said intended Marriage according to the way of Truth.

[68 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 9th: mo: 83.

The friends of Watford imployed to visit Ellen Stratton, not having had Opportunity to visit her by reason of her long absence from home (having been for many weeks at her fathers, where she lay in) but understanding she is now returned, intend to take an opportunity (as soon as they can) to visit her again.

The Meeting considering the business of Timothy Child, wch hath so long depended, & finding a drawing in their Spirits to bring it now at length to some conclusion, have thought fit to visit him once more in Order therunto. And it is committed to Wm. Loddington & Tho: Dell to do it: who are ordered to let him know, that if he himself do not, ye Meeting doth intend shortly to proceed to give judgmt. agt. his disorderly Marriage.

The Meeting considering that divers of the Friends yt were fined at ye last Quarter Sessions, & thence recommitted to Prison, are poor Men, & though at present having liberty from ye Gaoler, may do pretty well, yet † (if) that liberty should be restrayned, it would be hard with them, did therupon commit it to James Smith & Tho: Olliff to see & take care yt they want not what is necessary for them, & what they shall therupon expend shal be repaid them by this Meeting.
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of 10th: mo: 83.

None of Watford Friends being here, no Account was given of Ellen Stratton’s business.

The Meeting understanding by Tho: Dell, that William Loddington and he having visited Timothy Child & his wife, found them still persisting in their own justification, and that there is no ground to expect from them any acknowledgment of the Evil they have done; It was ye unanimous consent and Agreeemt. of the meeting, that a Testimony be drawn up agt. the next Meeting, To condemn their disorderly proceeding in Marriage. And it was committed to Wm. Grimsdall and Thomas Ellwood to draw.

[Intention of marriage between Alexander Merrick and Hannah Bridges, both of Alisbury. James Smith and Tho: Olliffe appointed to inquire.] and the maid was desired to bring a Certificate from London (where she formerly lived) of her clearness there.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 11th: mo: 83.

The busines of Ellen Stratton, having been omitted by friends of Watford for several months, was now again committed to them, & they desired to be more diligent therin. James Smith also exprest an intention he had to visit her ere it be long. According to ye Order of ye last Meeting, a Testimony being drawn up agt. ye disorderly proceeding of Timothy & Mary Child in ye matter of their Marriage was presented now to ye Meeting, & read & signed, as followeth, vizt.

The Lord, who is ye God of Order, hath not only called us out of ye darknes, disorder & confusion of ye world, & gathered us to be a People to himself, but hath also by ye leadings of his own good spirit (blessed be his holy name) brought us into an holy Order, for ye wel ordering & mannaging the affairs of Truth in ye Church of Christ, yt whatsoever defiles, or tends to let in a spirit of loosenes or fleshly liberty, may be Cast out & kept out of ye Camp of God. But, as in former ages & times so in this also, ye restless Enemy of God’s People, envying ye prosperity of Sion, hath raised up some Turbulent & discontented spirits,
to oppose & gainsay, by word or practice, ye work & way of ye Lord, therby causing divisions, &, kindling a fire of Contention in ye Church. Among those yt have thus been beguiled by ye Enemy, & made use of by him as Instruments of Strife & mischievous debate among us, we are at this time concerned to take notice of Timothy Child & Mary his wife, late of Hedgerly in ye County of Bucks. These some time since
came to †(this) {our} Meeting & proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, but refused to proceed in yt Order & Method, wch God by his power hath establisht amongst us, & by ye pourings forth of his spirit upon us, & opening ye springs & fountain of life among us therin, hath (as by so many sealed Evidences) signally owned to be his, & fully confirmed us in. Inquiring of them ye Reason of their Refusal, we found ye Man so grosly dark & out of ye sense of Truth, yt after endeavours used in ye Love of God to open & inform his Understanding, upon a most solemn retiring in spirit to ye Lord, & waiting †(for) counsel & direction from him, we felt an absolute Bar upon our spirits, yt we could not, without disobeying ye Lord, joyn with them in ye State wherin they stood, but tenderly advised them to stand stil for a while, & wait upon ye Lord to have ye vail & cloud of darknes yt was over them removed. But ye Counsel given they rejected, & without any intermission pursued their Proposition from Meeting to Meeting, the darknes rather increasing than decreasing upon them. For upon ye several discourses yt Friends had with ye Man, (ye Woman saying little, yet joyning wth him) he not only discovered ye unsoundnes of his judgment, concerning Womens Speaking, alledging yt Women are commanded to be silent & not to speak in ye Church, but fully manifested ye wrongnes of his spirit, by declaring he did not know he should be condemned of ye Lord, if he went to ye Priest for a Wife, & plainly affirming he could as wel go to ye Priest for a Wife as to ye womens Meeting. Notwithstanding wch plain & manifest discoveries of his darknes & insensiblenes as to Truth, so great was ye tendernes & pity of the Meeting towards him as not ther-
upon wholly to reject & cast him off, but renewed their advice to him to wait upon ye Lord for a sight of his condition; hoping yt if he would so have done, the Lord, who so wonderfully appeared among us, & filled our Assemblies with his power & glory, would have answered ye travel of our spirits for him, & in time have opened some way, wherby ye Meeting might have had some satisfaction to let his Marriage pass. But there is ground to suppose he was secretly backt & encouraged in his obstinat Opposition agt. ye Counsel of ye Meeting: for shortly after some other turbulent & contentious spirits, whom for divers years before ye Enemy had made use of as instruments of strife & division in ye Church, began openly to engage on his behalf agt. ye Meeting, & by ye advice & assistance of some of them, he shortly after exhibited a Complaint in ye Quarterly Meeting agt. ye Monthly Meeting, & at ye same time appealed from ye Monthly Meeting to ye Quarterly Meeting, therby removing ye busines of his Marriage from ye Monthly Meeting & transferring it to ye Quarterly Meeting, where it ought in course to have depended til ye next Quarterly Meeting, no determinat Conclusion being reasonably to have been expected in it, until ye whole matter had been fully examined, heard & weighed & a regular proceeding had been used by that Meeting (if yt Meeting had seen meet to take cognizance of ye Marriage) by way of inquiry concerning their clearnes, as in al cases of Marriage is practised among Friends. But so regardles were this Couple of observing any orderly way of proceeding, & so impatient of delay in ye enjoymt. of their desires, yt they would not be perswaded to wait ye Issue of their own Appeal; but, as if they had only studied disorder & confusion, they endeavoured the very next week to have drawn ye Monthly Meeting to have passed their Marriage, wch but just before, by their Appeal to ye Quarterly Meeting, they had (as much as in them lay) for a while taken out of ye Monthly Meetings power. But ye Monthly Meeting not yeilding to such an irregularity, they thenceforth rusht on to the accomplishmt. of their design, & in a few days after, being encouraged, accompanied & assisted by divers of yt contentious
Spirit, wch hath raised so much dissention in the Church of Christ, they took each other in Marriage without ye consent, approbation, allowance, permission or knowledge of either ye Quarterly or monthly Meeting, & without any Inquiry being made concerning their Clearness & orderly Walking by any deputed by either of ye said Meetings. Which great disorder this Meeting (after that, by ye tryal & issue of the aforesaid Appeal in the Quarterly Meeting, ye business did again return hither) taking into consideration, & being moved wth a true Christian care & desire for ye recovery (if possible) of the said Timothy & Mary from ye Snare, into wch (through ye Evil Counsel they followed) they had run themselves, have from time to time visited them in ye tender love of God, labouring to have brought them to a sense & acknowledgmt. of ye wrong course they had taken, & of ye evil tendency therof. But after more than 12 months waiting on them, and seeking after them by renewed visits, finding our Christian care & endeavours for their good (through ye contrary workings of an Opposit Spirit in others, as well as in themselves) rejected & rendered unsuccessful, darkness & hardness stil possessing them, we feel a concern upon our spirits to bear Testimony in Truth agt. their disorder. We therfore whose names are underwritten (having most of us had knowledge of ye premises from the beginning, & al of us some understanding thereof) being met together in ye fear & dread of ye Lord, & feeling his living presense with & among us, & our spirits at this time solemnly gathered into a weighty sense of ye heavenly life, do in ye name of the mighty God, & in ye Authority of his power judge & condemn ye said disorderly Marriage of ye said Timothy Child & Mary his wife, as acted out of ye fear and counsell of God, in a wrong mind & self-Will, in Opposition to ye good Order of Truth, wch ye Lord hath led his People into, & signally owned & blessed them in. And we do hereby testify & declare in ye words of Truth, yt that Spirit by wch ye said Timothy & Mary, & their Incouragers, Counsellors & Abettors were led & guided in ye Mammagement. of yt their disorderly Marriage, is not ye Spirit of Truth, wch leads
into & establisheth in Truth; but ye Spirit of ye Evill One, wch leads into Errour, darkness, Disorder & Confusion. From wch that they, who have been betrayed & captivated therby, may be recovered, & al ye love ye Lord Jesus in sincerity may be preserved, is ye earnest desire & travell of our souls, who in faithfulness to God, & true tenderness to ye parties concerned, have subscribed this Testimony at our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill this 7th: day of ye 11th: month 1683.

Edward Hoare  Nicholas Noy  Richard Dell
George Salter  John Morton  William Grimsdall
Richd. Clipsham  Thomas Dell  John White
Henry Costard  John Wells  Samuel Wilson
Robt. Jones  James Smith  John Puddivatt
Thomas Ellwood  John Penington  Henry Perce
Henry Child  William Kidder  James Mathew
Ralph Trumper  John Costard  Wm. Loddington
Thomas Olliffe  Thomas Redman  Alex: Merrick
Joseph Welch

A Copy of this foregoing Testimony ye Meeting ordered to be sent to Timothy & Mary Child, & respited ye further publication thereof until ye next monthly Meeting.

[Assent given to Alexander Merrick & Hannah Bridges. (Vide under date 3.x.83)]

The Meeting understanding yt it is commonly reported, yt Thomas Martin of Dancers End, (who hath formerly been visited from this Meeting for letting out his affection in order to Marriage to a young lass of ye world) is now married to ye said Lass, & lives wth her as his wife, did imploy John Puddivat & Abraham Axtell to inform themselves as fully as they can of the Certainty & manner thereof, & give an Account thereof at the next Meeting.

[70 v]

James Smith acquainted the Meeting, that having visited Ellen Stratten, he found her in a very tender frame of spirit, & under Exe-
Exercise of mind, and that discoursing with her about her Marriage, she did very fully acknowledge the kindness of friends in visiting her, confessing it was more than she had deserved; adding that if she had taken Friends Counsell (when she was at the Meeting last about her Marriage) it had been well for her; and further acknowledging, that what had happened upon her since, hath been but just from the Lord upon her, because she did not take Friends Counsell. Which plain & honest acknowledgmnt. of her miscarriage (considering the Circumstances she lies under) the Meeting was satisfied with.

Abraham Axtell acquainted the Meeting, that upon Inquiry he understood that Thomas Martin is certainly married to that Lass of the world that was formerly his servant; and that they were married by the Priest of Penn, from whose maidservant the Information came. William Loddington & Joseph Welch were appointed to visit him, and lay the Evill of his Doings before him, & to reprove him thercfor, & admonish him to repent therof.

This Meeting understanding that the Testimony subscribed at the last Meeting against the disorderly Marriage of Timothy and Mary Child, was but lately delivered to them, thought fit to forbear the further publication thereof until further consideration be had theron.

[Intention of Marriage between Rowland Foster and Hannah Costard both of Chipping Wiccomb.] But the Meeting understanding that Rowland lay under some Reports of Scandal in his Conversation, did send some friends out to him to advise him to clear himself from those scandalous Reports (if he could) before he proceeded to lay his intention of Marriage before the Meeting, which advice he accepting of, departed with Hannah without coming into the Meeting.

[71r]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of 1st. mo: 83.

Wm. Loddington & Joseph Welch acquainted ye Meeting that they had been at Thomas Martins, but could not find him at home,

(32) Married 18 Sept. 1683 Thomas Martin and Mary Ebathite of Buckland. (Penn Parish Register.)
nor get an Opportunity to speak with him. Henry Child & John Puddivat ordered to visit him.

James Mathew of Cheping Wiccomb desiring a Certificate from this Meeting in Order to his Marriage with a friend of Abingdon in Berkshire, it was refered to William Kidder & Thomas Redman to make inquiry concerning his clearness & orderly Conversation, & to give an account thereof at ye next Meeting.

[Intention of Marriage between John Wootton of Peter’s Chalfont & Mary Hoare of Gyles Chalfont. Thomas Dell & William Russell appointed to inquire.]

Rowland Foster and Hannah Costard came into the Meeting, And Rowland, in order to clear himself from what had been charged agt. him, produced a kind of Certificate under the hands of the Man & Woman of Amersham in whose house he was reported to have overdrunk himself (subscribed also by another † (a man of Alisbury) yt was present with him at the same time.) But that writing appearing to be defective and short as to the particular Matter charged agt. him, and the Meeting withal being informed yt that writing was gotten unfairly and by indirect means, & that ye Woman of the house after she had subscribed it, had declared & affirmed that the Charge was really true; the Meeting had not freedom to proceed in the business of his Marriage, without a further & fuller inquiry into the Charge and seeing it more fairly cleared. And in order therunto appointed John Morton & Henry Child to search more throughly into the matter.

[71v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 2d: mo: 84.

Henry Child & John Puddivat acquainted the Meeting that they had visited Thomas Martin, but found him very rough and snappish, rejecting ye care, counsel & authority of this Meeting, & justifying himself in what he had done. Notwithstanding wch the Meeting thought fit to visit him again by James Smith & William Lodddington, who undertook it.

Tho: Redman acquainting the Meeting, that Wm. Kidder & he having made inquiry concerning James Mathew, & finding al things
clear & well concerning him, a Certificate was thereupon signed on
his behalf, as followeth.

Whereas James Mathew of Cheping Wiccomb in the County
of Bucks Chirurgeon, having for some years last past lived in
Wiccomb aforesaid, and intending now shortly to return into
Berkshire from whence he came, hath desired a Certificate
from this Meeting concerning his clearness from all Matrimon-
ial Engagements, & his orderly walking & Conversation among
friends: These are now to certify all whom it may concern,
that (upon inquiry made) we do not find but that the said
James Mathew is free & clear from any Engagement relating to
Marriage to any Woman in this Country; And yet during the
time he hath lived herein these parts, his Conversation hath
been honest & answerable to the Truth he hath made profes-
sof. In witness wherof we have hereunto set our hands, at
our monthly Meeting at Hunger-Hill for ye upper side of ye
County of Bucks, this 7th day of the 2d: month 1684.

Robt. Jones   James Smith    John Whiting
Tho: Dell     Hen: Costard  Mat. Roper
Richd. Clipsham Wm. Grimsdall  Joh. Puddivat
John Morton  Joh: Penington  Abr. Axtell
Alex: Merrick Geo: Belch    Joseph Stevens
Jos: Welch    Geo: Salter    John Brown
Tho: Redman    Hen: Child    Wm. Loddington
Tho: Ellwood    Richd. Dell  John White
Tho: Olliffe  Saml. Wilson  Nicholas Noy
                Josiah Lane.

[Assent given to John Wootton & Mary Hoar. (Vide under date
3.i.84)]

[72r]
An Agreement of ye last Quarterly Meeting, being recommended
to & read in this Meeting, concerning a publick Collection to be
made through ye several Meetings belonging to this County, for ye
releif & assistance of such friends of this County as have of late been
deep Sufferers for Truth's sake, this Meeting had unity therewith and did approve thereof, & in pursuance therof did order Tho: Ellwood to draw up a paper agt. the next Monthly Meeting, to recommend the said Collection to the several particular Meetings belonging to this.

James Morton of Harwich in the County of Bucks, Miller, & Dorothy Man of Gubblecut in ye parish of Tring in ye County of Hertford Spinster, proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage. But the Meeting finding that the maid had been but of late convinced, & had given very little evidence of her Obedience to Truth, did in great tenderness advise them to defer their proceeding towards Marriage for a while, exhorting ye Lass, to a greater diligence in waiting upon ye Lord, & faithfulness in walking closely with him, yt friends might have some satisfaction of her settlement & establishment in the Truth, & might therupon with more cheerful assist them in their intended undertaking.

Rowland Foster and Hannah Costard came again to the Meeting, & he produced another Certificate from the man of Alisbury who had subscribed the former (& his wife) in confirmation of that. But the Meeting being assured (by some who had been imployed by ye womens Meeting to make inquiry) that the woman of the house where he was said to have overdrunk himself, had declared to them yt he was certainly overcharged wth drink, yt he had circumvented her to get her hand to the former Certificate on his behalf, by coming to her in her husband's name, telling her yt her husband sent him to her with a strict command yt she should set her hand to yt writing, & yt if she did not, her husband would be very angry with her (wch she afterwards understood by her husband was utterly false, he not having sent him to her at al) and yt after she had, for fear of displeasing her husband, set her hand to that Certificate, she was much troubled in her mind for doing it. And the same persons further acquainting

(33) Quarterly Meeting Sufferings for 1683 record that Richard Marks of Sherrington was sued in the Ecclesiastical Court at Aylesbury for Tithes, excommunicated, and then taken by a Capias writ and committed to Aylesbury Gaol for ten months. While he was in prison, a fourth part of his corn was seized. Finally "his Neighbours, not knowing how to do well without, (he being the chief Smith in the Town) satisfied the greedy Priest and fetched Richard home from Prison."
the Meeting, yt they had also spoken with ye Maid servant who lived at yt time in ye house, & that she also did positively affirm to them yt ye said Rowland was overcharged with drink. The friends of ye Meeting being also sensible yt ye said Rowland (though he had now and then dropt in at a Meeting) had never really come to a subjec tion to Truth, nor was a man yt was seriously or religiously disposed; and yt ye said Hannah (if ever she had been seasoned with Truth) was gone from Truth to receive & joyn with him, in a fickle unstable mind, one while resolving to have him, another while declaring she would never have him. Wherupon ye Meeting, having solemnly and weightily considered the whole matter, did unanimously agree, yt in ye present state wherin ye said Rowland & Hannah now stand, this Meeting cannot, with freedom & clearness in ye Truth, in any wise meddle or be concerned with them in the business of their Mar riage. And accordingly (they being again called in) ye Answer of the meeting was given them, together with ye reasons therof.

James Smith, by order of the Meeting, did pay unto Thomas Ell wood five pounds, wch had been lent by this Meeting unto Mary Tod of great Missenden in ye 5th: month 77, & now repaid. Which said sum of five pounds ye Meeting did order Tho : Ell wood to lay by, until this Meeting shall find Occasion to dispose of it. *(see 5th mo: 77. see 8: mo: 84)*

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of ye 3d: mo: 84.

Wm. Loddington acquainted the Meeting, that James Smith and he having visited Thomas Martin, found him less obstinat, and in somthing a more soft & gentle frame & temper of mind, than the other friends had formerly found him in. And ye Meeting understanding that he took that visit kindly and in love, were willing to wait awhile to see what Effect it might have upon him; & therfore respted the further visiting of him til after another Meeting.

According to the Agreemt. of ye last Meeting, a Paper recommending ye late Sufferings that have fallen on some friends of ye
lower side [of] ye County, by Distresses for 20li a month, being ready drawn up, was read and approved, & ordered to be dispersed to the several Meetings belonging unto this, in order to a Collection for their assistance.

[Intention of Marriage between George Mead of Watford, Flaxdresser, and Lydia Haws of Kings Langly widow. Philip Thompson & Wm. Aires appointed to inquire.]

A letter, {subscribed} directed to this Meeting, & subscribed by John Raunce Charles Harris & John Boon, in the name (as it pretended) of a Meeting at Wickham, was read. And it appearing to be of a Contentious purport, & written in a proud insulting spirit, that sought to usurp an Authority over this Meeting, in imperiously calling this Meeting to an Accompt for their proceeding in the business of Rowland Foster; this Meeting, upon deliberate consideration of the Matter, as a Testimony of their rejecting such usurped Jurisdiction, did agree not to take so much notice of the said Letter, as to return any particular Answer therunto.

[73 v] [Blank]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 2d. of ye 4th mo: 84.

The Meeting thinking fit to visit Thomas Martin again, did desire and appoint James Smith, Wm. Loddington and Henry Costard to speak with him, & to lay upon him the weight of the Evil he hath committed, that if it be possible he may be brought to a) sense of & repentance for it.

The Collection, agreed at ye last Meeting to be made, for the help of such friends of ye lower side of the County, as have lately suffered deeply by distresses for 20li a month, being now brought in (al but Alisbury, wch is not yet gathered) & amounting to the sum of 34 £20 a month"—29 Eliz. Cap. 6. “The Queen may seize all the Goods, and two-third Parts of the Lands and Leases of every Offender not repairing to Church as aforesaid, in such of the terms of Easter and Michaelmas as shall happen next after such Conviction, for the Sum then due for the Forfeiture of twenty Pounds a Month for so long Time as they shall forbear to come to Church, according to the said Statute of 23 Eliz. 1."
JUNE - JULY 1684

23li - 01s - 00d, was committed to Wm. Grimsdall to carry to the Quarterly Meeting.* (see 5th: mo: 84)

[Assent given to George Mead and Lydia Haws. (Vide under date 5.iii.84)]

James Morton and Dorothy Man, (who in ye 2d. month last proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, and were then advised, because of the womans late convincemt, to defer their proceeding for a while, & wait on ye Lord for a settlemt. & establishmt. in ye Truth) came now again, & again proposed their intention of marriage as before. And although the Meeting could have desired the time of their waiting might have been longer, both for the more full satisfaction of Friends, and their own benefit. Yet in tenderness to them, their weakness considered, and no Opposition to the Order of Truth appearing in them, ye Meeting proceeded to take notice of their Proposall, and appointed Robt. Jones, James Smith & Tho: Olliffe to make inquiry concerning their clearness & orderly Conversation, & give an Account therof at the next Meeting.

[74v]


James Smith acquainted the Meeting, that he & Henry Costard having visited Thomas Martin, found him more hard & obstinat than ever, insomuch that they had no hope of his recovery; whereupon the Meeting considering how frequently & tenderly he had been visited, & how stubbornly he had rejected the care & kindness of Friends towards him, & no friend expressing any willingness to visit him any more, it was Unanimously agreed & concluded that a Testimony should be drawn up against his disorder, & Wm. Lodddington, Tho: Dell, Hen: Child & Tho: Ellwood, or some of them, were desired to draw it up by the next Meeting.

James Morton & Dorothy Man, who at the last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, came now to receive the Answer of the Meeting. And although Friends could have desired they would have been willing to have waited longer, both for their own benefit and friends satisfaction: Yet finding them tender & hopeful, the Meeting [saw] fit in condescension to their weakness,
without longer delay, to permit them to proceed to the finishing of their intended Marriage.

There having been added to ye Collection made for ye suffering Friends of ye lower side [of] ye County, since last Meeting, from Missenden 1s, from Haddenham 2li: 11s: 6d: & from Alisbury 3li: 5s: 9d. in al 7li: 18s: 3d. makes ye 23li: 1s. brought in at ye last Meeting here, 3oli: 19s: 3d. from this monthly Meeting, & was paid in at ye last Quarterly Meeting at Weston.


In pursuance of ye Agreemt. of ye last monthly Meeting here. A Testimony being drawn up agt. Thomas Martin’s disorderly walking, was read & signed in & by ye Meeting; & was as followeth;

[Given in the same form as the Testimony against William Higs for the same offence. Vide under date 2.v.83.]

[75r]

[Testimony signed by]

- John White
- Wm. Loddington
- Thomas Dell
- Henry Child
- Richd. Clipsham
- Robt. Jones
- Tho: Ellwood
- Joseph Welch
- Geo: Salter
- Will: Baker
- Thomas Olliffe
- Nicholas Noy
- Will: Kidder
- Will: Grimsdall
- Tho: Redman
- Abraham Axtell
- Alex: Merrick
- John Whiting
- Henry Pearce
- William Russell
- Edward Butterfeild
- Samuel Wilson
- Philip Thompson
- John Penington
- Tho: White
- Henry Geary
- Ralph Trumper
- Joseph Adams.

Agreed that a Copy of ye above written Testimony be sent to Thomas Martin, & another to ye friends of Weston Meeting (unto wch he formerly did belong) to be read publickly in that Meeting, at such time & place as the friends of that † (Meeting) {place} shal see most service in.

[75v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: of 7th: mo: 84.

Samuel Jenings acquainted ye Meeting that one William Clark, a young man that formerly lived at Alisbury, but is now in New-West-
Jersey in America, desires a Certificate from this Meeting concerning his clearness and Orderly Conversation. The Meeting therefore for their own satisfaction, in order therunto, did appoint James Smith, Alexander Merrick & Thomas Olliffe to make inquiry concerning him, & give an Account thereof at ye next Meeting.

[Intention of marriage between Richard Baldwin & Mary Dean, both of Upton, Bucks. Thomas Dell & William Grimsdall appointed to inquire.

Also between Richard Dell & Hannah Cock, both of Chesham. Robert Jones, Abraham Axtell & Joseph Welch appointed to inquire.]

[76 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 6t. of ye 8th mo: 84.


Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting, yt Amey Child of Chesham intending to remove out of England into New Jersey in America, desires a Certificate from this Meeting, for ye satisfaction of Friends there both of her clearness from all engagements tending to Marriage, & also of her orderly Conversation in Truth. It was left to Robt. Jones & John Costard to make inquiry concerning her both in this Country & at Hertford, & give an Account at next Meeting.

The Friends of Sherrington Meeting complaing at the last Quarterly Meeting, yt ye Charge of John Bedford's Children ly heavier upon them than they are not able to bear, *(see 2. mo: 84) & therupon desired some assistance from ye quarterly Meeting, wherupon it was recommended from ye Quarterly to this Monthly Meeting. And it is now agreed yt Tho: Ellwood shal pay out of such monies as
are in his hand at the dispose of this Meeting, ye Sum of Four pounds, to Alex: Merrick of Alisbury, to be sent down to some friend of Sherrington Meeting for yt service. *(Paid this 4l in ye Meeting to Al. Merrick to be sent to Sherington friends. It was taken out of ye 5l pd by Ja: Smith by Meetings Order to T. E. in ye 2d mo: 84.)

An Agreemt. of ye last Quarterly Meeting being recommended to & read in this Meeting, concerning a publick Collection to be made through ye several Meetings belonging to this County, for ye Redemption of Friends yt are Captives in Algiers; wch this Meeting approving of, did recommend ye same to ye several Meetings belonging to this, by a paper drawn up in order therunto & signed on the Meetings behalf by T. E.

[Assent given to Richard Dell & Hannah Cock. (Vide under date 1.vii.84)

Intention of Marriage between Simon Knight of Oulsweek & Joan Smal of Little Kimbell. John White & Henry Costard appointed to inquire.]

Thomas White of Oulsweek acquainted ye Meeting yt he hath a purpose to take in Marriage one Judith Goodspeed a freind belonging to Biddlesden Monthly Meeting, & therfore desires a Certificate from this Meeting, of his clearness and orderly Walking. Hen: Costard & James Smith appointed to inquire & give account at next Meeting.


[Assent given to Richard Baldwin & Mary Dean. (Vide under date 1.vii.84)

Intention of Marriage between Wheeler Bud of Albans, Herts, and Rebecca Puddivat daughter of John Puddivat of Dudswel, North-
church, Herts. Robert Jones & Roger Dancer appointed to inquire.] And Wheeler was ordered to bring a Certificate from ye Meeting at Hertford where he hath lived of late, concerning his clearnes there.

[Also between George Lovet & Rebecca Airs, both of Gyles Chalfont. Richard Clipsham & William Grimsdall appointed to inquire.]

Nicholas Noy acquainted the Meeting, that, having at length finished the trouble he had had from the Executors of Jonathan Kingham, and gotten Releases from all the Relations of James Kingham, brother of ye said Jonathan, yt might have any pretence or claim to any share or interest in the legacy, formerly given {for the} by the said James for the help of poor friends, he had now brought his Accounts of ye disbursmts. he had made in ye managemt. of that business, whch he desired ye Meeting to examin & pass, offering to pay in to this Meeting ye remainder of ye said Legacy, upon this Meeting giving him a Discharge of ye said Legacy. The Meeting not having time to examin ye said Accounts, did refer it to Henry Child & Tho: Ellwood to do agt. another Meeting.

[77r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye first of ye 10th: mo: 84.


[Assent given to Simon Knight & Joan Small. (Vide under date 6.viii.84)]
Also to George Lovett & Rebeckah Airs. (Vide under date 3.ix. 84)]

The Collection agreed on in ye 8th: mo: last, to be made for †(the Redemption of) Friends yt are Captives in Algiers, was brought in at this Meeting, & was as followeth, viz. from

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This mony was committed to Thomas Dell to keep until the rest of the Collection comes up from the lower side of the County. *(see 3d mo: 85)*

[77v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th: of 11th: mo: 84.

A letter was read from John Bull, a friend of London, desiring the assistance of this Meeting in helping him to an Apprentice, wch the freinds of each particular Meeting were desired by this Meeting to take notice of & make inquiry after.

Henry Child & Thomas Ellwood acquainted the Meeting, that according to ye appointmt. of this Meeting in the 9th mo: last, they had perused Nicholas Noy’s Accompts of Disbursmts. relating to ye Legacy formerly given by James Kingham of Wooburn for ye help of poor friends; and that according to the best of their understanding, the Accompmt is fairly & justly stated. Wherupon the Meeting, at the instance of ye said N: Noy, did order Wm. Loddington, Hen: Child &
& Tho: Ellwood to draw up (agt. another Meeting) a Writing to comprise an allowance of ye said Accompt, an acknowledgmet. of the Receipt of ye Remainder of ye said Legacy, & an Engagemt. to assist & stand by ye said N. Noy, in case he should be molested again hereafter on ye same Account.

[Assent given to Wheeler Bud & Rebecca Puddivat. (Vide under date 3.ix.84)

Intention of Marriage between Peter Prince of Hammersmith & Mary Odingsells of Peter’s Chalfont. William Lodddington & William Grimsdall appointed to inquire.] Peter produced a Certificate from the monthly Meeting at Hammersmith concerning his clearness and faithfulness to Truth.

[78 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d. of 12th mo: 84.

Joseph (Rose} Adams of Alisbury did by a Friend acquaint the Meeting, that he hath an intention (if God permit) to transport himself beyond the Seas, into some parts of America, & desired from this Meeting a Certificate for the satisfaction of Friends, where he should come. Wherupon this Meeting ordered James Smith and Thomas Olliffe to make inquiry concerning his Clearnes fi'om any engagemt. of Marriage & his orderly conversation & walking in Truth.

The Meeting understanding from Friends of London, yt Friends in the Plantations beyond ye Seas, being dissatisfied & burdened with Daniel Akehurst, have written over to Friends in England, desiring an Account of his behaviour among Friends here, wch because he had lived for some years in this Country, was recommended to this Meeting to give. This Meeting therupon taking the matter into

(35) This is probably the “Daniel Akers” of whom George Fox wrote to “the Monthly Meeting at Tho. Ellwood’s” (i.e. Upperside) in 1678, “I did hear yt one Daniell Akers yt hath lately come amongst you at some of your monthly Meetings hath made a disturbance, and yt hee should say that women’s Meetings was sett up by an Eroneous or falce Spirit or words to yt Effect, and he saying yt i t was by mee in your open Meeting, as it hath been Reported,” Fox asked Akers to meet him “at Robt. Jones his house, to give mee and others satisfaction,” but Akers did not appear. It seems hardly likely that the Daniel Akehurst commissioned by John Archdale as his deputy in Carolina in 1681, who became successively judge, councillor and secretary of the northern province, can be the same man.
Consideration, did unanimously agree & concur in one sense, That the said Daniel Akehurst, during ye time yt he inhabited in this Country, was a man of an unruly, turbulent, contentious spirit, and disorderly behaviour in ye Church of Christ, a stirrer up of strife & dissention amongst Brethren, fomenting differences & causing Divisions in the church, and a feirce gainsayer & Opposer of the good Order of Truth established in ye Church of Christ. Al wch ye Meeting weightily considering, & from the experience of ye mischeif he had done here, apprehending the hurt he might probably do elswhere among friends, it became matter of duty, & a weighty concern upon the spirits of the Friends of this Meeting, to signify unto Friends beyond ye Seas their sense & knowledge of his spirit & carriage amongst Friends here. And in order therunto this Meeting did appoint William Loddington, Henry Child & Thomas Ellwood to draw up in writing a Certificate of ye same agt. the next Meeting.

[Assent given to Peter Prince & Mary Odingsells. (Vide under date 5.xi.84)]


Also between John Reed of Amersham & Jane Bockett daughter of John Bockett of Dinton. Roger Dancer, Henry Costard & John Costard appointed to inquire.]

[78 v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d. of ye first mo: 168$. An Account being given by Tho: Dell, that Susan Aldridge of Wooburn Meeting hath of late broken forth{36} in several publick Meetings, into an open and outrageous Testimony agt. Friends & agt. the Order of Truth which the Lord hath led Friends into: The Meet-

{36} "broken forth."—"At Jordanes meeten, in a violent manner," according to the Women’s Minute Book. Mary Ellwood, (Thomas’s wife), and Margery Clipsham wrote a broadside against her, entitled "The Spirit that works Abomination and its Abominable Work Discovered." This states that Susan Aldridge was "disordered in her Head (a Distemper which divers of her Relations have been subject to and her own Mother dyed in,)" and that she was incited against Friends by Charles Harris, of whom, the authors say, "our concern is not to write much, nor do we think it much needful, he being of late years pretty well known to Friends in most parts."
ing therupon being sensible of the greif & trouble she may bring upon friends, the Reproach she may bring upon Truth, & the certain ruin she wil bring upon her own soul, if she go on under so great a Delusion of spirit, did appoint Tho: Ellwood, Robt. Jones, William Grimsdall & Henry Child to visit her, and endeavour to make her sensible of the wrongness of her spirit, and the strong Delusion she is under.


[Assent given to Daniel Roberts and Rebecca Axtell. (Vide under date 2.xii.84) he producing a Certificate from M. M. at Nailsworth, Glos.

Also to John Reed & Jane Bockett. (Vide under date 2.xii.84) Intention of Marriage between Thomas Gilpin son of Thomas Gilpin of Warborow, Co. Oxon. & Elizabeth West, daughter of William West of Long Credon. Henry Costard & Edmund Belson appointed to inquire. Thomas to bring a Certificate. Also between William Slater of Katherines by the Tower, London, Cooper, and Katherine Dunton, spinster, daughter of Roger & Elizabeth Dunton of Gyles Chalfont. Richard Clipsham & William Grimsdall appointed to inquire. Both desired to bring a Certificate from London, as Katharine lately belonged to a M. M. there.]

The Friends appointed by the last Meeting to draw up a Certificate for the satisfaction of Friends beyond the Seas, concerning the behaviour of Daniel Akehurst amongst Friends, whilst he dwelt in this Country, did now offer the following Certificate to ye Meetings Consideration, which being read in the Meeting, & approved by the Meeting without any Objection from any, & caution
being given that none should sign it but such, as had a certain knowledge of him; it was signed by all those friends whose names are hereunder written, & was as followeth:

WHEREAS we understand that Friends in Truth, in divers parts beyond the Seas, being troubled, burdened & greatly dissatisfied with one Daniel Akehurst, who some years since went out of England to settle in America, have written over to friends in England, desiring an account of his Carriage & behaviour among friends here. And for as much as the said Daniel Akehurst, for divers years last past before his departure out of England, did inhabit in this County, & frequently resort unto this & other Meetings in these parts, whereby we had many opportunities to savour his spirit, & to observe his deportment in Meetings & among friends:

WE therefore, whose names are hereunder written, being assembled together in the name & fear of the Lord, having solemnly weighed the matter, and well considered the importance of it, in discharge of our duty to God, to Truth, & to our Brethren in Truth, do hereby CERTIFY all friends to whom this may come, That we had not Unity with the said Daniel Akehurst, finding him to be of a troublesome, contentious spirit in our Meetings, & a forward Opposer of the good Order of Truth, established in the Church of Christ. And though some of us who have hereunto set our hands (having had more acquaintance with him, & been oftener in Meetings where he hapned to come, than others) could write more particularly & largely of his unruly wrangling spirit, and turbulent behaviour in gainsaying and despising the good Order of Truth, & how busy he hath been in fomenting Differences, & labouring to cause Divisions in the Church, by encouraging & Siding with other disorderly spirits, in the same Opposition, whereby he became an Instrument of much Mischeif in this County: Yet we forbear to enlarge on so unpleasing a Subject, not doubting but Friends may receive satisfaction from this brief, but true, Account; Which, we declare in the presence of the Lord, proceeds not from any ill-will to the person of the man (whose Re-
pentance & Amendment we heartily desire) but from a sense of our duty to God & his Truth, & to all who honestly profess it, that none for the future may be hurt by him. Signed at our Monthly Meeting, holden at Hunger-Hill this second day of the first Month 1684, for the service of the Church of Christ, in & about the Upper side of the County of Bucks in England,

Richard Clipsham. Thomas Redman.
Thomas Dell. William Kidder.
Thomas Ellwood. John White.
Edward Hoare. John Puddivatt.
Henry Costard. Philip Thompson.
James Smith. Edmund Belson.
Thomas Olliffe. John Costard.

[79 v]
Tho: Ellwood acquainted the Meeting, that Robt. Jones, Wm. Grims dall & he had been to visit Susan Aldridge, but missed of her, she being gon to Wiccomb. And that they had not since had an Opportunity to go to her again. But that she hath since that published in print a very scandalous Paper against Friends. Nicholas Noy acquainted ye Meeting, that he had been with her & spoken with her, & that he was not without hope that she might be brought to a sense of her Error & Loss. The Meeting agreed to attempt to visit her again, & committed it to N. Noy, Hen: Child, Wm. Grimsdall & Tho: Ellwood.

[Assent given to Thomas Gilpin & Elizabeth West, (vide under date 2.i.84,) Thomas bringing a Certificate from M.M. at Turfield Heath, Oxon, and she one from London.

Also to William Slater & Katharine Dunton. (Vide under date 2.i.84) They brought Certificates from M.M. at Radcliff, Middlesex.]

The Friends of Amersham Meeting acquainting this Meeting, that the Charge of Releiving their Poor lay heavier upon that Meeting
than they were well able to bear, This Meeting therupon ordered Tho: Ellwood to deliver unto some of Amersham Meeting the stock of this Meeting remaining in his hands, being one pound one shilling & three pence, for a present Supply, till further Consideration be had of their Condition. *(see 6th: mo: 83)

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of 3d month 85.
Tho: Ellwood acquainted the Meeting, that Hen: Child Nicholas Noy & he had visited Susan Aldridge, as from this Meeting, & that the tendering power of the Lord was so eminently manifested among them, yt even she herself had a sense therof, & confessed therunto, yet endeavoured to justify herself in what she had done: But their sense of her was, yt ye ground of her Confidence lay not so much in herself, as in some other persons whom she leaned upon. William Grimsdall also acquainted the Meeting, that he, (not having Opportunity to go with the other friends) had visited her since by himself, & had some discourse with her, but was interrupted by one of her Party, James Cox, who (as he apprehends) saw him going thither & followed him, Stephen Pewsey (another of her abettors) being also there. The Meeting agreed to visit her again, & committed it to Robt. Jones, James Smith & John Morton.

Tho: Ellwood acquainted the Meeting, that according to ye Order of ye last Meeting, he had delivered the 11l - 15 - 3d (wch was ye remainder of ye stock of this Meeting) unto John Morton for Amersham Meeting, wch John Morton being present acknowledged the receipt of. *(see 2 mo. 85, 6 mo: 83, 10 mo: 82)

NO STOCK REMAINING.

[Intention of Marriage between Isaac Gilpin of Warborow, Oxon, Weaver, son of Thomas & Jane Gilpin of the same place, & Ruth Crook of Cheping Wiccomb, spinster, daughter of William Crook of Minigrove, Oxon. William Kidder & Thomas Redman appointed to inquire.]

The business formerly propounded by N. Noy, relating to ye mony given by James Kingham (having been hitherto deferred, partly upon desire N. Noy had to get a discharge from some of ye opposite spirits at Wiccomb, & partly upon a dissatisfaction in ye minds
of some friends to enter into such an Engagemt. about it, as was pro-
pposed) was now again mentioned, & at length concluded, N. Noy
paying the remainder of ye said Mony, & the Meeting signing him
a discharge as followeth:

WHERAS James Kingham, heretofore of Wooburn in ye
County of Bucks Mealman, deceased (having for divers years
walked in profession of Religion amongst the people called
Quakers) by his last Will & Testamt, proved in the Preroga-
tive Court of Canterbury on ye 3th day of Octobr. 1661 (in &
by wch he distributed the greatest part of his Estate amongst
his Kindred & Relations) did also give to poor Friends to help
make them a Stock the sum of Fifty pounds, & did commit the
care therof (amongst others) unto Nicholas Noy of Cheping
Wiccomb in the County of Bucks Bodysmaker, in whose dis-
pose the said Fifty pounds hath since been. AND WHERAS of
late, some of the Kindred of the said James Kingham, pretend-
ing yt ye said sum of 5oli did in whole or in part belong unto
them, have molested & sued the said Nicholas

Noy for the same, by means wherof (through ye charge of de-
fending ye said suit in Chancery, & of several Arbitrations for
the ending therof, & other incident Charges) the greatest part
of ye said sum of 5oli, is expended & paid away by ye said N.
Noy; And ye said N. Noy being desirous to be eased & dis-
charged of ye further care & concern of disposing ye Remainder
of ye said monies: We therefore whose names are underwrit-
ten, (being some of the said people called Quakers, met to-
gether with others of our Friends & Brethren, for ye service of
ye Church of Christ, & particularly to see & take care yt ye Poor,
of ye several Meetings, to wch we belong, be provided for) hav-
ing examined the said N. Noy's Accomp't of ye Expenses be-
forementioned, amounting in the whole to the sum of One &
Thirty pounds ten shillings & sixpence, do hereby declare, yt
we are perswaded & satisfied yt ye said Accomp't is rightly &
truly stated, & yt ye said Expences were justly & necessarily ex-
pended. And we do hereby acknowledge, yt we have now re-
ceived of ye said N. Noy ye sum of Eighteen pounds Nine shillings & six pence, being the Remainder of ye said sum of Fifty pounds, to be disposed of by this Meeting for ye use, benefit & releif of our poor Friends called Quakers, for wch it was given by ye said James Kingham. Of wch sum of 18li - 9s - 6d, Five pounds having formerly been lent to one Joseph Fryer (a poor friend of great Marlow) upon Bond, ye Meeting understanding yt ye said Joseph Fryer is not able to repay ye same, did now by joynit consent remit, & forgive ye said debt of 5li, & so received in mony but Thirteen pounds nine shillings & sixpence. In witness wherof, & to discharge ye said N. Noy therfrom, we as Members of ye said Meeting, do hereunto subscribe our names, on the behalf of ye said Meeting, this 4th day of ye 3d mo: 1685.

From our monthly Meeting held at Coleshill.
for ye service of ye Church of Christ, in the upper side of ye County of Bucks.

Thomas Dell  Wm. Grimsdall  Edm. Belson
Wm. Kidder  Rich: Clipsham  Roger Dancer
Tho: Redman  Wm. Russell  Tho: Olliffe
Saml. Wilson  Hen: Pearce  Jam: Smith
John Whiteing  Jo: Penington  Geo: Belch junr.
Joseph Stevens  Edw. Hoare  John Morton
Wm. Loddington  Hen: Costard  Abr. Axtell.
Geo: Salter

This Thirteen pounds nine shillings & sixpence the Meeting did order Tho: Ellwood to receive & keep until this Meeting shall find occasion to dispose of it.

Henry Child of Coleshill did, by a friend, acquaint the Meeting that he hath a purpose (if the Lord permit) to transport himself with his Wife & family into Pensylvania in America, & desired a Certificate from this Meeting, on behalf of himself & his Wife, for ye satisfaction of Friends there. In order wherunto ye Meeting appointed Ralph Trumper, John Morton & John Costard to make inquiry con-
cerning their Orderly walking & good conversation in the way of Truth, & to give an Account therof at the next Meeting.

The Collection for Redemption of Captives being compleated & brought in from ye lower side of ye County, viz. from

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<th>Meeting</th>
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<td>Hogsty house</td>
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<td>Sherrington</td>
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<td>Biddlesden</td>
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In all                  04  8  06

makes ye rest of the Collection wch was brought in in ye 10th month 1684, *(see 10th: mo: 84) & was 241i - 19s - 7d, with a shilling since added from Missenden Meeting to be now in the whole 29 9 1

Al wch said sum of 29li - 9s - 1d was paid by Tho; Dell to John Dew of London (one of the friends appointed to receive it) as by his Receipt therof, affixed to ye Quarterly Meeting Book, may appear.

[81r]

At a Meeting at Tho; Ellwoods on ye 1st: of 4th mo: 85.

Robt. Jones acquainted ye Meeting, yt John Morton & he had visited Susan Aldridge, & found her very confident & resolute in her Opposition to friends, so yt they have no hopes of prevailing on her to bring her to a sense of ye Snare & Evil she is run into. And James Smith added yt he (missing of their company) went with another friend another time to visit her, & found her in ye same temper; The Meeting not finding any further drawings to visit her, & yet not being willing to be hasty in proceeding to a publick Testimony agt. her, thought fit to defer proceeding therin until another Meeting.

[Assent given to Isaac Gilpin & Ruth Crook. *(Vide under date 4.iii.85) And because they intend to take each other in Oxfordshire, they had a Certificate from this Meeting of their Orderly proceeding in proposing their intention to this Meeting, & of ye Meetings Consent & wch Certificate was signed in ye name of this Meeting by Robt. Jones.


Tho: Dell & Hen: Child ordered to lay in some hay for provision for the Meeting this year.


The Meeting understanding that Susanna Aldridge persists in her obstinate opposition to friends, & hath published another pernicious paper in print agt. them, did now agree & conclude yt a Testimony should be drawn up agt. her & her papers, & her Abettors therin together wth those Apostates who have run into an open Separation & rent themselves from friends. Wch Testimony ye Meeting committed to Wm. Loddington, Hen: Child, Danl. Robarts & Tho: Ellwood to prepare agt. next Meeting.

Tho Dell acquainting ye Meeting yt Hen: Child & he had laid in as much hay as came to 4os. And T. E. adding yt he had paid John Mannox the 11s wch was left in his hands in ye 10th mo: 82. *(see 10th. mo: 82). for attending ye stables 11 Meetings wch ended in ye 9th month 83, since wch time til now (being 26 Meetings, this included) he had paid him 20s more; The Meeting thereupon made a Collection of .............. 3 - 10 - 00

Out of wch they paid

To Henry Child for ye hay & housing it .............. 2 - 00 - 00
To T. E. wch he had paid to Jo: Mannox .............. 1 - 00 - 00
Gave to ye Servt. Maid of ye house .............. 0 - 05 - 00

Ordered T. E. to pay ye remaing 5s. to John Mannox as it shal grow due .............. 00 - 05 - 00

[81v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of ye 6th mo: 1685.

According to the Order of ye last Meeting, a Testimony being drawn up agt. Susanna Aldridge was now presented to this Meeting, & being read & approved of by this Meeting, was signed as followeth, vizt.
AS the Lord in good will & tender compassion hath been graciously pleased to visit & gather a people in this latter day, after ye dark night of Apostacy, & hath called them to ye knowledge & obedience of his saving Truth, yt they might be saved therby: So ye Adversary of Mankind envying ye happines of God's people hath continually opposed this blessed work of ye Lord, & laboured not only to keep people from coming to ye Truth, but also to draw back, or turn aside those yt had in any measure received it. And so far hath he been suffered to prevail this way, yt many have been seduced by him, & then made use of, as Instruments for him, to seduce others also. Wherby it hath come to pass, yt ye greatest & most pernitious Enemies to Truth, have been such as have stood in a profession of it, out of ye life & vertue of it. That thus it was in ye Apostles days, ye Epistles they writ to ye several Churches do sufficiently shew: And yt thus it hath been in this day also, ye faithful to their sorrow know. So yt what Paul foretold, Acts 20. 30. Of your own selves shal men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away Disciples after them hath been too often verified: for many such perverse speakers have arisen to draw away Disciples after them but blessed be the Lord, ye good shepherd of Israel, he hath not suffered them to stand long, but hath cast them down wth shame & confusion. And now of those yt have risen up of late agt. Truth & friends, we are concerned at present to bear Testimony agt. SUSANNA ALDRIDGE, who hath not only spoken, but published in print, very perverse things agt. Truth & Friends. For she hath not only pretended to Discover Abomina-

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ctions in Jerusalem (though the spirit of Truth hath said expressly, There shal in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither what-

soever worketh Abomination, Rev. 21. 27) but she hath also cast forth many Reproaches, Falshoods, Revilings, Slanders & bitter Reflections agt. ye Lord's people, charging Friends with setting up Images, propagating Idols, being Idolaters, Idol-

prophets, with more such abominable stuff, tending to ye dishonour of Truth, ye stumbling of ye Weak, & turning ye Simple out of ye right way. Which mischeivous work of hers this Meeting taking notice of, & desiring (if it were ye wil of ye
Lord) she might have been reclaimed, & brought to a sense of her evil, have by divers of its Members, at several times, in compassionate tendernes visited her; but found her deaf to al good counsel, justifying herself in her evil work, & obstinatly bent to persist therin; & have also good ground to beleive she is & hath been, not a little encouraged assisted & strengthened in her evil undertaking, by some others of Truth’s former Opposers, who of late have more fully manifested themselves, by their open separation from Friends Meetings, to be such as ye Apostle said Were sensual, having not ye Spirit, Jude 19. Now having thus far, as aforesaid, discharged our Consciences towards her, in endeavouriing her Recovery, we feel a concern of Spirit to proceed to ye clearing of Truth by a publick Testimony agt. her. And therfore, In ye name of our Lord Jesus Christ, & by ye Authority of his Power, in whose Name and fear we are at this time assembled together, do we Judge, Condemn & bear Testimony agt. ye said Susanna Aldridge, & that spirit in wch she hath of late appeared & acted, & those wicked, reproachful & slanderous Papers before mentioned, wch she hath cause to be printed and published to ye world, to ye dishonour of God & his blessed Truth. And we do solemnly declare in ye presence of God, ye searcher of al hearts, yt we bear not this Testimony agt. ye said Susanna Aldridge out of any personal Ill-will, or prejudice agt. her as a woman; but to discharge our duty to God, in clearing his Truth & People from her Reproaches, & that all concerned herein may know, that we have no Fellowship wth ye said Susanna Aldridge, nor with her unfruitful works of darkness. For it is our desire (if ye wil of ye Lord so be) yt she many yet come to a sense of her Evil, & know again a Return to Truth, from which she is now departed. Signed at our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, this third day of ye sixth month 1685.

Edward Hoare    Thomas Ellwood    Ralph Trumper
Thomas Dell    Robert Jones    William Baker
Thomas Redman    Daniel Roberts    Alexander Merrick
James Smith    Henry Child    William Russell
John White    Joseph Welch    George Belch
Agreed that a Copy of the abovewritten Testimony be sent to Susanna Aldridge

And other Copies to ye Friends of Wooburn & Chalfont Meetings, to be published in those Meetings, as to ye faithful friends therof shal seem most for ye service of Truth.

[Intention of Marriage between Thomas Sommerfeild of Kilburn in the parish of Wilsdon, Middlesex, Collermaker, & Mary Chearsly daughter of Robert Chearsly of Gyles Chalfont Husbandman. Richard Clipsham & John Wells to inquire; Sommerfeild to bring a Certificate.]
went from them & since) with such work as she is capable of doing, & if ye loss that they shal sustain by her work prove too heavy for that Meeting to bear, this Meeting did now engage to assist them therein.

[Assent given to Thomas Sommerfeld & Mary Chearsly, (vide under date 3.vi.85) he bringing a certificate from friends at Hammersmith.]

[82v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th. of ye 8th: mo: 85.

[Intention of marriage between William Eburne of Twitnam Middlesex, & Mary Dean of Giles Chalfont, Widow. William Russell, William Grimsdall & John Costard appointed to inquire into her clearness; Eburne to bring a certificate from M.M. at Kingston-on-Thames.] And Thomas Dell & John Wotton were ordered to go to ye said Monthly Meeting at Kingston to see yt ye said Certificate be rightly and fairly obtained.

[Also between John White the younger, son of John White of Meadle & Hannah Lake of Oulswick in the parish of Monks Risborow. Edward Belson & Alexander Merrick appointed to inquire.]

A letter from G: F:87 was read, dated ye 15th: of 7th mo: 85.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d: of ye 9th: mo: 85
Matthew Gray of Tring acquainted ye Meeting that he hath a purpose to take to wife a friend belonging to Kensworth Meeting in Bedfordshire, & threfore desired from this Meeting a Certificate of his clearnes, &c. In order wherunto this Meeting appointed Roger Dancer & Joseph Weston (two friends of Tring) to make inquiry concerning both his clearness from Engagements to other Women, & his Orderly walking & blameless Conversation in truth; & to give account therof at ye next Meeting, to wch he was referd.

[Assent given to John White the younger & Hannah Lake. (Vide under date 5.viii.85)]

[83r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 7th: of ye 10th: mo: 85.

An Account being given to the Meeting, yt Matthew Gray of

(37) G.F. = George Fox. The letter referred to does not appear to be extant.
Tring (who at ye last Meeting desired a Certificate from this Meeting for ye satisfaction of Friends of ye Monthly Meeting at Kensworth in Bedfordshire concerning his clearnes &c. in order to Marriage) not staying to receive ye Answer of this Meeting, did, in a few days after he had been here, go to a Meeting at a Place called Wood End, & there took him a Wife. This Meeting, being sensible of ye disorderliness of his proceeding therin, & of ye dangerous consequence of such evil Examples, & considering also yt ye said Matt. Gray had proposed his intention of Marriage before ye said Monthly Meeting at Kensworth, & yt ye said Meeting at Wood End, wherein he had finished his disorderly Marriage, belongeth to ye said Monthly Meeting at Kensworth, thought fit to lay ye matter before yt Monthly Meeting, wch was done in an Epistle as followeth, vizt.

Dear Friends & Brethren,

After ye salutation of our dear love in ye Truth unto you, These are to let you know, yt at our last Monthly Meeting, one Matthew Gray of Tring came to our Meeting & acquainted us, yt he had laid before you his intention to take to Wife a friend belonging to your Monthly Meeting, & by your direction (as we understood) he desired a Certificate from our mo: Meeting, for your satisfaction concerning his clearnes in relation to Marriage, & his orderly Conversation according to Truth. In Order to our granting of wch, ye Meeting did then appoint two Friends to make inquiry concerning him (he being a stranger to most of us) & acquainted him, yt at our next Meeting he might receive an Answer. But we are now given to understand, yt within a few days after his coming hither to desire a Certificate from this Meeting, he went to a Meeting at a place called Wood End, & there took him a wife, not staying (as became him to have done) for ye Answer of this Meeting. Which procedure of his, Wee, looking upon to be very disorderly, & out of Truth, thought fit to give you an Account therof (inasmuch as both his Proposition of Marriage was laid, & depended, before your Monthly Meeting, & his disorderly accomplishmt. therof was done at a Meeting belonging therunto;) hoping yt you wil take such notice therof, as not to suf-
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fer so great a disorder, & of so evil Example, to pass without the reproof & censure yt is due therunto, especially in one whom we have good ground to suspect to be of a loose & blameable conversation. So leaving this Matter to your care, & consideration in ye wisdom of God, so to proceed herein as ye Lord shal direct you for ye clearing of Truth, & putting a curb upon such loose & unruly spirits, we again salute you in ye love of ye Lord, & in ye service of his blessed Truth, remain

Your friends & Brethren

From our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, for ye upper side of ye County of Bucks, this 7th day of ye 10th. month 1685.

Edward Hoare Ralph Trumper Joseph Stevens
Wm. Baker Edw: Butterfeild Charles Peirce
Thomas Dell Thomas Ellwood Wm. Russell
Richd. Clipsham Wm. Kidder Nich: Larcum
Robt. Jones Tho: Redman John Puddivatt
Thomas Olliffe Alex: Merrick John Wootton
John Penington John Wells Geo: Salter
Nicholas Noy Wm. Grimsdall John Costard
Wm. Loddington Samll. Wilson Henry Treadway
Henry Costard Danll. Roberts John White
Henry Child James Smith John Jagger.

This letter, superscribed to our Friends & Brethren

of the Monthly Meeting holden at Kensworth, was committed to Robt. Jones, Wm. Loddington & Tho: Ellwood, whom this Meeting appointed to go with the same to ye said Meeting at Kensworth, & there to open ye matter more fully, as Occasion shall offer & need require.

William Eburne & Mary Dean, who in ye 8th month past proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of the Meeting therunto. But ye Meeting understanding yt ye said Mary had, a little before her acquaintance wth ye said William, entertained one Edward Wier of Amersham Tayler, upon a Treaty of Marryage between them, & yt so far, yt ye said Ed-
ward layeth a Claim unto her, thought fit to defer any further proceeding therein, until that matter be cleared, & Hen: Child & Jo: Costard were desired to go with her to ye said Edward, & hear them face to face.

[Intention of Marriage between Philip Thompson of Flanden Blacksmith, & Constance Thompson of Haddenham, spinster. John Wells & Henry Costard appointed to inquire; Constance to bring a Certificate both of her parents' consent & her own clearness from the M.M. in Oxfordshire to which they belong, and where she formerly lived.]

John Wells acquainting ye Meeting that the Meetinghouse in Watford is presented at ye Sessions, this Meeting refer'd the friends of Watford to ye Meeting for Sufferings in London for advice & assistance therin.

[84r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 4th: of 11th mo: 1685.

Tho: Ellwood gave an Account, yt Robt. Jones, Wm. Loddington & he, according to ye Appointmt. of ye last Meeting, did go to Kenworth on ye day yt they understood ye Monthly Meeting was wont to be held there, but yt when they came thither, they found yt ye Friends of yt Country have no constant settled monthly Meeting for business, but only meet when any particular foreseen Occasion cal's them therunto. Wherfore getting as many of them together as they could, they opened unto them ye business wch drew them thither (wch related to Matthew Gray of Tring) & withal delivered ye Letter wch was signed at ye last Meeting here. Which being openly read amongst them, no answer was then given therto, but one of ye Friends *(viz. Jo: Crooke) declared, yt it being left to their consideration, they would take some other time to consider of it, & so departed.

Roger Dancer & Joseph Weston having been appointed in ye 9th month last, to make inquiry concerning ye Clearness & orderly Conversation of Matthew Gray of Tring (who then came hither for a Certificate in order to Marriage) & hindred from coming at ye last Meeting to give an Account therof, ye said Roger Dancer came now, & acquainted ye Meeting yt they did not † (find) but yt ye said]
Matthew might be clear from any engagements of marriage; but yet as to his conversation, he had been disorderly & scandalous, particularly, yet not long since, he had been so drunk, yet he swore desperately, & tore his son's coat, which ye said Roger had from ye young mans own mouth whose coat was torn, & who both saw him drunk & heard him swear, whose name is Francis Weston. And Joseph Weston by writing acquainted ye Meeting, yt this Matthew Gray & one William Wright (a man of ye world) were both drunk together, since ye drunken fit before mentioned.

Henry Child & John Costard acquainted ye Meeting, that they had met with Mary Dean of Chalfont at Edward Wyer's house, & that after pretty much discourse had passed between him & her, wherein he laboured to bring her to a plain acknowledgmet. of ye engagement. yt had been between them, he did at length clear & release her, declaring in their hearing yt he left her at free liberty to marry to another man. But this being only by word of mouth, not in writing, the Meeting thought fit to acquaint William Eburn & Mary Dean, yt it would be both more satisfactory to friends, & also more safe for them themselves, to have a discharge from ye said Edward Wyer in writing under his hand, before they proceeded any further, & in order therunto did put it unto them, whether they could be contented to tarry til another Meeting, to see if such a discharge might be obtained; wch proposition each of them consenting to, ye further proceeding was therupon respite, & Hen: Child & John Costard were desired to use their endeavour in ye mean time to get such a discharge in Writing.

John Costard acquainted ye Meeting yt ye Charge of maintaining ye Poor of Amersham Meeting hath a long time layn hard upon yt Meeting, & is now grown heavier than they are wel able to bear; & therfore desired some assistance. Which request this Meeting took into consideration, & promised to contrive some way for their assistance at ye next Meeting.

[84v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 1st. of 12th: mo: 85. The Meeting taking notice of ye account given at last meeting of

(18) "Son" = "Son-in-law."
ye drunkenness & disorders of Matthew Gray of Tring, did order James Smith & William Baker to visit him & lay his disorderly walking before him.

The Condition of Amersham Meeting being taken into consideration, a Collection was made for their assistance, to wch was laid down, from

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<td>Wooburn</td>
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<td>Chalfont</td>
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<td>Chesham</td>
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<td>Meadle Meeting</td>
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<td>Alisbury &amp;c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flandell &amp;c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watford</td>
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Of this sum ye Meeting ordered forty shillings to Amersham Meeting, wch was now delivered to Henry Child. The other 3li : 1s was left in Tho: Ellwood’s hands as the stock of this Meeting.

*(Stock, 3li, 1s., see 10th mo: 86.)*

This Meeting understanding yt One Eliz: Grey, Grand child to ye widow Grey of Amersham, was lately sent from Uxbridge, where she was a servant, to Amersham to be kept by friends there, being lame & not able to keep herself, & finding upon inquiry, yt her Parents lived at Longfords in Middlesex, & she herself was settled at Uxbridge both before & since her lameness; ye Meeting ordered Tho: Dell & Wm. Grimsdall to speak wth some of ye Friends of Uxbridge & particularly with Ann Swift (from whom a letter concerning this matter was now read in ye Meeting) & let them know, That it is ye judgmt. of this Meeting, yt ye said Eliz: Grey doth not belong to this Meeting at Amersham, nor ought to be put as a charge upon any Meeting in this County. And yt therfore this Meeting doth desire ye Friends of Uxbridge to remove ye said Eliz: Grey back again; wch in case they refuse or neglect to do, it is then ye agreemt. of this Meeting, yt ye Friends of Amersham do, within two weeks space at
furthest, reconvey ye said Eliz: Grey to Uxbridge from whence she came.

William Eburne & Mary Dean came again for ye Answer of ye Meeting to their proposition of Marriage, & ye Meeting receiving a Release in Writing from Edward Wier of Amersham to ye said Mary Dean, did permit ye said William Eburne & Mary Dean to take each other in Marriage amongst Friends.

[Assent given to Philip Thompson & Constant Thompson. (Vide under date 7.x.85)]

Thomas Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting, yt since ye last Meeting he received advice from London, yt ye Attorny General hath issued out Warrants to ye Clerks of Assize & Peace in al Counties, to give Account of ye Quaker sufferings on 2oli a Month &c; & yt he therupon had been wth ye Clerk of Peace for a List of their Names; The Meeting ordered Tho: Dell to go to ye Clerk of Assizes at London, for a like List. &c.

[85 r]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st. of 1st. month 1689.

William Baker acquainted ye Meeting yt James Smith & he had spoken with Matthew Gray of Tring, & found him at ye first rough & surly, rejecting ye care & visit of ye Meeting, & extenuating his own miscarriages; but at length somewhat more calm & smooth, owning in some measure yt he had done amiss. The Meeting agreed to visit him again by James Smith & Daniel Roberts, who were desired to use their endeavours to bring him to a sense & acknowledgmt. of his drunkenness and disorders, And to let him know yt if he do not publickly clear Truth from ye scandall of his evil conversation, a concern wil come upon Friends to do it.

The Meeting understanding that Elizabeth Grey ye younger had, according to ye direction of ye last Meeting, been conveyed to Uxbridge, but sent back again to Amersham; And some friends of Uxbridge being here, & not seeming satisfied yt ye said Elizabeth Grey should belong to yt Meeting; A Conference about it was therupon proposed to be between a certain number of ye friends of this Meeting & of Longford monthly Meeting, of wch Uxbridge is a Member. Which ye friends here present from Uxbridge agreeing to in ye be-
half of their monthly Meeting, Hen: Child, Henry Treadway, Tho: Dell & Wm. Grimsdall were nominated to meet wth a like number of Friends from Longford Meeting upon ye 11th day of this Instant at Uxbridge, there to treat of agree & settle ye said business.

The Meeting understanding yt, since ye last Meeting, a scandalous clamour is broken forth in this Country, by occasion of a great Miscarriage committed by William Eburne, in carrying away another man’s Wood in the night time, wch upon examination himself confessed, & that Mary Dean was privy therto: Wherby ye mouth of ye world was opened in reproach not only agt. them, but also agt. Truth & Friends. Which the Meeting taking notice of, did order Henry Child & William Grimsdall to visit & reprove ye said William Eburn & Mary Dean, & endeavour to make them sensible of ye Evil: And withal to let them know, yt as before Friends had no Unity wth them nor could receive or own them as Members of ye body; but only in condescension to their & others weakness did yeild to permit them to take each other in marriage in some of Friends Meetings, no publick Scandal appearing then upon them: so now, since by this foul miscarriage they have given an outward demonstration of their being out of both Truth & common honesty, Friends cannot at present permit them to take each other in Marriage in any Meeting of friends but desire they may come to such a sense of their evil as to evidence their repentance by a godly sorrow & care & endeavour to clear Truth & Friends publickly from ye reproach they have brought upon it.

Tho: Ellwood acquainting ye Meeting yt he had procured from ye Deputy Clerk of ye peace a List of al Presentmts. of late years, The Meeting therupon ordered T. E. to give ye said Clerk as a reward & Gratuity for his pains & kindnes therin 20s. or somewhat more if he & Tho: Dell, who was also concerned therin with him should see cause therfore.

[85v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th. of 2d. month 86.

The Friends appointed by ye last Meeting to visit Matthew Gray of Tring, acquainted ye Meeting yt they found him very surly & re-
fractory, so far from offering to clear truth from ye scandal of his un-
savoury conversation, yt he was rather ready to fly out in menacing
terms agt. Friends, in case they should proceed further agt. him, wch
this Meeting taking into consideration, & finding no further
drawings to visit him again, thought fit, for ye clearing of truth from
ye reproach of his evil life, to give forth a Testimony agt. him; wch
Hen: Child, Wm. Grimsdall, Peter Prince & Tho: Ellwood, or any
two of them, were desired to draw up agt. ye next Meeting.

Daniel Whearly of London Woollen Draper, & Mary Penington,
of Chalfont Meeting, (daughter of Isaac & Mary Penington deceased)
propounded their intention to take each other in Marriage, desiring
ye advice & assistance of this Meeting therin. And ye said Daniel
produced a Certificate from ye two weeks Meeting in London (dated
ye 15th day of ye 12th: mo: 1685, & subscribed by 33 friends) con-
cerning his clearnes, &c. In wch Certificate, Intimation was given,
yt Samll Boulton of London Goldsmith, had, in ye Monthly Meeting
at London, opposed ye granting of ye said Certificate, alleging
some former Engagemt. between himself & ye said Mary Penington.
After ye reading of wch Certificate, A letter sent from ye said Samll.
Boulton, directed to this Meeting, was unsealed & read; ye import
wherof was, That he was solemnly ingaged to her ye said M.P. a be-
trothed Husband, & she to him a betrothed Wife; wth offer of proof
therof. Hereupon a great concern fel upon friends, & a most solemn
& weighty retirem't, in spirit came over ye Meeting, in wch some
Counsel was tenderly given, by divers friends, to ye propounding
Couple, & some Questions askt them; after wch, the Meeting ap-
pointed Hen: Child & John Morton to inquire concerning ye clear-
ness of ye said Mary Penington from any other Engagemts. of like
nature, as also of her Conversation in truth: And further ye Meeting
appointed Tho: Olliffe, who was to go to London, to acquaint S:
Boulton yt Danl. Whearly & Mary Penington had propounded their
intention of Marriage before ye Meeting; & yt Samuel's Letter was
publickly read in ye Meeting; & yt ye Meeting had engaged Danl.
Whearly to give Samuel timely notice when he should come with ye
said Mary Penington to this Meeting again for Answer to their Pro-
position; At wch time if he ye said Saml. Boulton should think fit to
prosecute & make proof of his Claim to her here, this Meeting
would give him a fair & impartial hearing, & do therein according to Truth & Justice.

The Friends appointed by ye last Meeting here to meet, confer & treat wth some friends of Longford monthly Meeting about ye settlemt. of Eliz. Grey ye younger, acquainted ye Meeting yt they had met, Agreed & concluded yt matter, ye terms of wch Agreemt. they now delivered to ye Meeting in writing, wch ye Meeting ordered to be carefully kept, but, by reason of much other business, had not † (now) time to examine the particulars of.

The Friends appointed by ye last Meeting to speak wth Wm. Eburne & Mary Dean, acquainted ye Meeting yt they found them very unsensible of Truth, endeavouring to hide & extenuate ther Evil, & only sorry (so far as they could discern) for ye shame & discredit they had brought upon themselves, & stop they had put to their intended Marriage. And another friend, who had spoken with ye † (said) Wm. Eburn & Mary Dean, declared yt the Woman hath since exprest her dislike of & averseness to Friends Meetings. Al wch ye Meeting considering, thought fit to appoint John Morton & John Costard to speak wth ye said Wm. Eburn & Mary Dean, & let them know, yt this Meeting cannot own them as friends, nor in any wise give way yt they should take each other in Marriage [erasure] among friends, or in any of friends Meetings. And yt if they shal attempt to do it agt. friends minds, they wil therby engage friends to give forth a publick Testimony agt. them.

A letter from ye Meeting of Sufferings in London, dated 26:1st: mo: 86. was read, & care taken to act accordingly.

[86 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of ye 3d: mo: 1686

The Friends appointed to draw up a Testimony agt. Mathew Gray of Tring, did now present one, wch, being read & approved, was signed, & is as followeth.

It was the trouble & complaint of ye people of God in ages past, yt some persons crept in amongst them, & in outward shew appeared, for some time, to own the same Principles & walk in ye same profession with them, who yet, not being
really & heartily of them, did but serve to bring a reproach upon ye Godly, by their ungodly conversation; The same cause of trouble & complaint have ye people of God called Quakers in this age: for in this day of ye Lord's gathering a peculiar people to himself, some persons have somtimes resorted to ye Meetings of God's people, & made in some measure profession of ye Truth; but not learning indeed of yt saving Grace, wch teaches to deny Ungodlines & worldly Lusts, & to live soberly, righteously & godly in this present world, they have brought greif & trouble upon the upright hearted, reproach & scandal upon ye way of Truth, wch they pretended to walk in. Of this number is MATHEW GRAY OF TRING, who though he hath, for divers years, so far appeared in the outward profession of Truth, as therby by some to be reputed a Quaker, yet not coming into subjection to that divine power, wch brings down & keeps down ye inordinate desires of ye mind, he hath run into a loose & unsavoury Conversation, keeping Company wth Drunkards, spending too much of his time in Tiplinghouses, & taking to himself a greater Liberty in Drinking, than could stand wth Truth or common Sobriety. Which his loose & disorderly Walking hath divers times been laid before him, & he in a Christian way & manner dealt with & reproved therefore: but instead of being humbled before ye Lord & his People, & manifesting a godly sorrow & true Repentance for his evil courses, he hath appeared in a surly, rough temper & frame of mind, & hath manifested a wrong spirit to be in him, not honestly & plainly acknowledging, but craftily endeavouring to hide his miscarriages, wch he yt doth shal not prosper, Prov. 28. 13. As therfore we have discharged our christian duty towards him in Counsel, Exhortation, Admonition & Reproof; so (yt none may impute his disorders to us, nor charge his loose Conversation upon ye Principle we hold & profess) we find a concern yet further upon us, in discharge of our duty to God & to his Truth, & to ye holy profession we make therof, to testify & declare (which hereby we do) unto al to whom these lines shal come, yt we have no Unity, fellowship nor Communion wth ye said Matthew Gray, nor do own or repute him to be one
of us, however he may, in our publick Meetings, thrust himself amongst us. In witness wherof we (who are some of ye said people called Quakers living in the parts adjacent) have hereunto set our hands at our monthly Meeting holden at Hunger Hill for the service of ye Church of Christ in these parts, this third day of ye third month 1686.

Edward Hoare  John White  Thomas Olliffe
Henry Costard  Daniel Roberts  William Baker
Richard Clipsham  George Salter  James Smith
Thomas Dell  Peter Prince  Thomas White
Henry Child  George Belch  Philip Thompson
Tho: Redman  John Morton  Ralph Trumper
William Kidder  Samuel Wilson  John Thornton
Edmund Belson  Jeremiah Stevens  Thomas Ellwood
John Penington

The Meeting ordered a Copy of this Testimony to be sent to Matthew Gray himself, & respited ye further publication therof until this Meeting shal give further order therin.

The Friends appointed by ye last Meeting to deliver ye Message of ye Meeting to William Eburn & Mary Dean, having been divers times to seek & speak with them, but could not find them; it so fell out yt ye said William Eburn came now to this Meeting, wch gave both those friends before appointed, an Opportunity in private to deliver their Message unto him, & the Meeting also publickly to declare unto him ye mind & sense of ye Meeting, wch was to this Effect, That as before they could not give consent to their marrying among Friends as such whom they had unity with, but did only condescend to permit them to take each other in Marriage in a Meeting of Friends, as persons not then under present & open scandal: so now since providence had brought their Naughtiness to light, & by discovering their evil Deeds had given an Outward Demonstration yt ye inward Sense of ye Meeting had formerly of them was true, this Meeting cannot now in any wise permit them to take each other in Marriage in any Meeting of Friends, until they see Fruits of true Repentance & godly sorrow brought forth in & by them.
[Intention of marriage between Nicholas Noy of Cheping Wycomb Bodysmaker & Grace Bovingdon of Great Marlow, widow. (Relict of John Bovingdon late of Great Marlow aforesaid, yeoman, deceased) Samuel Wilson & Thomas Redman appointed to inquire.]

Daniel Whearly & Mary Penington, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention to take each other in Marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting. And Samuel Boulton (who at ye last Meeting had entred a Claim to ye said Mary Penington as his betrothed Wife) was put upon ye proofe of his Claim. Wherupon he gave a verbal account of ye rise & progress of their affections to each other, then offered to read a paper containing (as he said) some passages taken out of her letters to him. Agt. ye reading wherof M. P. objected, 1st. That her letters to him & his to her, with al Presents Tokens yt had passed between them, had long since, by mutual consent, been delivered back to each other, with solemn promise that no advantage, or use, should ever after be made, agt. each other, of anything contained in those letters. And that therupon she receiving her own letters, had burnt them. 2d. That ye paper he offered to read was not entire Copies of her letters, but peices only & parcels picked out here & there by himself, never compared by her with ye Originals; & yt it was but a transcript of a transcript & no Authentick Evidence. Wherupon a Question arose in ye Meeting Whether that paper were fit to be read in ye Meeting or not. And after a long debate therupon, M. P. herself, to remove ye difficulty, & ease the Meeting, desired it might be read; & accordingly it was. S. B. also produced a Writing from his brother. Job Boulton, another paper of his own writing, but no personal Evidence. Which the Meeting calling for, he alleadged yt his brother Job intended to have come, but was prevented by an hand of providence; The Meeting not willing to enter upon her defense until he had finished the proofs of his claime, did desire & press him to produce at ye next Monthly Meeting here whatsoever further Evidence he hath, personal or other; wch he promised to do. And so for ye present they were dismist, her Reply & Defence being referd to ye next Meeting, when he shal have finished his proofs.

Job Boulton or Bolton lived in Lombard St. and Meeting for Sufferings was at first held at his house.
The Meeting understanding yt an account was now taken of ye Clerk of the Assizes’ book as wel as out of ye Book of ye Clerk of ye peace, {& not having} of ye Names of such as stand presented or indicted in each; & not having time to examine those accounts or Lists now, nor thinking it convenient to delay it so long as to another Meeting, did commit ye examination & care therof to a certain Number of friends, vizt. Wm. Kidder, Tho. Dell, Wm. Loddington, Hen: Child, Dan: Roberts, John White, Robt. Jones, Wm. Baker, Philip Thompson; who agreed to Meet together (with any other faithful friends yt should have freedom to joyn with them) at ye widow Harrison’s house at Amersham on the second day of ye next week, wch wil be ye 10th instant, about ye tenth hour in ye forenoon, to consider what may be fit to be done for ye releif of such friends as are or are like to be sufferers in that way.

[87r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of ye 4th mo: 1686.
Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting that ye friends at ye last Meeting appointed to examin ye Lists of names taken out of ye Books of the Clerks of ye Assize & Peace; & to consider what might be done for ye releif of such Friends as are or are like to be Sufferers in yt way, had met & drawn † (out) {up} ye Names of Friends from among ye rest, & sent them up to ye Correspondent of this County in London, & yt therupon a Warrant is obtained from ye Attorney General for their Releif. The Meeting considering yt this matter related to ye whole County, referd ye further Account & consideration therofto ye Quarterly Meeting.

The Meeting understanding that John Lucas of Wingrove, who had been early convinced of ye Truth, & for divers years had walked in ye profession therof; & suffered much for ye same, in bearing Testimony agt. Tithes, hath for some years of late grown cold & been declining, & in a manner wholly forsaken ye profession of Truth, it was thought fit & agreed that he should be visited & sought after in ye restoring love of God, & it was committed to Robt. Jones & John White senr. to visit him, & inquire the cause of his withdrawing himself from Meetings, & endeavour to reach unto & raise that in him by wch he was once in some measure quickened.
The business depending before this Meeting between Saml. Boulton & Mary Penington, was resumed & briefly opened; but before ye particulars therof were entred into a great Exercise of spirit came upon ye Meeting, & a strong travel in ye love of God, & in ye openings of his life & heavenly Counsell in ye hearts of his sensible Ones, which ran through very many, in a concurrent Stream, by way of advice & request unto S. B. that he would withdraw his Claim, & freely & absolutely, for Truth's sake & ye Churches peace, give up & relinquish whatever pretence he had to M. P. But when this Travel had continued long on ye Spirits of ye Friends of & in ye Meeting, & S. B. could not be prevailed on, further than †(to say) in general terms that he gave up ye matter to ye Lord or to ye Truth, & yt †(what) this Meeting should determine therin, he would not hereafter either utter a word or harbour a thought agt, ye Meeting proceeded to a further hearing of ye Cause, desiring S. B. to produce what other Evidences he had to offer. Whereupon S. B. declared yt a Woman Friend (whom he named) living in another County was able to say yt some of those passages wch he had formerly recited out of M. P.'s letters to him were true, but yt yt friend was not willing to appear as an Evidence either in person or by writing. He also called upon Alex: Parker & Ben: Antrobus to speak their knowledge as to a Contract or Espousal between M. P. & him, wch they did, either of them declaring yt he did †(not) know any thing wch he believed did amount to an Espousal. Job Boulton, being present, gave in Evidence ye same in substance delivered from him in writing before. S. B. also urging a Paper of Advice from ye yearly Meeting in 1675, it was read. [Vide Appendix B] When S. B. had declared he had done his Proofs, M. P. was admitted to make her Defence; Wherupon she delivered to ye Meeting a Paper containing the general state of her case from ye very beginning to ye present time, & another Paper containing ye particular matters & things yt turned & estranged her love from S. B. She produced also a letter from S. B. wherin he gave up ye matter to ye witness of God in her Relations, wth their Sense therupon; also a letter from her bro: & sister Penn, shewing their knowledge in ye Case, a letter & Paper from her

Father
S. B.
With
B. M.
Meeting of the
Father I. P. manifesting his & his Wife's dislike to S. B. & her proceeding, also a Testimonial from a Friend (John Hull) concerning S. B.'s offer of giving her up to another friend in case he desired it; With divers verbal Evidences tending to ye clearing of her from S. B., Memorials or Minutes of wch being taken in Writing, & ye Meeting having held long, & day far spent, ye further Consideration of the whole matter was referred to another Meeting.  

[87 v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 5th mo: 1686.
Robt. Jones gave account yt he & John White had visited John Lucas of Wingrove, & found him much clouded & darkned in his understanding, pretending to own ye Principle of Truth stil, though he kept not in ye practice it leads to. Wherupon ye Meeting agreed to visit him again, & committed it to James Smith & Henry Child, to endeavour to make him sensible of the danger of his condition.

A paper being read yt came from ye Quarterly Meeting concerning a general Collection for ye service of Truth & suffering Friends, & this Meeting having Unity therwith, did agree to recommend ye same to ye particular Meetings belonging to this. In order to wch a paper being drawn up, was read & signed as followeth.

Dear Friends & Brethren,

In the Opening love of God, & Felowship of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we tenderly salute you, letting you understand, yt at ye last Quarterly Meeting for this County of Bucks, an Epistle from ye last Yearly Meeting was read, wch gave an Account, (amongst other things) yt by reason of ye great Sufferings yt have of late been upon Friends, in most Counties throughout

(40) Friends House Library has a MS. declaration (Portfolio 36.57) endorsed “Ambrose Riggs paper in opposition to what he writ of Sam. Boulton concern (sic) Mary Pennington,” which reads as follows, “I understood yt Samuell Bolton & Mary pennington had been at 2 meetings in order to finish their Intended Marryage & that he had ye Consent of her parents & herself thereto & ye Consent of ye meetings, but having seen a Letter under Samuell Bolton's hand wherein he freely gave it up to her parents & Relations, & they having given their Judgment agt. it, it wholy rests there, & ye meeting hath nothing to doe with it as I understand now but did not then when I writ to them.

Witness my hand this 15th of 11th mo. 1686. a
ye Nation, wch hath occasioned great charges & expences, the mony wch. some years since, was charitably & cheerfully contributed to ye releif & assistance of suffering Friends, is al laid out, & much more; And yt therefore it was unanimously agreed by ye said Yearly Meeting, yt there be a full Contribution recommended to al the Meetings of our Friends & Brethren in England & Wales, for ye reimbursing Friends at London yt have laid out much mony for ye service aforesaid; And also for the further releif of our poor Friends yt are, or may hereafter be in sufferings for their faithful Testimony to ye Truth. Which good & pious work the said Quarterly Meeting feeling unity with in the Truth, did Unanimously recommend ye same to ye several Monthly Meetings belonging to this County, desiring yt from ye said Monthly Meetings it might be recommended to al ye particular Meetings belonging therunto. In pursuance wherof we, whose names are underwritten, being this day solemnly met together at our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill, & feeling Unity in ye Truth wth ye service before mentioned, do in ye Opening love of God, & tender spirit of Jesus, unanimously recommend ye same to al ye particular Meetings belonging to this Monthly Meeting, hoping yt all faithful & sensible Friends in each of ye particular Meetings aforesaid, in ye Unity & sympathizing spirit of Truth, wil cheerfully contribute to this good & xtian work, according as ye Lord hath outwardly blessed them, & shal inwardly open & enlarge their hearts therunto. And what monies shal be contributed in ye Love of God, by ye Uprighthearted, as their free-will Offering for ye service of Truth, we desire may be brought in to ye next monthly Meeting here, (if it can conveniently be) or at furthest to ye next after that, yt it may be in readiness at our next Quarterly Meeting, to be added to what shal in like manner be contributed by Friends of ye lower side of ye County. So in brotherly love, & in the fellowship of ye Gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord, we remain your Friends & Brethren.

Signed at our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill this 5th. day of the 5th. month 1686.
Henry Costard  Alexander Merrick  Josiah Lane
Richard Clipsham  William Baker  Charles Peirce
Robert Jones  Daniel Roberts  Samuel Wilson
Ralph Trumper  William Grimsdall  Philip Thompson
John Morton  John Penington  Joseph Stevens
Henry Child  John Thornton  Peter Prince
Joseph Welch  William Loddington  John White
George Salter  Thomas Olliffe  Thomas Crouch
Richard Dell  Thomas White  Roger Dancer
William Kidder  James Smith  Thomas Redman
George Mead  Thomas Dell  Henry Perce
Edward Hoare  Edmund Belson  Nicholas Noy
Thomas Ellwood  Daniel Pearce

Agreed yt Coppies of ye foregoing paper be sent to the particular Meetings belonging unto this.

A Complaint being made at this Meeting by Margaret Towerton wife of Henry Towerton now or late of Saunderton, agt. Jeremiah Stevens of Wiccomb, yt he had done injury to her husband; ye matter was commited to Hen: Costard, Wm. Baker, N. Noy, Wm. Grimsdall, Ja: Smith, Alex: Merrick, Hen: Child, Wm. Loddington, Tho: Redman & Jo: Morton, to hear ye parties face to face, & endeavour to compose the difference yt is between them.

The case depending before this Meeting between Samuel Boulton & Mary Penington was again opened, & a great Exercise & deep travell of spirit did therupon fal upon ye Meeting, as formerly, with much labour, in ye love of God, & in ye powerful workings of his spirit in'ye hearts of his faithful ones by way of advice & counsell to S. B. to give up & relinquish his pretence to M. P. And he stil al-leadjing yt he did not yet see it to be his place, & had not satisfaction so to do, ye Exercise & travel at length abated, & ye Meeting entred into a further Examination of ye Cause. And inasmuch as at ye last Meeting a Paper of M. P.'s was read containing an Account of some Particular Passages that turned & estranged her Affection from S. B. wch paper at yt Meeting there was not time for S. B. to make any Ob-jections to; This Meeting being desirous to give S. B. a ful & fair
hearing throughout, did think fit to have yt paper now read again, yt S. B. might object agt. any part therof, whose Answer to ye several Particulars therin being breifly & summarly taken down in the minutes of ye Meeting, & some letters read at S. B.'s desire to give further light to his Claim, he therupon exprest himself to be sensible of ye love & tenderness of ye Meeting towards † (him), & desirous † (both) to come as near in this case to friends as with satisfaction to his own mind he possibly could, & also to disappoint ye design of an evil spirit wch he was sensible was watching & seeking for Occasion of Mischeif agt. the Truth & Friends of this Meeting upon this affair. Wherupon taking a Pen he wrote in ye Meeting these following lines.

CONCERNING THE BUSINESS of Mary Penington & myself, at ye first I did desire ye Truth might take place in her heart & mine, & do truly resign ye Concern to ye Lord, & am contented ye Friends should take their liberty to do as in ye Truth they shall be directed, And am truly sensible yt their labour is in love, & what they do in this concern I beleive as they beleive they are required of ye Lord, amongst whom I have been greatly comforted; And what they do in this Concern I shal not blame them for, but do beleive ye Members of Hunger Hill-Meeting to be Friends of God, each of them judging according to their measures for Truth, & yt ye Lord is with them, & what they shal do herein I shal acquiesce in. Witness nay hand, The 5th day 5mo: 1686.

Samuel Boulton

This paper being writ & openly read in ye Meeting, & ye day too far spent to proceed further at ye present, ye further Consideration of ye whole matter was refereed to another Meeting.

[88 v]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of 6th: mo: 1686.

Henry Child gave an Account, yt James Smith & he, with some  

(41) This shows the Minute Book to be a fair copy of rough notes taken at the time, as is now the general custom, S.B.'s "Answer" being omitted in copying in view of his subsequent declaration. The Quarterly Meeting minutes, however, appear to have been written straight into the book, thus giving Charles Harris and John Raunce an opportunity to endorse them on the same day. (Vide Introduction: Separatists.)
other friends, had visited John Lucas, who though he seemed to receive the visit in love, yet manifested himself to be very much darkned & clouded in his understanding & mind, not looking upon it as needful or profitable to go to Meetings at al, accounting yt but bodily labour yt profits not. Which pernitious Errour those friends endeavoured to manifest unto him, & make him sensible of ye danger of, & so left him. And no friend expressing any drawings to visit him again, ye meeting thought fit for the present to forbear, & wait to see what Effect yt visit may have.

Friends of Alisbury acquainted ye Meeting, that the Owner of the house or Room where their Meeting is held once in a month at Rowsam intends to make use of it himself, & is not willing to let it them any longer; & that they cannot yet gain any other Room or place in yt town to continue the Meeting in there; & therfore desired ye advice of this Meeting about ye Removal therof. The Meeting's advice to them was, not to remove it absolutely & for altogether; but only for the present to let it be at Alisbury until the same or some other convenient Meeting-place can be obtained again at Rowsam, & to use their utmost diligence in ye meantime to procure one.

An Account being given that Jane † (Turner) (who formerly lived at Alisbury, & of late years hath gone from thence & rambled up & down in her own wil) hath lately by a fal out of a Cart, broke her arm, or dislocated some bone, by reason wherof, besides the present charge in bonesetting, she is like to prove a greater charge for ye future than heretofore, being now disabled from working at al; a question was therupon put, to what Meeting she ought now to be reputed to belong, the Friends of Alisbury thinking themselves discharged of her by her own voluntary & wilful departure, & long absence. But upon inquiry it appearing, that since her departure from Alisbury, she hath never yet been joyned to, or received by any other Meeting, as a Member therof, It is the judgmt. of this Meeting that in respect of charge she doth yet belong to Alisbury Meeting, & that ye concern of takeing care of her doth yet ly upon the Friends therof; yet so, as that if the Charge therof prove too heavy for them to bear, this Meeting, upon notice therof, wil take care that they may have assistance therin.
[Intention of marriage between Nicholas Larcum of Aylesbury Tayler, & Mary Merrick also of Aylesbury Spinster. Thomas Olliffe & William Baker appointed to inquire.]

Of the Collection recommended from the last Meeting, there was now brought in from Flanden & Watford - 2li : 0os : 07d. wch was left wth T. E. til ye rest of ye Meetings come in.

The busines of Samll. Bolton & Ma. Penington was again proposed, for ye Meeting, having already heard ye allegations & proofs of either party to weigh & consider of, in order to bring it to a conclusion. But ye Meeting finding, yt by ye precedent businesses ye day was already pretty far spent, & yt ye reviewing ye papers & Memorials delivered in on both parts {would} & ye due consideration therof, would require more time than now remained, agreed to defer that business til the next Meeting & then to meet by the 8th: hour in ye morning, yt if possible, there may be time to go through it.

[89 r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6th: of 7th: month 1686.

The Collections from ye several Meetings belonging to this, wch was agreed in ye 5th mo: past to be made for ye releif of Suffering friends, &c. were now brought in as followeth, viz. from

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This 28l: 02s: 04d was committed to Peter Prince, who undertook by return to pay it in London when ye Collection is compleated for ye County.

The Meeting understanding yt one Andrew Brothers of Dorney, who goeth under ye name & profession of a Quaker, hath of late disordered himself with drinking overmuch, & is also complained of by his wife for misbehaving him towards her, & yt some of Wooburn Meeting, (to wch he uses to resort) have dealt with † (him) about it, but are rejected by him, thought meet yt he should be visited from this Meeting, & William Kidder & Nicholas Noy undertook it.

The business of Samll. Boulton & Mary Penington was now again resumed, & the severall Papers, Allegations & Evidences formerly offered on either side, again read over, examind & weighed, in order to draw it to a conclusion: But ye Cause being long, the Particulars many, & the whole matter of great weight & moment, requiring much Consideration; & many Friends necessitated to depart, by reason of ye length of their journey & the approaching Night, the Meeting was forced to leave ye Conclusion therof until another Meeting.

[Assent given to Nicholas Larkum & Mary Merrick (vide under date 2.vi.86)], ye said Nicholas producing a Certificate of his Parents consent.

[89 v]
At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of ye 8th: mo: 86.

The General Collection for releif of suffering Friends, &c. being compleated at ye Quarterly Meeting last week, the Account therof was, that there was brought in from ye Meetings of

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wch added to ye monies brought in at the last monthly Meeting here, being.

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makes ye whole Collection now to be.

Which sum Peter Prince is to pay in London to some of ye Friends appointed to receive it, & take a Receipt for it. *(see 9th: mo: 86)*

Nicholas Noy acquainted ye Meeting yt Wm Kidder & he had not yet an opportunity to visit Andrew Brothers, but yt they intend shortly to do it.

The Cause yt had so long depended before this Meeting between Samuel Boulton & Mary Penington, was again taken into consideration; And after a ful weighing therof, the Meeting unanimously came to an Agreemt. & Conclusion therin; which being drawn up in writing, & twice read over in the Meeting, was by the Meeting approved off, & ordered to be entred in this Book, as followeth; vizt.

Upon a ful hearing of the Cause depending before this Meeting between Samuel Boulton & Mary Penington, & a deliberate weighing of the several Allegations, Proofs & Evidences offered to this Meeting by them on either side, it appears to this Meeting (amongst other things) that by a letter of ye said Samuel Boulton's to her Relations, dated the 27th: of ye 4th mo: 1679, wherin (writing particularly of ye Concern between Mary Penington & himself) he says (I do as freely offer up this Matter to the Lord as Abraham offered his son Isaac, desiring that God's will & not mine should be done, And therfore do freely leave it to God & his Witness in your hearts to do as you shall be directed therby, be it WHICH WAY IT WILL, that so if your sense in the Truth is beyond mine, I QUIETLY RESIGN:) The said Samuel Boulton hath wholly put it into the power of her Relations, according to the sense they have in the Truth, to free & clear the said Samuel Boulton & Mary Penington of & from each other. And it also appearing to this Meeting that ye Relations of ye said Mary Penington have solemnly delivered it to be their Sense in the Truth, that the said Samuel Boulton & Mary Penington should be free & clear from each Other; It is ther-
fore ye unanimous Judgment of this Meeting (upon considera-
tion of ye whole matter) yt ye said Mary Penington, is now free &
clear from any Claim ye said Samuel Boulton †(ever) had or
could of right have or make unto her, in relation to Marriage.

Hereupon the Meeting taking notice of the Proposition that was
made in the 2d: mo: past, by Daniell Whearly & the said Mary Pen-
ington, of their intention to take each other in Marriage, & being
fully satisfied yt ye Obstruction hitherto made by Samuel Boulton
was removed, & no other Cause of Obstruction appearing, the said
Daniell Whearly & Mary Penington were †(called in and) left to
their liberty in the Truth, to accomplish their said intended Mar-
riage, according to the way of Truth, & as the Lord shal direct them
therein.

[Intention of Marriage between Simon Thompson of North New-
ton, Oxon, Mason, and Ann Green servant to Jeremiah Stevens of
Wiccomb] ; Simon declaring that he had Certificates from ye Meet-
ing in Oxfordshire to wch he now doth (& she formerly did) belong,
but through some accident had left them behind him. Wherupon
the Meeting ordered him to bring those Certificates at ye next Meet-
ing. & Thomas Redman & William Kidder to make inquiry concern-
ing the maid's Clearrness and orderly walking, since she came to live
in this Country.

The Meeting taking notice that, upon the late death of Edward
Hoare of Missenden, ye Meeting yt was wont to be holden at his
house, is not likely for ye future to be continued there, thought fit
some care should be taken therof, and therfore ordered Daniel
Roberts, Henry Child, Edw. Belson, & Wm. Kidder, to meet at
Missenden as soon as they can, & advise wth those few friends that
are there, how it may best be disposed of.

At a Meeting at Tho : Ellwood's on ye 1st: of ye 9th: mo: 1686.
William Kidder & Nicholas Noy gave account yt they had been
with Andrew Brothers of Dorny, & laid his miscarriages close to
him, & yt at present he seems to be somewhat down & low in his mind,
under a sense of the hand of God in a visitation of sickness upon his family; wch thing ye meeting taking into consideration, thought fit to defer visiting him again for a time, til they see what effect his present affliction may have upon him.

Peter Prince gave Account yt he hath paid the mony collected in this County for ye service of Truth & suffering Friends, being 34li. - 3s. - 4d, to Philip Ford of London, one of the friends appointed by ye Yearly Meeting to receive it, whose Receipt for ye same was here produced & read.

The Friends appointed to confer wth ye Friends of Great Missenden about ye disposal of the Meeting there, gave account, that one Jane Ward, an antient widow woman & a friend living in part of the same house where the Meeting used to be, hath offered her house for that service, desiring the Meeting may be continued there, which this Meeting, understanding to be agreable to ye mind of the Friends there, did consent unto.

The Meeting taking into Consideration the inconveniences that sometimes have been brought upon this Meeting, by persons coming out of another County or Monthly Meeting, upon the account of Marriage, and not bringing Certificates wth them when they came first, but pretending to bring them at their second coming; did Agree (for prevention therof) for ye time to come, not to receive any Proposition for (Marriage) from any person belonging to another County or Monthly Meeting, unless such person do at the same time produce a Certificate from the Meeting unto which they belong, concerning their Clearness, & Consent of Relations, &c.

[Assent given to Simon Tompson & Ann Green. (Vide under date 4.viii. 86)]

[91r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6th: of 10th: mo: 86.

The business of Andrew Brothers of Dorny was again taken notice of, but after some consideration thereof, was thought fit to be deferred yet longer.

The Friends of Aylesbury Meeting gave account yt ye charge of maintaining Jane Turner hath of late proved very expensive to them, & is at present heavier than their Meeting is wel able to bear, & ther-
before desired, that (according to the {Meeting} agreeemt. of this Meeting in the sixth month last) they may have some assistance therein: which ye Meeting taking into consideration, & understanding yt there was in Tho: Ellwood's hand three pounds & Fifteen shillings of ye stock of this meeting remaining from ye 12th: mo: 1685, *(see 12th: mo: 85) did order T. E. to pay yt mony to some of ye Friends of Aylesbury for a present supply for yt Meeting, wch was now done.

NO STOCK REMAINING

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the 3d. of 11th. mo: 1686.

The Case of Andrew Brothers being again taken notice of, the Meeting thought fit to visit him again, to see if he might be brought to a further sense of his evil Courses, & to clear Truth therfrom. And William Loddington & John Gigger were appointed to speak to him about it.

An Account was given that the Widow Ward of Great Missenden was lately dead, & the Friends of that place thereby destitute of a Meeting place. Wherfore this Meeting desired Edward Belson, Henry Costard, John White & James Smith to meet with the friends of Missenden as soon as conveniently they can, & advise & consider wth them how that Meeting may best be disposed of.

[Intention of marriage between Joseph Rose of Aylesbury, Tayler, & Priscilla Williams of Aylesbury Spinster. Both he & she produced Certificates of their Parents' consents. James Smith & William Baker appointed to inquire.]

[91v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwoods on ye 7th: of 12: mo: 86.

William Loddington & John Gigger gave account that having visited Andrew Brothers of Dorny, they found him pretty low and tender, readily confessing his fault, & taking the blame therof upon himself, & appearing sensible of ye love and kindness of friends in visiting him, wch also he hath exprest to several other friends, And Tho: Dell acquainted the Meeting that of late he hath walked more warily, & circumspectly, & behaved himself more orderly than heretofore. All wch the Meeting wel weighing, thought fit to desist
at present from visiting him further, waiting to see what the present exercise that is upon him may produce.

The friends appointed to take care about Missenden Meeting gave account, That having met with the friends of that place, they could not upon inquiry find that any convenient Room could be had in that Town; but that Joseph Graveny & his wife (being of that Meeting) had freely offered their house at Prestwood, wch the other friends accepting of, the Meeting was held there on ye 30th: day of the last month being the first day of the week. And inasmuch as the number of friends therabouts is but small, it was thought fit to be held there but once in a month only, & the friends to repair to other adjacent Meetings on ye other days.

The Meeting considering the great charge that lies upon several Meetings in this Country, and that some public monies ly undisposed & dead, not turning to any profit, agreed to lend the said monies to such honest friend or friends as should be willing to take the same at interest & upon security, committing it to Henry Child & Tho: Ellwood to treat wth any such friends & dispose therof accordingly,

[Assent given to Joseph Rose & Priscilla Williams. (Vide under date 3.xi.86)

Intention of marriage between John Whiting of Chipping Wiccomb, Tayler, & Elizabeth Kingham, servant to William Russell of Jordans. John Morton & William Kidder appointed to inquire.]

[92 r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on the 7th: of the first month 87.

The Meeting not hearing from Andrew Brothers of Dorny, & fearing lest he should sit down short of a thorow Repentance, did agree to visit him now again by Thomas Dell & George Salter, who were desired to acquaint him That friends are glad to hear there is some reformation wrought in him; yet that they wait & desire to see from him an Evidence of the reality & sincerity of his Repentance & sorrow, in a ready & honest willingness to clear Truth & the profession thereof, by a publick Condemnation of his publick Miscarriages, from the scandal he hath therby brought upon it.

John Morton & Henry Child acquainted the Meeting that notwithstanding the Assistance they received in the 12th: mo: 85, the
Meeting of Amersham, by reason of the great & continual Charge that lies upon it for the maintaining of their Poor, & defraying other incident & necessary Charges, is again run into debt, & not well able to undergo the burden thereof without further Assistance from Friends. Which this Meeting taking notice of, agreed to contribute to their Assistance at the next Meeting.

[Assent given to John Whiting & Elizabeth Kingham. (Vide under date 7.xii.86)]

[92 v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the 4th. of 2d. mo: 87.

The Meeting understanding by Tho: Dell & Geo: Salter who at the last meeting were ordered to visit Andrew Brothers, that they found him very low & dejected in spirit, under the sense of the hand of God upon him for his evil Courses, & willing to do what in him lay for the clearing of Truth, did now agree that William Kidder & Thomas Redman should again visit him from this meeting, & advise & encourage him to cast of the weight & burden which lay upon him, by a free & full acknowledgment & condemnation of his miscarriages, & to trust in the Lord for forgiveness thereof.

According to the Agreement of the last Meeting, there was now collected for & towards the relief & help of Amersham Meeting the sum of 5l. 13s. ood. Of which sum the Meeting did now deliver into the hands of John Morton the sum of 3l. both to reimburse the Friends of Amersham Meeting what they are out of purse, & to put some stock into their hands for the future; And did order the remaining 2l. 13s. to lie in the hands of Tho: Ellwood, to supply the like occasion in that or any other Meeting hereafter, as this Meeting shall see cause & give Order therefor. *(see 3d. mo: 87. 9th. mo: 87.)*

[Intention of marriage between Edmund Dunn, junior, of Iver, Husbandman and Susanna Belch of Mill End, Rickmansworth, Spinster. William Loddington and Philip Thompson appointed to inquire.] the said Edmund producing two Certificates, One from his Parents, giving their consent; the other from the mo: Meeting at Longford, signifying his clearness.
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on the 2d. of 3d. mo: 87.

The meeting understanding by Wm. Kidder & Tho: Redman, that they having, according to the agreemt. of ye last Meeting, visited Andrew Brothers, found him stil in a distressed condition, under the sense of ye weight of judgmt. yt lies upon him, by reason of his disorders & unfaithful walking; That he exprest a thankfull sense of the care of Friends over him, & a desire that they wil continue the same; And also that he hath written a paper for clearing Truth, wch being put into wrong hands is withheld from friends: & the Meeting therupon thought fit & agreed that he should be visited again by Richd. Baker Tho: Olliffe & Tho: Dell, or some of them, who are desired in the tender love of God to advise & counsell him as the Lord shal open their hearts therunto, & help him agt. the Assaults of the Enemy; And also endeavour to get the said Paper.

[Assent given to Edmund Dunn & Susanna Belch. (Vide under date 4.ii. 87)]

Tho: Ellwood acquainted the Meeting that Hen: Child & he, according to ye power committed to them by this Meeting in the 12th mo: last, have placed out most of those publick monies, wch were to be disposed. And the Meeting considering that the Accompts of such publick monies, at several times received & disbursed by friends, have never yet been brought into a right & exact method, did now give order that it should be done, & committed the care therof to Robt. Jones, Nicholas Noy, Tho: Dell, Hen: Costard & Tho: Ellwood, or so many of them as can conveniently meet together about it.

The Friends of Flanden & Watford Meeting, not being here at the last Meeting, {when the Collection} when the Collection for the Assistance of Amersham Meeting was made, did now lay down 10s. to that Collection, wch being added to the 2li. 13s. then left in T. E.’s hands, makes the Remainder of that Collection now to be *(9th: mo: 87.) £03 - 03 - 00

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on the 6th: of ye 4th mo: 1687.

The friends appointed by ye last Meeting to visit Andrew Brothers
of Dorney acquainted this Meeting that in their visit they found him very much cast down & dejected in mind, under a deep sense of the heavy displeasure of God upon him for his Evil Courses; so yt he seemed to be near unto despair; yet much affected with the love of Friends towards him, & desiring their Prayers for him. Al which this Meeting tenderly weighing, did think fit & agree to visit him again in compassionate tenderness, being desirous to be helpful to him to stay his mind upon the Lord, wth whom is mercy that he may be feared, & to strengthen him agt. the Assaults & Temptations of the wicked one. To wch Service Thomas Redman & John Thornton offering themselves, it was committed to them.

The Meeting being informed that Damaris Saunders now of Kensington in the County of Middlesex widow, having a purpose, if the Lord permitt, to joyn herself in Marriage to Samuell Burgis, a Friend of Barkshire, doth desire a Certificate from this Meeting (having lived some time in this Country after the death of her late Husband) concerning her Clearness in order to Marriage, & her Conversation as to truth, did in order to the granting therof, appoint John White the elder & Henry Costard to make inquiry concerning her, in each respect, & return an Account therof at the next Meeting.

The Meeting understanding that the last year’s provision of Hay was near spent, did now order Henry Child to lay in about a load of hay for ye service of this Meeting, & give an Account of the Charge therof at the next Meeting here.

[94r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th of ye 5th mo: 1687.

A Paper from Andrew Brothers was read, acknowledging his Evil, & bewailing his Condition. And an Account was given by Tho: Redman of the visit which John Thornton & he made to him by order of last Meeting; to wch was added another Account by some other Friends of a Conference they had wth him since: All manifesting the deplorable Estate the poor man is in, being hurried by the Enemy, & driven to the brink of despair. Which moving the Meeting to tender Compassion, after some time of waiting upon the Lord, James Smith & Robt. Jones expressed a Willing † (nes) to visit him again, wch
the Meeting approved of, desiring the Lord would make them helpfull to strengthen him agt. the Assaults of the Enemy.

The Freinds appointed to make Inquiry concerning Damaris Saunders, giving a good & satisfactory Account of her, the following Certificate was thereupon read & signed.

From our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill for the upper side of the County of Bucks, this 4th day of the 5th month 1687.

To our Friends, Brethren & Sisters, at their respective Monthly Meetings, at Hammersmith in the County of Middlesex.

Wheras Damaris Saunders, now of Kensington in the County of Middlesex, widow, having formerly lived for many years in this Country, hath given us to understand, that she hath a purpose (if the Lord permit) to joyn herself in Marriage to Samuell Burgis a faithfull Friend of Berkshire, and hath, according to the good Order of Truth, desired a Certificate from this Meeting, concerning her Clearness in order to Marriage, & her Conversation in this Country:

We therefor, whose names are hereunderwritten, having, (besides our particular knowledge) made due Inquiry into the premises, do hereby Certify unto you, That we do not find but, that the said Damaris Saunders is free & clear from al Engagements relating to Marriage to any other person. And that while she lived in this County, she did adorn the Profession of the Gospel by an honest & godly Conversation, & was a serviceable Member of the Church of Christ. So that we know no cause to hinder her proceeding to her intended Marriage, according to the good Order of Truth; to wch we recommend you, & in unfeigned love remain your Friends & Brethren.

John White  Rich: Baker  John Pudivat
Robt. Jones  Rich: Dell  Ralph Trumper
Hen: Child   Peter Prince  Joseph Graveney
Hen: Costard  John Halliday  Wm. Grimsdall
Tho: Dell    James Smith  Geo: Salter
Wm. Kidder   John Wells  John Penington
### JULY - AUGUST 1687

| Joseph Welch | Tho: White | John Jagger |
| Tho: Ellwood | John Morton | Wm. Russell |
| Rich: Clipsham | Philip Thompson | Joseph Stevens |
| Tho: Redman | Hen: Pearce | Saml. Wilson |
| Edm: Belson | Danl. Roberts | Wm. Gosford |
| John Costard | |

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Henry Child acquainting the Meeting that (according to the order of the last Meeting) he had laid in some hay for the Meeting's service; The Meeting also understanding that the hay laid in by Ralph Trumper last year was not yet paid for, & yt Tho: Ellwood was out of purse for John Mannock's wages ever since the 4th: of 11th mo: 86. which (including this Meeting) was 19 month days, amounting to 19s. the Meeting therupon made a Collection of £4 - 9 - 6

Out of which they paid Ralph Trumper for the hay wch he laid in, in ye year 1686. 0 - 19 - 0
To Henry Child for 16. of hay laid in now 1 - 04 - 0
To Ralph Trumper for Carriage of this 0 - 2 - 0
To Tho: Ellwood wch he had paid to Jo: Mannock for attending† (the Stables) 19 Meetings 0 - 19 - 0
To the Maid Servant of the House given 0 - 5 - 6

STOCK REMAINING in T. E.'s hand for the service of this Meeting* (see 5th mo: 89) 1 - 0 - 0

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the First of the sixt mo: 87

The Condition of Andrew Brothers being, by the friends yt had last visited him, represented to be much the same as formerly, & a tender commiseration of him remaining stil upon the Meeting, Nicholas Noy & Tho: Dell expressed a willingness to visit him again which the Meeting closed with.

The Meeting understanding yt Grace Hawks of Chesham, who from a Child had been accustomed to go with her Mother to Meet-
ings, is lately married by a Priest to a man of the world; And that (although Friends yt knew her, seing her to be a proud vain Lass, did never value her as a friend, yet) by reason of her so going to Meet-
ings, the World's people there do in some measure account her a Quaker, thought it needful, in order to the Clearing Truth & friends from her & her disorderly Acting, that she should be reproved & ex-
horted to Repentance, & to clear Truth by a publick Acknowledgmt.
of her fault. Wch if she do not, then she to be openly disowned & her practice testified agt. The Care & Management wherof was com-
mitted to ye faithfull friends of Chesham Meeting.

[95r]
Tho: Dell and Nicholas Noy acquainted the Meeting that they had visited Andrew Brothers again, & found him stil in a distressed con-
dition, labouring under the temptations of the Enemy, who wrought strongly in him to bring him to an utter desperation of mercy. And the meeting being sensible of his sore Exercise, & filled wth Com-
passion towards him, was stil drawn forth to continue visiting him in tender pity, wch at this time was committed to William Kidder & Samuel Wilson to do, who expressed a willingness therunto.

An Account was given by a friend of Chesham, that the faithful friends of yt meeting have visited Grace Hawkes & reproved her for being joyned in Marriage by a Priest to a Man of the world; but have not yet received any Satisfaction from her of her being truly sensible of the Evil she hath done, & sincerely penitent for it. Wherfore it is the advice of this Meeting, that those friends do visit her again, & lay her sin close unto her, yt she may come to a right sense of & sorrow for it, & may condemn her own wickedness & clear Truth. Which if she refuse to do, that then those Friends wil give an account of their proceeding with her, & her state, at the next Meeting here.

[95v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the 3d. of ye 8th mo: 87.
The businesses upon the Book from ye last Meeting, relating to Andrew Brothers & Grace Hawkes, were referd to another Meet-
ing, by reason of the much busines yt fel in at this Meeting.
A Paper from George Levens, a friend of Westmorland, containing a Condemnation of himself, for joyning with the Separatists & helping to set up a Separate Meeting in that Country, was read.

A Letter from the Second-days-Morning-Meeting in London, giving Account yt Charles Harris has been an Exercise to Friends at London, &c, And desiring an Account from this Meeting concerning him, was read; And after Consideration had therof, the Meeting unanimously agreed that an Answer should be returned therunto, & ordered Tho: Ellwood, Richd. Baker & John Penington forthwith to draw up; which being done & presented to the Meeting, was publickly read over twice or thrice & being approved by the Meeting, was signed as foloweth.

To our beloved Brethren in the Lord, the Friends at the Second-days-Morning-Meeting at London.

Dear Friends,

We received your Letter, wherin you give us to understand that Charles Harris hath been an Exercise to Friends at London, & has appeal'd publickly to an Inquiry concerning his Conversation, &c. he justifying himself as an innocent person, &c. Wherupon you desire an Account from this Meeting concerning his behaviour, &c. To wch we answer; As to his Conversation in the world, we think fit to mention no more at present than hath been publick in this Country, viz. That we understand he hath been openly taxed, by some of the world, with very immodest & obscene Carriages, the Reports wherof have run abroad from Markett to Markett in this Country; which he hath never cleared himself from, though earnestly prest to do it if he could: so that a foul Scandall hath come upon Truth & Friends through him, on that account, of which a more particular Account may be given, if he wil insist upon it. And as to his behaviour in the Church of Christ, for some time before his falling off from Friends, we can truly say, with greif of heart, He was of a wrangling, contentious Spirit, stirring up strife & dissention, & (as much as in him lay) causing Division amongst Friends; A scornfull Desiprer of the good Order of Truth established in the Church of Christ, & a violent Opposer therof;
An Encourager of loose & unruly Spirits in disorderly Marriages. By his turbulent behaviour he very much disquieted the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in this County, & hath been & is an Instrument of great Mischeif in these parts. Since his Apostacy from Friends, we understand he is joyned to the Separate Meetings his Father Raunce(42) hath set up in this Country, & is an Encourager of them. So that we do not look upon him as a Friend, but as one yt is gone out from Friends. More could some of us say concerning him, of his Envy, Bitternes & Rayling, Falshood & lying (wch some of us, upon our own Observation, know him to be guilty of) & of other parts of his Conversation also: but we hope the foregoing Account may be sufficient, which, God is our witness,

we have not given in any personal ill-will to him, but in service to Truth; in which we remain Your Friends & Brethren,


Signed at our Monthly Meeting holden at Hunger Hill for the upper side of the County of Bucks, this 3d. of 8th mo: 1687.

[Intention of Marriage between Joseph Skidmore of Gyles Chalfont, Butcher, & Judith Watts of Watford, widow. William Russell & William Grimsdall appointed to inquire about Joseph: John Wells & George Mead about Judith.]

William Hoskins, (late of Thame in the County of Oxon, (42) Raunce was his father-in-law.
Wheeler; and then a Member of Haddenham & Crendon Meeting, belonging to this Monthly Meeting) now of Tossiter in the County of Northampton, being to take a friend of Tossiter to wife, desired a Certificate from this Meeting concerning his clearness & orderly walking, for the satisfaction of Friends in that County, before whom his intention of Marriage is to be laid. In order to the granting whereof ye Meeting appointed Edmund Belson & Thomas Dell to make Inquiry & give an Account at ye next Monthly Meeting.

Richard Floyd Miller & Eliz: Brown both of Cheping Wycomb in the County of Bucks proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, desiring the assistance of this Meeting therin. And the Meeting finding them not grounded in Truth, but the man (especially) was very raw & unsettled, did advise them to defer their intended Marriage for a while, & to wait in faithfulness & diligence upon the Lord, yt they might come to feel the virtue & power of Truth in themselves, to bring them into fellowship with the Lord's people; which advise they closing with & consenting to, departed.

A Paper from Samuel Boulton of London, importing a Condemnation of himself for making Conditional Offers of marriage to another person, & yet carrying on a Claim upon Mary Penington, &c. was read: But the Consideration therof, for want of time now, was refered to another Meeting.

A Letter from the Executors of the last Will of Roger Roberts late of Windsor was read, advising that a Legacy was given by ye said Roger to this Meeting, & desiring the assistance of friends upon a Reference to be had between them & two Brothers in law of Roger's who refuse to pay the monyes out of wch ye said Legacy is given. The Meeting ordered William Loddington & Thomas Ellwood (unto whom ye said Executors writ) to attend yt service.

[96 v]

It is agreed that Andrew Brothers of Dorney be again visited by some of the friends of Wiccomb.

The friends of Chesham gave Account that they had visited Grace Hawks of Chesham for being married by a Priest to a man of ye world, that she was somewhat down & dejected in mind, acknow-
ledging her Offence in private to them. It was left to those friends to visit her again, & endeavour to bring her to a more full sense of her Evil, & to clear Truth publicly from the scandal she has brought upon it, by a publick Acknowledgmt. of her Offence either in words or writing.

The Paper from Samuel Boulton, wch was read at ye last Meeting, was now read again, & weightily considered of. And the Meeting being sensible of the greatness of his Deceit, & the slightness of his Acknowledgement. therof in that Paper, thought fit to express their sense therof unto him, wch was this:

Samuel Boulton/
A Paper, subscribed by thee, was read in our Meeting here, wherein thou dost confess & acknowledge yt some years before the matter of M. P. & thyself was debated in Friends Meetings, thou didst make conditional Offers of Marriage to another person (then judging thyself not engaged therby) in case ye proceeding between M. P. & thee should be put an End to by friends; And thy so doing, & yet carrying on a Claim upon M. P. thou termest Imprudence & weakness. Now, Samuel, the Meeting hath solemnly weighed thy Acknowledgment, & it is found much too light. We have not forgotten, if thou hast, the many solemn Protestations thou hast made, thy Appealing in the highest manner to Heaven, & frequently calling God to Witness of thy Sincerity, faithfullnes & conscientious Engagement in yt Concern between M. P. & thee, when, it seems, thou was conscious to thy self, at the same time, that thou hadst lett out thy mind to another person, & violated, on thy part, the Engagemt. thou didst pretend to be so religiously bound by to M. P., by making Offers of Marriage in the meantime to another; And canst thou satisfy thy self in palliating & smoothing over so great deceit & wickedness with the soft & easy terms of Imprudence & weakness? If thou canst, yet wil it not satisfy the Witness of God in his People. Thou hast declared, not only by word of Mouth, but under thy own hand in Writing, That thou wast solemnly engaged a betrothed Husband to M. P. & she a betrothed Wife to thee: And couldst
thou, while thou didst also solemnly profess, yt thou didst look upon yt Betrothmt. to be binding upon thee, & thyself conscientiously obliged to observe it, make Offers of Marriage to another person; & yet turn al this so slightly off, as only to call it Imprudence & Weakness? Remember it is said, He yt covereth his sins shall not prosper: And think not yt thou canst prosper while thou endeavourest to cover thy Sin (which is very great) with ye fig-leaf Coverings of Weakness & Imprudence. We are heartily sorry for thee, both yt thou shouldst be so deeply deceitfull before, & so little sensible of it now. We desire thy Recovery; & in order therunto, our Exhortation & Counsell, in the love of God,

to thee is, Ly low before the Lord, & be abased before him. Take heed of getting up in a forward Mind, or false Conceit of thyself, as thinking thou hast given satisfaction by thy Paper: for know, The Work is yet to do. Therfore lay thy hand upon thy Mouth, & thy Mouth in the dust, & be deeply humbled for thy Iniquity, & wait til God, through Judgmt, bring up in thee a right sense of ye Evil thou hast done, & such a sincere Sorrow for it as may evidence a sound Repentance in thee; wch yt thou mayst find, is our Prayer for thee.

Signed at our Monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill this 7th day of the 9th month 1687.

Henry Costard    Wm. Loddington    Joseph Steevens
Thomas Dell      John Thornton     Henry Pearce
Robert Jones     Danll. Roberts    Alex: Merrick
Richd. Baker     John Wells        Samuel Wilson
John White       Peter Prince      Nicholas Larcum
Tho: Ellwood     Nich: Noy         Philip Thomson
Joseph Welch     Thomas Olliffe    Ralph Trumper
Richd. Clipsham  Wm. Grimsdall    John Puddivatt
William Kidder   John Morton      John Halliday
Thomas Redder    John Penington    Charles Peirce.
Henry Child      George Belch      

The Meeting ordered the Original of this paper to be sent to ye
second days Morning Meeting in London (from whence S. B.'s paper was sent hither) for ye friends of yt Meeting to give unto S. B.

[Intention of Marriage between William Marks of North Crawly yeoman, & Elizabeth D'oyley of Aylesbury, spinster. Both produced Certificates from their present Monthly Meetings: he from Sherrington & she from Milton in Oxfordshire. Richard Baker & William Loddington appointed to inquire into her conversation etc. in Bucks.

Consent given to Joseph Skidmore & Judith Watts. (Vide under date 3.viii.87)

The Friends of Amersham Meeting again complayning, that the great Charge of Maintaining their Poor continuing stil upon their Meeting had run them between 3o. & 4os. in debt beyond their own Collecting, this Meeting ordered them for a Supply ye Remainder of the Stock wch was gathered for yt service (& suchlike services) in ye 2d. & 3d. months 87. wch was three pounds three shillings; wch T. E. then paid to John Morton. *(see 3d. mo: 87.)*

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 1oth mo: 87.

William Kidder gave account yt Samll: Wilson & he, having lately visited Andrew Brothers, found him in a very deplorable Condition, more dejected in mind, & under stronger temptations to despair than ever, the sense wherof did deeply affect ye Meeting & after some travell of spirit in waiting upon ye Lord on his behalf, Robt. Jones & Henry Child expressed a willingness to visit him, in compassionate tenderness, yt if ye Lord see good, they may be helpfull to him, agt. ye violent assaults of ye Enemy.

Joseph Welch & Robt. Jones acquainted ye Meeting yt ye Friends of Chesham had dealt further with Grace Hawks, about her being married by a Priest to a Man of the World, whom they found more tender & sensible of her miscarriage therein, & willing to clear Truth by a Paper of Condemnation to be signed by her, & openly read in Chesham Meeting, & there owned by her. The drawing up of wch Paper was committed to ye Friends of Chesham, with the assistance of any other Friends of this Meeting, whom they shal desire.

Thomas Dell & Edmund Belson, who in ye 8th mo: last were ap-
pointed to make inquiry concerning one Wm. Hoskins, in order to ye graunting him a Certificate, &c. acquainted ye Meeting, yt upon inquiry they had met wth some reports concerning him, wch were not altogether justifiable nor according to truth; the Meeting therupon examined the particulars, & upon the whole matter finding, yt ye things reported of him were cheifly tricks put upon him by some people of †(the) world, amongst whom he dwelt, to make sport wth & abuse him, through occasion of his own weakness & unwari­ness, & yt he was heartily sorry for his having given any way there­unto, did not look upon it as a sufficient ground to deny him a Cer­tificate, Wherupon a Certificate was read & signed by ye Meeting, testifying his Father's Consent to his present undertaking of Mar­riage, his own Clearness from others, & yt ye Meeting knew no cause to obstruct his proceeding, &c.

[Consent given to William Marks & Elizabeth D’oyley. (Vide under date 7.ix.87)]

Nicholas Noy delivered a letter sealed, & directed to this Meet­ing; wch being opened, was found to be subscribed by John Raunce & eight more of his factious Separatists in Wickham, demanding Copies of the Letter from Friends of London to this Meeting concern­ing Charles Harris, & of this Meetings Answer therunto. To wch this Meeting, finding ye design of those Separatists to be only to Cavil &c. returned a verbal answer by N. Noy, to this effect, viz. That this Meeting doth not own any Authority in ye persons de­maunding those Copies, nor hold themselves obliged to give them; That what this Meeting hath Certified concerning C. Harris, it did for ye satisfaction of those friends to whom ye Certificate was sent, & in whom ye disposing of it rests; That we understand C. H. hath a Copy therof already from friends of London; That he is as capable of making his defence by yt Copy (if he were defensible) as if ye Subscribers names were to it; And yt this Meeting is ready to make good agt. him, before a Meeting of Faithfull Friends, whatsoever is contained in yt Certificate.

[98r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d. of 11th: mo: 87.

Robt. Jones gave accompt yt Henry Child & he had visited An-
I98 JANUARY I 688

drew Brothers, & Andrew being himself here present gave some ac-
compt of his present state, in the sense wherof, a deep & weighty
travell of spirit fell upon the Meeting, with strong Cries & earnest
Supplications unto God on his behalf. And after many Friends had
cleared themselves by giving him Counsell Advice & Exhortation in
the tender love of God, as the Lord opened their hearts therunto,
the Issue was committed to the Lord, & Andrew withdrew.

The Friends of Chesham gave Accompt, yt according to the
Agreemt. of ye last Meeting, a Paper had been drawn up, containing
a Condemnation of ye Evil committed by Grace Hawks (now Grace
Burch) & was openly read in the publick Meeting at Chesham on the
last first day, & there owned by her; the Contents wherof follow:

WHERAS I Grace Burch of Chesham, having for divers years
made Profession of the holy Truth & way of God wch ye People
called Quakers walk in, have of late, through my unfaithfull-
nes to ye Principle I professed, joyned myself in Marriage
†(with) one who is not in the same Profession of Religion, &
have gone to the Priest for the accomplishing therof, agt. the
perswasion & conviction of my own Conscience; wherby I
have greatly offended God, caused the way of Truth to be evil
spoken off, grieved his People among whom I walked, broken
my own peace, & drawn the displeasure of the Lord upon my-
self, to my great trouble & sorrow: In the sense wherof, I do
freely acknowledge ye Evill I have done & do sincerely declare
yt I am heartily sorry for it. Nevertheless, I do hereby declare,
yt I hold myself firmly bound, before God & men, to keep ye
promise I made unto my husband in Marriage, & with full pur-
pose of heart do intend to be unto him a loving and faithfull
wife, according to the Covenant made between us. Dated the
1st day of the 11th: mo: 1688

Tho. Dell acquainted ye Meeting yt one Robt. Hobs a Friend of
Burnham, sometime since deceased, having left the sum of ten
pounds *(6t: mo: 90) at his dispose for the service & reliefe of poor
Friends, he hath accordingly disposed some part therof, & not seeing
present Occasion for the disposing the rest to his satisfaction, he in-
tends to bring it in to be disposed of by this Meeting to ye uses it was given.

A Letter from the second days Morning Meeting in London, in Answer to a Paper signed by some of the Separate Party in yt City & directed to yt Meeting, was read here, for the Information & Confirmation of Friends in their Testimony agt. yt dividing spirit & Party, wch has run into a Separation from Friends, & publickly reproached Friends & Truth.

[98v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the 6t. of 12th: mo: 87.

Andrew Brothers being present, & expressing his Condition to be stil very sad, a travel in spirit for him fel again upon ye Meeting, & in great tenderness & freshness of heavenly life several Friends spake unto him, exhorting & encouraging him to hope & trust in the Lord, the God of mercyes, & opening unto him their own exercises in ye like sort in former times. After wch he withdrew, & ye Meeting considering yt his Distemper was partly natural, advised him to seek & use ye advice & help of some able Physician, offering to assist him therin, wch he expressed a thankful sense of.

George Mead † (professed) in the name of Watford Meeting, that Friends having built a Meeting house in Watford, & finding it too hard & uneasy for Watford Friends to go to Flandell Meeting as some of them have formerly done, desire to be excused therfrom, & to hold their Meeting at Watford on the same day yt ye Meeting at Flandell, & only to Meet with the Friends of Flandell & Charlywood one first day in the month, & yt at Charlywood; wch this Meeting considering of, & finding a likelyhood of greater service for truth, yt the Meeting be three first days in each month at Watford, did agree therunto. Yet not willing yt the Meeting either at Flandell or Charlywood should be let fal, did give it as their advice yt ye Friends of Flandell should go to Charly Wood Meeting one first day, & the Friends of Charlywood Meeting should meet at Flandell the next first day, & so continue to visit each other by turns continually, every other first day at each place, & yt Watford Friends meet with them at Charlywood one first day monthly, & the other three first
days in every month keep † (to) their Meeting at Watford. The weekly Meetings to continue as they were.

Richard Floyd & Elizabeth Brown, having, according to the advice of this Meeting, deferred their intended procedure towards Marriage, from the 8th month last until now, came now again & proposed their intention of Marriage, producing Certificates from both their Parents testifying their Consents. The Meeting considering their weak state, & being in some measure satisfied of the simplicity of the man, & willing to deal tenderly with them, did take their proposition into consideration, & appointed William Kidder & Nicholas Noy to make inquiry into their Clearness & orderly Walking.

[99r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of 1st: mo: 8. 

Andrew Brothers not being here himself, nor any friend that could give an Account of his present state, & Wm. Kidder telling the Meeting yt John Archdale & he have a purpose to visit Andrew Brothers, & speak further with him about his using some Physical means for his health, the Meeting thought fit to let the matter rest til they hear further from him.

Richard Floyd & Elizabeth Brown, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of Marriage, came now to receive the Answer of the Meeting therunto; & the Meeting being satisfied of the consent of their Parents, & of their clearness from other Engagements relating to Marriage to other persons, did let them know, that though they did not find them so settled & rooted in truth, as that they could have clear & full unity with them, yet hoping there are some honest desires in them, wch friends are willing to cherish, the Meeting, by way of condescension to their state, doth permit them to take each other in marriage in an Assembly of Friends.

[5 A]


The Case of Andrew Brothers was again taken notice of, & largely considered, the Meeting being willing to help † (him) in respect of his health, but neither John Archdale nor William Kidder having
yet spoken with him about it, as they undertook to do, ye Meeting was fain to let it rest til a further account be given of him.

[Intention of Marriage between Edward Brooker of Southwark, Dry Cooper & Anna Stevens, spinster, daughter of Jeremiah & Ann Stevens of Cheping Wiccomb. Edward produced a Certificate from Southwark. William Kidder & Thomas Redman appointed to inquire.]

An Account was given yt the last Quarterly Meeting hath appointed a Meeting to be holden at Aylesbury on ye 26th: day of this month, to confer & consider of the Sufferings of Friends in this County, on ye Stat. agt. Recusancy & ye Conventicle Act & of relieving Friends yt have suffered therby; & hath desired yt each monthly Meeting in ye County wil depute a Friend or two to yt service. Wherupon this Meeting made choice of William Grimsdall & Tho: Ellwood to go on ye behalf of this Monthly Meeting to yt Meeting.

An Account being given yt ye Quarterly Meeting having undertaken to place out an honest poor Friend’s son Apprentice at London, ye charge of wch was computed to amount to 1 li. had recommended it to ye several Monthly meetings of this County; this monthly Meeting did now recommend it to ye particular Meetings belonging to this to bring in hither the voluntary assistance of their several Meetings agt. the next Quarterly Meeting.

[99 v]


Wm. Kidder acquainted the Meeting yt John Archdale & he had since ye last Meeting visited Andrew Brothers, whom they found wholly given up to unbeleif & despair, & though sensible of the love & tender care of Friends over him, both in their frequent visits to him & labour with him, & in their offer of assisting him if he would put himself into ye hands of some skilfull Physicyan for ye recovery of his health: yet utterly refused to admit of any Physical administration, saying unless he were bound {in his bed} and forced, he should not take any thing. Which resolution of his the Meeting weighing, did not look upon themselves as engaged to press him further therin.
The Meeting being acquainted, yt one George Fincher, late of Rowsham now of Hackett, having for some years gone amongst freinds so far as to be taken for a Quaker, hath lately engaged himself in affection to a woman of the world, & (as it is reported) is married to her by a Priest, did think fit he should be visited from this Meeting, & reproved therefor; And Richard Baker & James Smith were desired & undertook to do it.

The like Accompt being given concerning Henry Costard son of Henry Costard of Oulswkey, that he {is} also is reported to be married by a Priest to a Woman of the world, Richd. Baker & James Smith are desired to visit him also, & endeavour to bring him likewise to a sense of the evil he hath done.

The Meeting considering that the next Meeting here, wil in course fall out to be at the same time with the yearly Meeting in London, as also that there are divers fairs in this County, as at Amaresham & Aylesbury, on ye same day, both which may occasion the absence of several Friends belonging to this Meeting, in case it should be held in its usual Course, did think fit & agree (for the service of Truth, & Convenience of Friends therin) to put off the next Meeting One week further in the next month, so yt it be held here on ye 11th: day of yt month. Of wch Friends are desired to take notice; & notice therof was now given to the womens Meeting.

[Consent given to Edward Brooker & Anna Steevens (Vide under date 2. ii. 88.)]
ter temper & frame of spirit to hear & receive Counsell, yet not acknowledging yt he had done evill in ye taking of his wife, inasmuch as, he said, he never had joyned himself to Friends, nor accounted himself as a Quaker, tho' being bred up from a Child amongst them, he had gone with his Father to Meetings, & carried himself when with Friends, as he observed Friends to do; yet at other times, when amongst ye world's people he conformed himself to their behaviour, & in his mind was one with them, & now goes to ye Steeple-house worship. Which Answer of his the Meeting weighing, did not find any necessity remaining on it as a Meeting to be further concerned with him about this matter.

According to the Agreemt. of ye Meeting here in ye 2d. month last, upon ye recommendation of ye Quarterly Meeting, there was brought in now the sum of 7li - 3s - 6d towards defraying ye charge of placing out a son of Joseph Nazeby, a poor Friend of Buckingham, Apprentice at London, viz. from

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<td>Flanden &amp; Watford</td>
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This 7li - 3s - 6d was committed to James Smith of Aylesbury, wth order yt he should bring it to ye next Quarterly Meeting.

[Intention of Marriage between Simon Darvall of Great Missenden, Weaver, & Mary Stadham of Prestwood, widow. Thomas Redman & Joseph Welch appointed to inquire.

Also between Emanuell Low, Citizen & Fishmonger of London, & Ann Archdale of Cheping Wycomb, spinster.] He produced a Certificate from the two weeks Meeting of men-Friends in London concerning his clearness, &c. as also a Certificate from his Mother declaring her Consent. And inasmuch as Ann Archdale had lived
some years of late in Carolina, & a Certificate was required concerning her Clearness there, a letter was produced & read

from † (one Francis Tomes) a Friend in Carolina, (unto whom ye Care of procuring a Certificate in yt behalf had been committed) Which Letter gave account that inquiry having been made in two several Quarterly Meetings in yt Country, & al things being Clear, a Certificate was granted & signed, wch the Friend that writ ye said Letter both saw & set his hand unto. And further yt Danll. Ackers procured the signing of it, & also undertook the care of sending it. All wch this Meeting duly weighing, & considering the hazard wch attends the passage from Carolina hither, & having also the Credit of ye said Letter Confirmed by the joyn Testimonyes of James Martin & George Hutchinson, two Friends now in England, who having travelled in Carolina are well acquainted with the said Francis Tomes, & recommend him for an honest faithfull Friend, the Meeting thought fit (notwithstanding ye said Certificate be not arrived, but is supposed to be lost) to admit the Proposition of Marriage before mentioned, upon the Grounds before mentioned, & did appoint Thomas Redman & William Kidder to make inquiry concerning ye Clearness & orderly Conversation of the said Ann Archdale since her arrival into England, & to give account therof at next Meeting.

[Intention of Marriage between Richard Dell of Chesham, Mealman, & Mary Penn of Coleshill, spinster. She produced a Certificate of her Parents’ consent. Joseph Welch & Henry Child appointed to inquire.

Also between Jacob Darvall of Nashleaf in the parish of Chesham, Husbandman & Eleanor Rolfe of the same. John Puddivatt & Daniell Roberts appointed to inquire.]

[1011]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 2d: of ye 5th: month 88.

Richard Baker acquainted the Meeting that Tho: Olliffe & he had endeavoured to speak with Geo: Fincher of Huckett, but could not

(43) This must be the Daniel Akehurst, the Deputy Governor, not the unsatisfactory Friend of the same name, referred to in the Minutes for March 1685.
speak with him as yet, but intended to take another opportunity as soon as they can, wch the Meeting left to them.

Tho: Ellwood gave account ye mony Collected & brought to the last Meeting here, for the defraying the Charge of placing out a boy of Joseph Nazeby (a poor friend of Buckingham) Apprentice at London, was made up at the Quarterly Meeting, there being brought in from

The Monthly Meeting at Sherrington . . . . £: 00 : 18 : 06
The Monthly Meeting at Hogsty End . . . . 00 : 12 : 03
The Monthly Meeting at Biddlesden . . . . 02 : 00 : 00
Which wanting 6s to make ye sum
Wycombe meeting laid down . . . . 00 : 02 : 06
Aylesbury . . . . . . . . . . . . 00 : 02 : 06
Chesham . . . . . . . . . . . . 00 : 01 : 00
Which with the Mony brought from Hunger Hill wch was . . . . . . . . . . . . 07 : 03 : 06

made the whole Sum to be . . . . . . . 11 : 00 : 03

wch just answered ye service it was raised for, & an Account of the disposing therof entred in the Quarterly Meeting Book.

[Consent given to Simon Darvall & Mary Stadham, (vide under date 11.iv.88)
Also to Emanuel Low & Ann Archdale, (vide under date 11.iv. 88), Ann now producing her Certificate from Q.M. in Carolina.
Also to Richard Dell & Mary Pen. (Vide under date 11.iv.88)
Also to Jacob Darvall & Eleanor Rolf. (Vide under date 11.iv.88)]

The Friends of Amersham Meeting again complained yt their great charge had again run them behind hand; wch the Meeting took notice of, but not having a stock ready to supply them out of, & understanding that their was a likelyhood of their being helped for ye present by some monies yt were to be distributed by N. Noy, de-fer’d the further Consideration of it to another Meeting.

[101v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6t. of ye 6t. mo: 88.

Tho: Olliffe acquainted ye Meeting yt John Thornton & he
(Richd. Baker being absent) had visited Geo: Fincher of Hulcet, who seem'd to be in some measure sensible of ye Evil he had done in (his) marriage, wch he acknowledged was not right, & sayd, If it were to do again, he would not do it. The Meeting thought fit to continue visiting him, in order to bring him to a more ful sense of his miscarriage, yt he may clear truth therfrom by condemning himself therfore. The care of wch visit was committed to Richd. Baker & Tho: Olliffe, or any other Friends of Aylsbury.

An Account being given yt Henry Child had laid in a load of Hay for ye service of this Meeting by ye desire of Friends at last Meeting, there was now collected for ye defraying yt charge, from

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<td>Aylsbury &amp;c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watford &amp;c</td>
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Of this mony Hen: Child had 21s. for ye hay, wch he judged to be between 17. & 18. hundred. And ye remaining 10s. the meeting then gave to the Maidservt. of ye house, for her attendance on Friends.* (see 2d. mo: 90)

{William Messenger of Whitecross-street in ye parish of Gyles Cripple Gate London Glover, & Ester Burwell of Leeson in ye County of Hertford Spinster, proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage; He produced a Certificate † (from) ye 2 weeks Meeting in London concerning his clearness, & another from his mother signifying her consent. Geo: Mead & John Wels of Watford were ordered to inquire concerning ye maid, & give account next Meeting.}
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of ye 7th: mo: 88.

Richd. Baker gave account that James Smith & he had visited Geo: Fincher of Hucket, & found him somewhat tender, & sensible of his miscarriage in some measure, expressing himself therein much to the same effect as he had done to ye Friends yt visited him last before, wch, the meeting considering, and understanding also that he seem’d desirous Friends should not be hasty upon him, in giving forth a Testimony agt. him, It was agreed yt he should be visited again from this Meeting, in order to make him more sensible of his Evil, & Robt. Jones & Henry Child undertook it.

{William Messenger & Ester Burwell, who at the last Meeting proposed their intentions of taking each other in Marriage, came not again; but Friends received a letter from friends of the Meeting to wch he belong’d in London, signifying some Miscarriages of his, discovered since he had his Certificate from them; upon wch they desired a stop might be put to his proceeding in that business, until he had given satisfaction to their meeting therein.} *(see 2d mo: 90)*

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye first of ye 8th mo: 88.

Robt. Jones acquainted the Meeting that he had visited Geo: Fincher of Hucket, & found him more stiff and hard, than by the accounts formerly given of him, he seemed to have been. And that being pressed to clear Truth by a publick condemnation of the evil he had done, he could get no other answer from him, but yt he could do no more than he had done; which the Meeting taking notice of, & finding so little Good wrought on him by the many visits had been made him, concluded yt seeing he would not do anything for the clearing of Truth, a Testimony should be drawn up by Tho: Ellwood agt. ye next Meeting, to deny both his evil practice & him.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on the first of ye 9th: mo: 88.

According to the Agreemt. of the last Meeting, a Testimony agt. Geo: Fincher was drawn up & presented to this Meeting, wch being read & approved by ye Meeting, was signed, & was as followeth,
Signed at our Monthly Meeting holden at Hunger Hill for ye Ser-
vice of the Church of Christ, this Fift day of the Ninth Month 1688.

Richard Clipsham  Henry Child  Thomas Redman
 John White  Wm. Grimsdall  Thomas Dell
 Ralph Trumper  Samll. Willson  John Penington
 Henry Treadway  Charles Peirce  Richd. Dell
 Thomas Ellwood  Josiah Lane  Joseph Steevens
 Robt. Jones  Matthew Roper  Wm. Russell
 Richd. Baker  Tho: Crutch  George Belch
 Henry Costard  John Morton  Alex: Merrick
 Henry Pearce  Wm. Loddington  George Salter
 John Costard  Joseph Welch  John Halliday
 Danll: Roberts  Peter Prince  Edward Lered
 Wm. Kidder  John Thornton  John White junr

A Copy of the foregoing Testimony was now delivered to ye
Friends of Aylsbury, with advice to give a Copy therof to Geo:
Fincher, & then cause it to be publickly read in yt Meeting to wch
he did most resort.

This meeting being acquainted yt one John Rose of Cuddington,
having for divers years gone amongst Friends, so far as to be taken
for a Quaker, hath lately joyned himself in marriage, by a Priest, to
a woman of ye world, did think fit he should be visited from this
Meeting & sharply reproved therfore. And John White senior, wth
some friend or Friends of Aylesbury are desired to do it.

[Intention of Marriage between Thomas Clark the younger
Wheeler, son of Thomas Clark the elder of Amersham, Wheeler,
& Barbara Alford of Chepping Wycomb, spinster. They brought
certificates of parents' consent. William Kidder, John Costard &
Thomas Dell appointed to inquire.]

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of 10th mo: 88.

John White & James Smith acquainted ye Meeting, yt they had
spoken with John Rose of Cuddington about his taking a woman of
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ye world in Marriage by a Priest, yt his Answers were very cross & indirect, having no savour of Truth or tenderness in them, & yt he seemed to reject ye Quakers as not owning: Wherupon the Meeting thought yt he should be spoken wth again by John White, Richd. Baker & Tho: Olliffe in order to know more directly of him whether he wil own himself to be one of ye people called Quakers, or them to be ye people of God.


John White & Richd. Baker acquainted ye Meeting that they had not had an Opportunity yet, since ye last Meeting here, to speak wth John Rose of Cuddington; but would endeavour to do it before ye next; wch the Meeting desired them, wth Tho: Olliffe, to do.

[Consent given to Thomas Clark & Barbara Alford. (Vide under date 5.ix.88)]

Friends of Aylesbury acquainted ye Meeting yt ye time they have in ye Meeting place †(at Rousam) is near out, & yt they have no expectation of having it any longer, & think it difficult to procure another place in Rousam; & moreover yt they find little service in continuing ye Meeting at Rowsam, very few of yt side coming to it, & therfore desired ye advice of this Meeting about ye removall of yt Meeting from Rowsam wholly to Aylesbury. The advice of this Meeting was, yt ye Friends of Aylesbury Meeting should take a seasonable Opportunity to confer wth such Friends of Rowsam, or therabout, as did most frequently resort both to Rowsam & Aylesbury Meetings, & continue or remove it by joyn agreement.

[104r]


Richd. Baker acquainted ye Meeting, yt Tho: Olliffe & he had spoken wth John Rose of Cuddington, whom they found in a more calm frame of mind than he had formerly appeared in, yet not so open & plain as to give a direct & positive Answer whether he owned the people called Quakers to be ye people of God, or himself to be a Quaker. But yt he desired ye matter might rest a little, & he would advise what answer to return. The Meeting therfore left it with Richd. Baker & Tho: Olliffe, with any other Friends yt they might o
think fit to take with them, to ask & receive his Answer, when they shall find a seasonable time & opportunity for it.

William Kidder acquainted ye Meeting, that it is ye desire of the Friends of Wiccomb, that there may be a monthly Meeting on a weekday set up at Wiccomb in like manner as that is at Amersham, for ye service of truth & encouragement of ye Friends in yt place, in this time of their exercise by reason of ye Separation set up & maintained agt. Truth there. The Proposition was well received; but the matter being of great weight, it was thought fit to be refer'd to another Meeting, & Friends desired to consider well of it in the meantime:

Matthew Roper of Aylesbury acquainted ye Meeting, that he hath an intention if the Lord permit to take to wife one Susanna Cooper of Olney widow (a friend belonging to ye monthly Meeting at Sher- rington;) & in order therunto desired a Certificate from this Meeting for ye satisfaction of ye Friends of yt Meeting concerning him. The Meeting (therupon) appointed Edward Belson & Roger Dancer to make inquiry concerning his clearness & orderly conversation, & to give an account therof at the next Meeting.

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 4th: of ye 1st: mo: 1689.

The Proposition that was made at the last Meeting, concerning the setting up a Monthly Meeting at Wycomb, was resumed, and considered of, But for some reasons it not being thought convenient to set up a new Meeting there at this time, it was let fall for the present.

The Friends appointed to make inquiry concerning Matt: Roper of Aylesbury, giving now a satisfactory account of his clearness & conversation, a Certificate therof was read & signed as followeth, vizt.

From our monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill for the Upper side of the County of Bucks this 4th: day of the First month 1689.

To our Friends, brethren & Sisters, at their respective monthly Meetings at Sherrington in the said County of Bucks.

Wheras Matthew Roper of Aylesbury in the said County of Bucks, did, at our last monthly Meeting, give us to understand,
that he hath an intention (if the Lord permit) to take to Wife one Susanna Cooper of Olney in the said County of Bucks widow (a Friend belonging to your Monthly Meeting att Sher-ington) & in order therunto did desire a Certificate from this Meeting, for the satisfaction of the friends of that Meeting concerning him; We therefore, whose names are underwritten, do hereby Certify unto you, that, upon particular Inquiry on this Occasion made, we do not find but yt the said Matthew Roper is free & clear from any Engagement relating to Marriage to any other woman, And that his Conversation is honest, & answerable to the Truth he makes profession of, so that we see no cause to hinder him from proceeding on to the accomplishmt of his said intended Marriage, with the consent of your Meeting, and according to the good Order of Truth; To wch recommending you, we remain, in true love, your Friends & Brethren,

Robert Jones       Peter Prince       Henry Pearce
Henry Costard      Joseph Stevens     Geo: Salter
Richd. Clipsham    Will. Kidder       Tho: Clark
Thomas Dell        Samll. Wilson      John Ayre
Richd. Baker       Charles Peirce     John Whiting
Joseph Welch       Nich: Larcum       Edward Lered
Henry Child        John Wells         Tho: Croucht
John Morton        John Halliday      Will. Russell
James Smith        Tho: Ellwood       Edw. Butterfeild
Will: Grimsdall    Wm. Loddington    John White:
Roger Dancer       John Penington
John Costard

[1057]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye first of 2d mo: 89.

Inquiry was made what Answer John Rose of Cuddington had return’d to ye friends appointed to speak wth him from this Meeting; but neither Richd. Baker nor Tho: Olliffe being here (to whom it was committed in ye 12th mo: last) No account could be had therof.

Some Friends taking notice of a slackness and remissness in Friends of some Meetings in resorting to ye Monthly Meeting at Amersham,
& to the Meeting at Prestwood, a general & seasonable Exhortation was thereupon now given, to stir up Friends to more diligence therein.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 6t. of ye 3d: mo: 89.

Richd. Baker acquainted ye Meeting yt Tho: Olliffe & he had been wth John Rose of Cuddington to receive his Answer, whom they found (though somwhat smooth in words, yet) close & reserved, not giving any direct Answer to what had been asked of him, but alleadging that he doth not see any Evil in what he hath done. Wherupon Friends retiring & weighing ye matter, & ye sense of ye Meeting (considering how long ye matter had depended) inclining to a publick Testimony agt. him, ye Question was first put If any Friend found yet any drawing to visit him further, wherupon Edmund Belson of Haddenham declared a desire he had to speake wth him (being likely to have an Opportunity seasonably offerd him; And Moses West (whose Sister he had married) being accidentally present, expressed likewise a desire to speake wth him also, wch hitherto he had not had a fit opportunity to do. Wherupon ye Meeting agreed to defer proceeding agt. him untill another Meeting.

[105 v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 3d. of 4th: mo: 89.

Edmund Belson acquainted ye Meeting yt having spoken wth John Rose of Cuddington, he found him in the same state wherein ye Friends yt had formerly visited him found him, declaring yt he saw no Evil he had done in joyning himself to a woman of ye world by a Priest. Moses West also sent word by Robt. Jones, yt he likewise had spoken wth his brother Rose, whose answer was, That he had given his Answer to Richd. Baker & Tho: Olliffe before, and had no other Answer to give. Whereupon ye Meeting, finding no further drawing to visit him any more, agreed yt a Testimony be drawn up agt. him, & ordered T. Ellwood to prepare it agt. ye next Meeting.

Tho: Dell acquainted ye Meeting yt, according to ye desire of Friends, he had received seven & thirty shillings, of Abraham Bonifeild of Reading, one of ye Executors of Roger Roberts late of Windsor deceased, being what ye said Executors had, by way of Compo-
sition wth ye Relations of ye said Roger, brought a Legacy of 10l. (given by ye said Roger unto this Meeting) to.

John Costard acquainted the Meeting, yt ye Number of Poor continuing, & ye charge therof (by reason of age & infirmities) increasing upon Amersham Meeting, yt Meeting (notwithstanding what helps, by several means, they have had) is greatly overpressed thereby, being now again run 40s into debt beyond their Collections; & therfore desired this Meeting to consider of some way for their assistance. Wherupon this Meeting ordered Tho: Dell to pay over yt 37s. wch he had received of Abr: Bonisfeld to some Friends of Amersham for a present supply, And agreed yt Friends now present do recommend it to their several Meetings, in order to raise a bigger sum for yt service at next Meeting here.

The Epistle from ye Yearly Meeting was read, & distributed to ye several Meetings belonging to this. [Vide Appendix C]

The Meeting taking notice yt this Country is not wel supplied wth Friends Books, for want of a good Method of getting & disposing them, did now agree, That some Friend of this Meeting, whose outward Dealings occasion him to go frequently to London, be desired to inquire often at ye Stationers shops what Books of Friends do from time to time come forth, & of such as he shal think may be proper & serviceable for ye Friends of this Country, to bring one of a sort to ye next Monthly Meeting here, & ye Meeting upon view therof to order what number shal be sent for. The care of doing wch was proposed to Joseph Steevens, & being by him accepted, was committed to him.

[106r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 1st: of 5th: mo: 89.

According to the Agreement of the last Meeting, a Testimony agt. John Rose was drawn up & presented to this Meeting, which, being read & approved by ye Meeting, was signed, & was as followeth:

[Same formula as Testimony against William Higs. (Vide under date 2. v. 83)]

[106v]
Signed at our Monthly Meeting, holden at Hunger Hill for ye service of ye Church of Christ, this 1st: day of ye 5th month 1689.

Richard Clipsham    John Costard    Alexander Merrick
Robert Jones        Will. Grimsdall  Henry Child
Richard Baker       Richard Dell    Thomas Ellwood
Henry Costard       Wm. Lodddington  Henry Treadway
Thomas Dell         John Morton     Edward Butterfield
John Thornton       Roger Dancer    Thomas Crouch
John White          Joseph Graveney  William Russell
Joseph Steevens     George Salter   Henry Pierce
Peter Prince        Jon. Penington   John Halliday
Samuell Wilson      James Smith     Edward Lered
Tho: Redman         Daniell Roberts  John Puddivatt
William Kidder      Thomas White    Richard Fellow

The Condition of Amersham Meeting, with respect to ye charge of maintaining their poor, having (according to ye agreemt. of ye last Meeting here) been recommended to ye several Meetings belonging to this, there was now brought in, for yt service, from

Wyccomb Meeting              £:00 - 13 - 06
Wooburn                      00 - 05 - 00
Chalfont                     01 - 05 - 00
Chesham                      00 - 10 - 00
Meadle                       00 - 15 - 00
Weston                       00 - 16 - 00
Watford & Flanden            00 - 10 - 00

In all                       04 - 14 - 06

Which sum was forthwith in ye Meeting delivered to Thomas Crouch who is ye present Treasurer for Amersham Meeting.

An Account being given yt Henry Child had laid in some Hay for ye use of this Meeting this year, wch he did by ye advice of some Friends, who doubted lest (by reason of ye hast people made to cut & make their hay, because of ye great drougth) the season of providing might be over, if it were not done before
this Meeting; The Meeting approved ye Care taken therein, & made a Collection for ye defraying of yt, & other incident Charges, as followeth, viz. from

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<td>Aylesbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watford &amp; Flanden</td>
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In all . 02 - 07 - 00

Of this sum there was † (then) paid unto Henry Child 2os. for the hay. And Tho: Ellwood acquainting ye Meeting, yt ye 2os. wch was left in his hand in ye 5th: month 1687 *(see 5th: mo: 87) for ye service of this Meeting, was expended for ye paying John Mannock for attending ye Stables 20 Meeting days, ending ye 4th: of ye First month 1688; & that he had paid J: M. 3s. of his own mony for attending ye stables ye 3 last Meetings in ye 2d. 3d. & 4th. months past, ye Meeting thereupon repaid T. E. that 3s. & gave ye Maid servt. of ye house 5s. In all — £:01 - 08 - 00: Which being deducted out of ye 2li - 07s - 00 abovementioned the Remainder is 19s - wch was left in T. Ellwood’s hand to defray ye future charge of ye stables, or what other use ye Meeting shal hereafter order it for.

Some Friends from ye women’s Meeting, coming in, acquainted this Meeting, that they had received a Noat in their Meeting from Jeremiah Puddivatt (son of John Puddivatt of Dudswell) & Elizabeth Gray (who lives with him)44 proposing their intention to take each other in marriage, but not appearing themselves; ye reason wherof, they were informed, was the man’s lameness & bodily infirmities; And that therupon a great Exercise of spirit & Concern for Truth, had fallen, wth great weight, upon their Meeting, fearing lest such a way of proceeding should be made ill use of, & give advantage to ye

(44) Women’s Meeting Minute Book “who lives with them.”
Adversaries of Truth, imparting also ye sense & desire of their Meeting, yt ye Couple should be advised & desired to come to ye Meetings, if possibly they could without apparent danger to ye man's health. After ye women friends were withdrawn, this Meeting taking ye matter into weighty consideration, ye like Exercise fell upon this Meeting in a concern for ye honour & safety of Truth, & therin ye like sense arose in ye Meeting, yt if it might be without exposing ye man to too great suffering therby, they would both come before ye Meetings. And Richd. Baker & Robert Jones were desired with all tenderness to lay ye matter before ye Couple, & endeavour to give them a true sense of ye strait ye Meetings are in about them.

Stock remaining in T. E.'s hand is £00 - 19 - 00
Added . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 00 - 01 - 06
*(see 9th: mo: 89)*

At a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 5th: of ye 6t: mo: 1689.

Richd. Baker acquainted ye Meeting, yt according to ye advice of this Meeting in ye 11th mo: 88, ye Friends of Aylesbury & Rowsam Meetings had met, conferd & considered about ye disposing of Rowsam Meeting, & by joint agreemt. had settled it at Aylesbury.

Richd. Baker & Robt. Jones acquainted ye Meeting yt, according to ye desire of ye last Meeting, they had spoken with Jeremiah Puddivatt & Eliz: Gray, & had given them an account of ye Exercise this Meeting had concerning their business, wch they seemed very sensible of; but yt ye said Jeremiah declared himself, & seemed to them, very incapable of travell. Wherupon a letter from ye said Jeremy & Elizabeth, directed to Thomas Ellwood for ye Meetings at Hunger Hill, was delivered & read, containing an acknowledgmt. of ye love, care & kindness of ye Meetings towards them, & a more full declaration of his inability to come to ye Meetings at Hunger Hill; All wch, being exprest in a modest, lowly & tender spirit, begat a greater pity & compassion to ye man's condition, & a willingness to condescend as far as might be, with safety to ye honour of Truth, to assist him in his weak condition. And in order therunto a Motion was made for removing ye monthly Meeting to Dudswell on
that Occasion, & for yt time only. But before it was concluded, some
Friends of ye Meeting expressing some dissatisfaction & stop in their
minds as to ye Marriage itself, in respect of ye man's so great infir-
mities of body, & being willing to have some discourse therupon
with him, ye further consideration of removing ye Meeting was re-
fer'd to ye next Meeting here, & Wm. Loddington, John Thornton
& Tho: Redman, (who were ye persons yt expressed their dissatis-
faction) were desired to take opportunity of speaking wth Jeremy
before another Meeting, both to satisfy themselves if they can, & to
let ye Couple know how far ye Meeting proceeded towards their
business, & what was ye Occasion of delaying it. Richd. Baker to
meet them there.

James Sweeting son of Henry Sweeting of Hartford Butcher, &
Ann Partridge daughter of Samuell Partridge of Awbury in ye Coun-
ty of Hartford, proposed their intentions of taking each other in
Marriage, desiring ye assistance of this Meeting therin; & ye said
James (who, with ye said Ann, had been at this Meeting, in ye 3d
mo: last, on ye same Occasion; but their proposall then was not
accepted by ye Meeting, in regard yt ye Certificate he then brought
was very defective, especially as to his Conversation) produced now
another Certificate, from ye Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hart-
ford, relating to his Conversation. Wch latter Certificate proving
also defective, as wel as ye former, ye Meeting was in some strait,
being loth to turn back ye young Couple again, & not free to rely on
so short a Certificate for ye clearing a Conversation yt had been
justly questioned. Wherfore ye Meeting chose rather to condescend
to take upon itself ye trouble of inquiry, & appointed Wm. Lod-
dington, Wm. Kidder & Sam: Willson to go over to Hartford on
purpose, & inquire diligently how ye young man has walked in
Truth. The inquiry on the Maid's part was committed to Robt.
Jones & John Puddivatt.

[108r]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d. of ye 7th mo: 1689.

Jeremiah Puddivatt & Elizabeth Gray came now in person to the
Meeting, & proposed their intention of taking each other in mar-
riage, desiring ye assistance of Friends therin; & Wm. Loddington,
John Thornton & Thomas Redman (who at ye last Meeting exprest some dissatisfaction) declaring now yt by a particular conference wth ye said Jeremy since ye last Meeting, & his coming now to this Meeting, they had received Satisfaction) ye Meeting received ye said Jeremiah & Elizabeth's Proposall, & committed to Robt. Jones & Henry Child to make inquiry into ye clearness of their proceedings, & orderly walking, & to give account therof at ye next Meeting.

William Kidder acquainting ye Meeting yt one John Willet a friend yt formerly lived wth Jeremiah Steevens of Wyccomb, & now wth Elizabeth Wasey in Southwark, being to take to wife one Alice a friend belonging also to Southwark Meeting, doth desire a Certificate from this Meeting concerning his clearness & orderly walking while in this Country; this Meeting, in order to ye granting therof did appoint Wm. Kidder & Tho: Redman to make inquiry concerning him, & give Account therof at ye next Meeting.

James Sweeting & Ann Partridge, who at ye last Meeting proposed their intention of taking each other in Marriage, came now to receive ye Answer of ye Meeting therto, & Wm. Loddington & Samuel Wilson, (who were appointed by ye last Meeting to go over to Hertford, & make inquiry concerning ye young man's orderly walking of late time) giving account yt upon inquiry of many friends at & about Hertford, they have found yt ye young man hath, for some time of late, been more circumspect & watchfull over his ways, & walked more orderly than formerly, & yt ye shortness & defect of ye Certificate he brought last was not designed, but casual & through oversight in ye Clerk yt writ it, & those Friends who signed it had now no dissatisfaction concerning ye young man, nor knew any cause or matter to hinder his proceeding in Marriage; Robt. Jones also giving account yt John Puddivat & he, upon full inquiry, found nothing but clearness on ye young woman's part, the Meeting, in ye tender condescending love of God, did leave them to their liberty † (in the Truth) to accomplish their said intended marriage according to ye way of Truth.

The Meeting, having long observed that there wanted some addition of stabling at this place (more horses being commonly brought than could conveniently be housed) & (after many considerations
for enlargment. therin) being informed yt there is a Carthouse in ye Outward yard, wch might be spared, & with a small charge made fit for yt use, did desire Hen: Child & T. E. to get it inclosed & fitted up agt. winter.

[108v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 7th: of 8th mo: 89.

Margery Clipsham & Mary Prince, being sent by ye women’s Meeting acquainted this Meeting, yt their Meeting had received a letter from Jeremiah Puddivatt & Elizabeth Gray, wch having been read in their Meeting, they were ordered to bring to this. The letter being read, imported their continued purpose of taking each other in Marriage, their intention of having come to this Meeting to have received ye Meeting’s Answer therunto, An Account of the hurt he received, by an accidental Mischance, in his return homewards from ye last Meeting, wch hath put him out of a capacity of coming again, And their desire yt ye Meeting would excuse their not coming, & send them an Answer to their Proposall. Wherupon, ye Meeting having weighed ye contents of ye Letter, & ye condition of ye man, found freedom in a tender sense of his bodily infirmities increased by his late hurt, to excuse him from coming again, & finding, upon Inquiry, no other Occasion of stop or delay in the business, did leave them to their liberty in ye Truth to accomplish their intended Marriage according to ye way of Truth; wch, as ye Answer of ye Meeting, Robt. Jones, Joseph Welch & Daniel Roberts were desired to give them. But, that no disservice to Truth & to this Meeting, might arise from this unusual way of proceeding, it was first agreed & concluded by ye Meeting, & ordered to be so entred in this Book, that this condescension was purely in compassion to the condition of the man, labouring under so great & painfull infirmities of body, as rendred him altogether unable to come, & therfore should not be drawu into Example or Precedent by any other hereafter, who should not be under ye like circumstances.

An Account being given yt at ye last Quarterly Meeting Consideration had been had of ye Recording ye Meeting Places of Friends in this County of Bucks, pursuant to ye late Act of Parliament for granting liberty of Conscience, & then & there agreed &
concluded to be done at ye next Generall Quarter Sessions of ye Peace, a List of ye Meeting Places belonging to this Monthly Meeting, wth in ye County of Bucks, were taken & delivered to ye Friends yt were appointed by ye said Quarterly Meeting to attend yt service.

William Kidder & Thomas Redman acquainted ye Meeting that upon Inquiry concerning John Willett (who at ye last Meeting here desired a Certificate from this Meeting of his clearness & conversation, in order to Marriage at Southwark) they did not find but that he was clear from all Ingagemts. towards Marriage, & walked orderly, while he lived in this Country; wherupon the following Certificate was read, signed & sent him. viz.

[109r]

From our Monthly Meeting holden at Hunger Hill, for the service of the Church of Christ, in the Upperside of the County of Bucks, this 7th: day of ye 8th: month 1689.

To our Friends, Brethren & Sisters in the Truth at their respective monthly Meetings, to be holden for the like Service, in Southwark in the County of Surrey.

Wheras John Willett, a friend belonging to your Meeting, having formerly lived in this County, hath given us to understand, that he hath a purpose (if the Lord permit) to take to Wife one Alice Farmer a friend belonging also to your Meeting, And in order therunto hath desired a Certificate from this Meeting, concerning his clearness & orderly Conversation:

We therfore, whose names are underwritten, do hereby certify you, & all whom it may concern, that upon particular Inquiry, on this Occasion made, we do not find yt ye said John Willett is under any Engagemt. to any other Woman, in relation to Marriage, but that he is free & clear; And yt, while he lived in this County, his Conversation was honest, & answerable to ye Truth he made Profession of: So yt we know no cause to hinder him from proceeding to ye accomplishing of his intended Marriage, according to ye good Order of Truth. In the love, & service of wch, we remain

Your Friends & Brethren
A Letter from Charles Marshall to Friends having been read in ye last Quarterly Meeting, & thence recommended to ye severall Monthly Meetings, was now read in this, & from this recommended to ye severall particular Meetings belonging to this.

[109v]
Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 4th: of ye 9th: mo: 89.

Henry Child & Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting, yt accord-
ing to ye agreemt. & direction of this Meeting in ye 7th mo: last, the Carthouse in ye outward yard was inclosed & made fit to set horses in; the charge of wch in ye whole (the particulars wherof were now offered to ye Meeting) came to £:01 - 07 - 00 for defraying of wch a Collection was now made, as follweth, vizt.

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<td>from Wyccomb Meeting</td>
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<td>Weston</td>
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(45) This letter directs Friends to remain steadfast, to set an example in and through their families, to beware of “superfluities in meats or in drinks” and “ye proud Offensive Garbs of ye World, not to be too wordy in conversation, to flee covetousness” nor “having a life In Uncertain Riches or In Any Externall thing,” to “try ye first moving cause of marriage,” to be merciful as masters and to know their places as servants and to beware of strife and contention!
Of which sum (the aforesaid charge being defraight) there remained 18d. which was ordered to be added to the former stock already in T. E.'s hands, since 5th mo. last.

The Meeting inquiring concerning the Testimony signed by this Meeting in the 5th mo. last agt. John Rose of Cuddington, whether it had been published or not; Answer was made that it hath not yet been published, in regard that John Rose (upon delivery of a Copy thereof to him) had desired it might be respite for a while, he intending to give some Answer to it. Which this Meeting taking to be a design either to delay or Cavill, did order Edm. Belson to speak with him (him) quickly; and let him know Friends expected no other answer from him but an Acknowledgment of his fault, & to condemn himself for it; which if he did not find to be the intent of his delay, that then the Friends of that Meeting should cause the said Testimony to be publickly read in their Meeting.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 2d of ye 10th: mo: 89.

Edmund Belson acquainted the Meeting that he had spoken with John Rose of Cuddington, who told him that he had once an intent to have written *sent* something in Answer to the Testimony signed against him, but that now his mind was altered, and friends might do as they would, or to yt purpose. Whereupon the Friends of that Meeting, having no hopes of receiving any Satisfaction from him, had caused the said Testimony to be openly read in their publick Meeting at Haddenham.

[110r]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 6t. of 11th: mo: 89.

Intimation being given to the Meeting, yt Andrew Brothers of Dorney, who had formerly for disorderly Carriages been visited from this Meeting, & seem'd greatly dejected in ye sense therof, is again return'd to his former evil Course of Alehouse-haunting & tip-
ling, of wch his wife hath made complaint, the Meeting agreed yt he should be visited again, & committed it to John Gigger & Thomas Dell senr. to inquire into ye certainty and particulars of his disorder, & if they found the Complaint to be true, then to reprove & admonish him as they should find cause, & return An Account therof at ye next Meeting.

Joseph Steeves, according to ye Agreemt. & direction of ye Meeting here in ye 4th: month last, having before brought one of a sort of divers books of Friends lately published for ye Service of Truth, did now bring (according to advice) a large quantity of each, wch were forthwith distributed among ye several Meetings.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on the 3d. of 12th: mo: 89.

Thomas Dell senr. acquainted ye Meeting yt John Gigger & he had both spoken with Andrew Brothers, & made some further inquiry concerning his behaviour; that they found him in a kind of sottish frame of mind, & understood he was too apt to mispend his time in haunting drinkinghouses, but not easy to be made sensible of the evil therof. The Meeting thought fit that they two, or William Grimsdall with one of them in the absence of the other, should visit him again, & lay before him ye Evil & scandall of that practice, in order to restrayn him from it. And that they also inform themselves more fully of ye certainty of the Report concerning his abusing himself wth drink, and swearing.

[110v]

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 3d. of ye first month 88

Tho: Dell senr. acquainted ye Meeting yt John Gigger & he had made further Inquiry concerning Andrew Brothers his disorderly walking, & found him really guilty of severall disorders; yt they had also spoken again wth him, & charged them home upon him; but could not bring him to such a sense of them, & acknowledgemt. of ye Evil therof, as he ought to have & make; but seeking to cover himself with excuses; all wch ye Meeting considering, & looking upon him as one who by resisting the counsell of God through his people, was grown into an hard & desperate Estate, found it their concern (for ye clearing of Truth from his miscarriages, past or to
MARCH - APRIL 1690

come) to give forth a Testimony agt. his disorderly Courses & him, wch was committed to Tho: Ellwood, John Penington, Hen: Child, Wm. Grimsdall & Tho: Dell senr. or any two of them to draw up agt. next Meeting.

Margery Clipsham & Susannah Belch, from ye Women's Meeting, acquainted {ye} this Meeting, yt one Thomas Bowry & Ester Burwell had been before their Meeting to propose their intentions of marriage. But this Meeting finding by a Record in this Book in ye 6t. mo: 88, yt ye said Ester had then come to this Meeting & proposed her intention of Marriage with one Wm. Messenger then of London, who at yt time brought a Certificate from ye Mens 2 weeks Meet: in London, concerning his Clearness from ingagemts. towards Marriage with any other, although an Account was given of foul miscarriages of ye said Wm. Messenger, & yt he is fled & gone, not known whether [sic], yet ye Meeting was not willing to admit a new proposall betwixt another man & her, {untill} untill some more authentick account be received concerning ye said Wm.Messenger from ye said Meeting of Friends in London, to whom this Meeting now ordered Tho: Ellwood to write for it.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood's on ye 7th: of ye 2d: month 1690.

According to ye order of ye last Meeting, a Testimony agt. the disorderly Courses of Andrew Brothers & in denial of him being drawn up, was presented to, read in, & approved by this Meeting. But Wm. Loddington expressing yt he was not fully clear til he had visited him again, & desiring an opportunity to do it before the signing of this Testimony, the Meeting therupon agreed to defer the signing thereof until another Meeting, yt Wm. Loddington might have an Opportunity first to clear himself unto & of, ye said Andrew Brothers.

Tho: Ellwood acquainted ye Meeting yt, according to the direction of ye last Meeting he had writ to ye two Weeks Meeting in London concerning Wm. Messenger, & received Answer from yt Meeting to this, wch was now read, & was as followeth, vizt.
To the Friends & Brethren of the monthly Meeting at Hunger Hill in the County of Bucks.

Dear Friends

We being concerned in our minds about ye Certificate given by us to one Wm. Messenger, bearing date the 30th: of ye 5th: mo: 88, in order to appear at your Meeting in relation to ye taking of one Ester Burwell of Watford Meeting to wife, We had therfore prepared a Letter to you, to reverse & call back the aforesaid Certificate; But at ye same time we intended ye signing of it at the two weeks Meeting, Yours came to our hands, at ye reading of which, we thought ours not so ful as yours desired, in relation to Messenger's miscarriage; wch take as follows. After he ye said Wm. Messenger had gotten the Certificate from us, we were informed he was guilty of some gross Evils, as in particular the keeping of women company dishonestly, & one in particular was supposed to be wth Child by him; Therfore some friends of ye Peel Quarter wherein he lived, appointed a Meeting wth him that ye Truth might be discovered, at wch time he made Lies his refuge, not being able to clear himself of what was laid to his charge, but as one guilty run away (in debt) of wch we were informed he designed to do after marriage, & as yet we know not where he is; but ye woman supposed to be with child, proved so, declaring it to be his; This is therfore the substance of our Reasons for putting a stop to, & now recalling the Certificate, Not doubting but you will act therin, as in ye wisdom of God, & good Order of Truth, you shal find meet. So we rest your friends & brethren in the Truth

From ye 2 weeks Meeting in London

ye 24th: of 1st. mo: 1688

John Stapler  John Edridge  John Elson  
Richd. Hawkes  Jon. Stringfellow  Robt. Langhorne  
Wm. Ingram  Gill. Latye  John Edge  
John Ball  John Dew  John West  
John Knight  Walter Bentall
Upon reading & considering the foregoing Letter from the two weeks Meeting in London concerning Wm. Messenger, this Meeting agreed that the Proposall of Marriage made by the said Wm. Messenger & one Ester Burwell in ye 6t. mo: 88. & then entred in ye Minutes of ye said Meeting in this Book, should be now crossed out, as being void & null, And that upon the said two weeks Meeting reversing their Certificate then granted, (upon wch ye said Proposall was grounded & then admitted,) this Meeting might safely admit & receive a Proposall of Marriage from Thomas Bowry & the said Ester Burwell.

Thomas Bowry † (the younger) of Hornhill in the parish of Rickmansworth, in the County of Hertford, son of Thomas Bowry the elder of the same place, Husbandman, & Ester Burwell Spinster, daughter of Mary Burwell late of Leesdon in ye parish of Watford in ye County aforesaid widow deceased, proposed their intentions of taking each other in marriage; the said Thomas producing a Certificate of his fathers consent, & also a discharge from one Martha Skidmore, a friend between whom & him, some more than ordinary kindness had formerly passed. The further inquiry into the clearness of their proceedings & orderly conversations was committed to Wm. Lodddington & Wm. Grimsdall on ye man’s part, & John Wells & George Mead on ye maid’s part.

A Letter from George Fox concerning Marriages was read.

Att a Meeting at Tho: Ellwood’s on ye 5th. of ye 3d. mo: 1690.

William Lodddington acquainted the Meeting yt he, with another friend, had visited Andrew Brothers, whom he found in a hopeless condition; & yt now he was fully clear of him, & not desirous ye Testimony prepared for ye Clearing of Truth agt. him, should be any longer delayed. Wherupon ye Meeting ordered {yt} the said Testimony to be again read; wch being done, & it approved of, it was signed as followeth:
Such is the Nature of true {Christianity} Religion, yt it begets a watchful Care in those yt rightly receive, & faithfully walk in it, not only over themselves, but over others also who make Profession therof with them, yt nothing may be brought forth by any, wch may bring dishonour on ye Name of the Lord, & scandal on ye Profession they make. Hence it is yt a Concern hath been upon many of us the People called Quakers, wth relation to Andrew Brothers of Dorney in ye County of Bucks, whom, for some years past, to our grief, we have found (though holding, in some measure, a Profession of ye same Truth wth us, yet) not walking so circumspectly, in subjection therunto, as he ought to have done, but, by giving way to a careless & loose mind, hath suffered himself to be led away in to a disorderly, loose & unsavoury Conversation, neglecting ye necessary Care of his family (wch in duty he is bound to provide for) spending too much of his time in Tipling-houses, & taking to himself a greater liberty in drinking, than could stand wth Truth or common Sobriety. For wch evil Courses, as we have dealt faithfully wth him, in laying the Evil therof plainly & timely before him, & reproving him therfore; So, when ye hand of ye Lord fel heavy in Judgment upon him, we were not wanting in our Compassionate Endeavours, by xtian Counsells & Exhortations, to help bear up his spirit from sinking into despair. But when, notwithstanding our labour of love, & travell of spirit with him & for him, we sensibly found he closed wth ye Enemy of his soul, agt. those gracious tenders of Mercy, wch ye Lord, in his infinite goodness, vouchsafed him, & so, through disobedience, became more & more darkned & hardned, even to committ again, without shew of remorse, ye like Evils he had before been guilty of, & seemed at first in some measure sorry for, we felt a Concern remain upon us (in discharge of our duty to God, & to his Truth, & to ye holy Profession we make therof) to bear witness more publickly agt. him & his disorderly Courses. That none therfore may impute his Miscarriages to us, or charge his loose & idle Conversation upon ye Principle we hold & profess, we do hereby solemnly, & in ye fear of ye Lord, testify & declare, yt we do
not own the said ANDREW BROTHERS to be one of us. And although, in ye universal love of God, wch would not yt any should perish, we cannot but pity & commiserate his condition; yet we do utterly dislike, disown & deny all such disorderly Courses as he hath been found in, & all those that live therin, as being not really of us, but Enemies to our Principle & Profession, whatever they may pretend, or be thought to be. To wch Testimony we subscribe our names at our Monthly Meeting, holden at Hunger Hill for ye Service of ye Church of Christ, in ye Upper side of ye County of Bucks, this fifth day of ye Third month 1690.

John White         Daniel Roberts      Tho.: Ellwood
Henry Costard      Richd. Baker       Charles Peirce
Joseph Welch       Wm. Loddington     Tho.: Crouch.
Thomas Dell        James Smith        Philip Thomson.
Thomas Redman      Henry Treadway     George Belch.
Joseph Steevens    John Penington     Edward Butterfeild.
Peter Prince       Richd. Clipsham     Josiah Lane
Samuel Wilson      John Morton        Joseph Graveney
Wm. Kidder

The Meeting ordered yt a Copy of ye foregoing Testimony be sent to Andrew Brothers, as soon as conveniently may be, by Tho: Dell & George Salter; And yt two other Copies therof be left, one wth John Gigger of Eaton, & the other with Thomas Dell, for them or any other Friends, to make use of, for ye service of Truth, as they shall see occasion for it.

[Consent given to Thomas Bowry & Ester Burwell. (Vide under date 7.ii.90)]

The Meeting understanding that the two weeks Meeting in London did desire to have ye Certificate wch they formerly gave concerning one Wm. Messenger then of London, & wch ye said Wm. Messenger brought to this Meeting in ye 6t. month 88. returned back to them again, as having been made void by a subsequent Cer-
tificate from them in the first month 1690 did now order Tho: Ellwood to return it back accordingly.

William Bacheller of Kensington in the County of Middlesex, having formerly lived in these parts, & intending to take to wife one Judith Cannings of London, a friend belonging to Wheeler Street Meeting London, desired a Certificate from this Meeting concerning his Clearness from Engagements to Marriage, & his orderly Conversation while he lived in this Country. Wch ye Meeting taking into consideration, appointed Tho. Dell & Tho: Redman to make the Inquiry & report to next Meeting.

The Meeting taking notice, yt ye Meeting, wch since ye death of Edward Hoare & ye widow Ward of Missenden, hath been kept at Joseph Graveney’s house at Prestwood in great Missenden parish, is some occasion of Charge to ye said Joseph who is but low in ye world, and understanding yt the said Joseph doth rent 5li of ye monies wch this Meeting (in ye 12th: mo: 86.) did order T. E. & H. Child to place out, did order Tho: Ellwood (in whose hand ye said Joseph’s Bond doth ly) not to receive any more Interest of ye said Joseph for ye use of ye said 5li; but let him use it gratis until further Order from this Meeting.
APPENDIX
Dear Friends and Brethren,

In that universal Love wherein we are mutually Concerned in the service of truth and one another do we dearly salute you and therein doe signifie unto you That upon Consideration had of the Public Charge relateing to friends and truth at a general Meeting for the City and Country held this day at this place It was found of absolute necessity that a publick Collection be againe made among friends in the several Counties throughout England and Wales for the Management of Truth's affaires particularly for friends supply that are called into the service of the Lord beyond Seas and for bookees that are disposed of and given away for the publick service of truth to the Cheife Rulers and others Concerned as Likewise a Considerable charge hath been and may be for packetts of letters together with accounts of friends Generall suffrings with the Charge of Recording and often transcribing the same (friends of London haveing made it appeare that for severall yeares they have layd out neer one hundred pounds a yeare upon those generall services aforesaid (beside that of the service beyond Seas) which doe equally Concern friends in the Country as the City to beare especially for the future. Wherefore we desire you that are Concerned in the Quarterly Meeting to take care that a Collection be made accordingly in the Country for the Intents and purposes aforesaid and sent up with as much Convenient expedition as may be to the hands of Gerrard Roberts Gilbert Late Edward Man John Elsom and Arthur Cook or any of them.

Soe not doubting your Care herein for the truths sake desireing that friends may be openhearted Cheerfull and dilligent therein as God hath blessed and prospered them we remaine

Your Faithfull friends and Brethren

Devonshire house London
the 29th of the 3 mo. 1672.

*An abridged version of this letter was re-issued 17.iii.76.*
APPENDIX B

A Paper of Advice from ye Yearly Meeting in 1675
(See Minutes for 7.iv.86)

Concerning Contracts in order to Marriage.

That such friends as have with serious advice due deliberation free and Mutuall consent as in the Sight of God and unity of his Blessed truth absolutely agreed espoused or contracted upon the account of Marriage shall not be allowed or owned among us in any unfaithfull-ness or Injustice one to another to breake or violate any such Con tract or Engagement which is to the reproach of truth or injury one of another. And where any such Injury breach or violation of such Solemn Contract is knowne or Complained of or Enmity or Strife occasioned thereby we advise and Counsell that a few faithfull friends both men and Women in their respective Meetings to which the Parties belong be appointed to enquire into the Cause thereof and in the wisdom and Counsell of God to put a stop and speedy end thereto and bring God's Power and the judgment thereof over them that have offended in this Case until they come to unfeigned repentance.

APPENDIX C

Extract from Yearly Meeting Epistle 1689
(See Minutes for 3.iv.89)

We salute you in the Lord, whose Presence is continued and Blessings renewed unto us, and Signally manifest with our Assemblies, blessed be his Name forever. The sense of Love and Unity amongst Friends, and the Prosperity of truth in many Countries in this Nation, and divers Remote Parts according as we have had certain Accounts, is a great comfort to us in the Lord: and we Understand that there is such an openness in divers Counties in this Nation, amongst People to receive Truth, that many Friends do much desire some Faithfull Labourers among them, as the Lord shall make way. In some Countries Friends have provided several new Meeting-Places, wherein their Love to the Name of the Lord, and the spread-
ing of his Truth is manifest, and truly commendable. And Dear Friends, we desire your Testimony against Tythes may be kept up in the Peaceable Spirit of Christ, as becomes true Christians; rather Suffering patiently in the Spoiling of your Goods than any ways to Strive or struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by force, but singly committ your cause to the Lord who will plead it, and Judge righteously. And Friends, We desire you would keep an exact Account of this and all other your Sufferings for Truth, and also of your deliverances, to be ready as there shall be occasion to call for them. . . .

A concern coming upon Friends of the Meeting, concerning several persons, both Men and Women, who go Rambling Idly up and down the Countries, under pretence of Preaching Truth, who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country, whose Conversations and Examples are not Savoury as becomes the Truth, Friends in the Several Counties should beware of such, and give no Encouragement nor Countenance to them, but to Warne them to returne, and Settle in their places and honest Imployments, and seek Unity with their own Meetings.

And Dear Friends, the prosperity of Truth, the Increase of Love Unity and Peace amongst all Friends in their respective Meetings, and in general, is greatly desired by Us; and that every one watch against and shut out all occasion of Offences, Contentions and Divisions, and in the Name of the Lord Stop and Judge down all Whisperings, Talebearing, Backbiting, and Evilspeaking tending thereunto, and be kind and tender-hearted one to Another; and earnestly labour and press for Universall Love, Union and Peace in all the Churches of Christ; and walk wisely and Circumspectly towards all men in the peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no offence nor occasions to those in Outward Government, nor way to any Controversies, Heats or Distractions of this World, about the Kingdoms thereof; but pray for the good of all, and Submit all to that Divine power and Wisdom, which Rules over the Kingdoms of Men, that as the Lord's hidden Ones, that are always Quiet in the Land, and as those Prudent Ones, and Wise in heart, who know when and where to keep Silent, you all may approve Your Hearts to God, keeping out of all airey discourses and Words that may any
ways become Snares or Hurtful to Truth or Friends, as being Sensible that any Personal occasion of reproach causes a reflection upon the Body.

And Friends, let every one be Watchful against an Earthly Spirit getting up in any, for yt will choak the good Seed, and bring forth a Slighting or neglecting your Testimony, in your first day and Week Dayes Meetings, and bring a decay of your Strength and Zeal for God and his Truth, and bring a weakness upon You by reason whereof such will not be able to Stand in an hour of Temptation.

And Dear Friends for the Lords sake, exercise your Christian care in the Education of your Children in the fear of God and plainness and Simplicity of the Truth, both in Language and Habitts.
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ERRATUM

Page 18, Note (6) line 1.
For G. Ellwood read T. Ellwood.