

and much short of what my brother **Josias** has attained unto, in writing and arithmetic.

"1680 and 1681 - About this time many of the most substantial housekeepers in and about Boulton, were taken away by death. Not long before my father's death, my uncle **William Barker**, of Mearsbeck, died, whose wife **Margaret** was my mother's sister. His only child, a son, died sometime before him, and he left his real estate chargeable with legacies to **Ellin Yeates**, wife of **Thomas Yeates**, our next neighbour, who was his brother's daughter; but his personal estate he gave to his widow, our aunt, who, sometime after my father's death, came to dwell with our mother, and was very kind and bountiful to us, but did not continue many months with us till she also died and left to our mother a good part of her effects to her disposal, to us her children, which she frugally managed to good profit.

It was in the year 1680 that **William Penn**, - in consideration of what was due to his late father, **Admiral William Penn**, from the crown, for his many years' service in that station with great honour and success, - got a patent or purchase from King Charles II for a large tract of land of some hundred miles extent (as big as England) on the west side of Delewar, in America, and upon which published proposals to encourage the planting and peopling, that any purchaser should have 1,000 acres for 100 free farm, upon a final quit rent, and that all people professing the Christian religion should have the free exercise of the same, without any imposition or contribution for maintaining the same, except what was voluntary. And in order to the improving it, he went over in 1681, and many of his friends called Quakers, and of other religious professions, as purchasers, and soon after their arrival, marked out a piece of ground in an angle where Schulkele [Schuylkill] river entered into Deleware river, of two miles square, to build a city upon, which was early begun, and carried on with that industry that in ten years time there were above 1,000 houses built and inhabited; and, in the country, to some distance [the land] purchased and cleared and improved in husbandry, not only to support the province, but also to export to our sugar colonies to the southward.

"At the same time, and the four years of the reign of King Charles II the laws for the prosecution of all protestanters for their not conforming to the Episcopal worship, were put in execution, and their religious meetings suppressed; the Presbyterians evaded by meeting secretly, so that the severity fell mostly upon the Quakers, who continued to meet publicly; upon which they underwent great sufferings by the law, made mostly against them, which imposed a fine of £20 upon the preacher and £20 upon the houses or inhabitant where such conventicle or meeting was kept; and for non-ability of the preacher or inhabitant, the fine might be made upon any one of the hearers or congregation. Upon which, many had all their cattle and household goods taken from them all over the nation; or, if no distress to be had, imprisoned.

In Lancaster, the mayor ordered the meeting-house door to be locked, and set a guard upon it, on the first day weekly, to prevent a meeting; yet the Friends met in the lane before it, at the usual time, without disturbance for some time; and often times meetings were kept in my master's house publicly; the magistrates were so favourable not to admit of any information against them; although the law was so severe, that if any justice of peace refused to convict and fine upon any vile person's oath, the said justice was liable to a fine of £100. Great distress was made of the goods of

the Quakers in the hundred of Loynsdale, to some hundreds of pounds; and it was projected that this severe prosecution would have driven them all to the aforesaid province of **William Penn**, which he named Pennsylvania, and the aforesaid city Philadelphia; and although many went, and in fifty years' time it became more populous than some others that had been planted fifty years before it; yet the severe prosecution rather increased the Protestant dissenters in England. Many of the people called Quakers were committed to the county gaol for the non-payment of tithes, church rates, and for not taking the oath of obedience, or not answering in the Exchequer, Chancery, and bishops' courts upon oath; so that there were mostly forty or fifty at a time prisoners on these accounts; which my master undertook to provide bedstocks for, as also firing and candles for, and other necessaries for such as were poor, which charge was defrayed by the quarterly meeting for the county. **Seth Bushall**, styled doctor of divinity, was the vicar of Lancaster parish this hot persecution time, and was a persecution for religion, or prosecution of any of his parish for what was customary due, and very courteous to dissenters of all denominations; so that none of his parishioners were troubled by him. But **Garforth**, his predecessor, was an austere man, and severe for his pretended dues, and prosecuted them who did not pay, especially the Quakers, to imprisonment to London. And **James Fenton**, who succeeded **Bushall**, was a haughty man and very severe in exacting his pretended dues, to imprisonment of several."

*To the Editor of the Lancaster Gazette*

Sir, - The very interesting extracts from the journal of **William Stout**, which appeared in your paper on Saturday last, will require some little notice regarding the dates he makes use of, they being in the mode in use by the Society of Friends. At the time this journal was written, the Old Style was in use. The change of style in England was established by an Act of Parliament passed in the year 1752. It was then enacted that the year should commence on the 1st January instead of the 25th March; consequently, when that journal was written, March was then called the first month by Friends. It had been the practice for many years preceding the change of style to write both years, by way of obviating mistakes, as 1st Feb., 1707, or 1707-8, meaning the year 1708, if begun in January, or 1707 if begun in March.

I think this is worth alluding to in your next insertion.

Yours most respectfully,  
**Thomas Dewhurst**

Lancaster, 11 mo., 6, 1850

**AUTOGRAPHY  
OF A  
LANCASHIRE "FRIEND."  
No. 3.**

We resume this singular narrative with the year

"1682. - The beginning of this year, my fellow apprentice, **Abraham Merrick**, had finished his apprenticeship; and as this summer was very droughty, it was expected that there would be a dearth, and he was employed by some persons here to go into the North of Ireland, to buy oatmeal, which he did, - which he brought hither, but did not prove to the projected profit of his employers. He afterwards went into Cheshire, his native county, and began his trade at Tarporley, and married, but did not improve himself much; his conduct not so good, but took liberty to keep unseasonable and disorderly company. Some time after, my master took another apprentice, one **William**