

A TRUE RELATION
OF THE
FLOURISHING STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
BY JOHN HOLME ~ 1695

So they went up and searched the land – Num 13:21

THE INTRODUCTION

Good people all who dwell far off or near,
And do desire the truth from hence to hear,
Mark well things which to you I relate,
They will inform you of our happy state.
Tis now ten years as many know full well,
Since I came into this good land to dwell
And I have often travelled up and down,
And made my observations at each town.
The truth of matters I well understand,
And thereby know how to describe this land.
All those of you who hither do resort
Will find the truth of what I do report;
Nay, when you come and have our country seen,
Then you will be like unto Sheba's Queen,
Who, when to Solomon she did resort,
To know the truth of what some did report,
She did confess that what she did behold
Was more by half than had been to her told.
Also when I have finished my relation
In just commending of this brave plantation,
Those who come from far this place to view,
May say I did not give it half its due.
I know there's many things which I omit -
There may be many more which I forget -
All which to add would make a book so large
The purchase of it would be too much charge;
My matter in short compass I will bring,
Observe it well for now it doth begin.

THE LAND LARGE AND CHEAP

This land is large and cheap, as is well known,
So that each poor man may make some his own,
Enjoy it whilst he lives, and at the end
Bestow it on his children or his friend.

GOODNESS OF THE SOIL

The soil is good, as plainly doth appear,
What grows in England doth or may grow here;
Yea here are many things grown for our use
Which we know English ground will not produce.
Here's store of timber trees of the best sort,
Both for our use and also to transport;

Cedar, Beech, Maple, and Black Walnut fine,
The Ash, Oak, Hickory, and sweet scented Pine;
With such abundance more, both great and small,
That scarcely any man can name them all.

FRUITS WHICH GROW NATURALLY

Here's divers sorts of fruits, all very good,
That without planting do grow in our wood,
Mulberries, Hazelnuts, Strawberries, Plumbs,
Which pleaseth those well who to eat them comes;
Brave Huckleberries, which are very dainty,
We have them each year in exceeding plenty;
Cranberry sauce and tarts we do make when
We greet our friends, ladies or gentlemen;
Grapes, Walnuts, Chestnuts, many things beside,
Which God by nature doth for us provide.

ORCHARDS

Here's many men do plant great orchards here,
Which brings great store of fruits to them each year;
Great store of cherries and of divers sorts,
Planters bring them unto great towns in boats.
We may admire how all of them are spent —
I never saw so many but in Kent.
Some make of them a very pleasant drink
Which they call cherry wine as I do think.
Good peaches we have in such plenty great,
The half of them the people cannot eat.
Here's apples, pears, and quinces in such store,
And in few years we may have many more.
The fruit trees do grow so fast in this ground,
That we begin with cider to abound.

OF THE GARDENS

Such as take pains they have good gardens got,
Which do abound with good things for the pot;
Both parsnips, turnips, carrots, and good cabbage,
With sallet herbs, great potatoes, and radish;
Brave sparragrass and lovely cauliflowers
Spring quickly up with warm April showers;
Cashaws, squashes, yea, and cucumbers great,
Melons of divers sorts, pleasant to eat;
Chives, onions, leeks, shallots, and such like stuff,
Not one year passes but we have enough.

IN THE FIELDS

Indian corn, great store shipped off and sold,
It doth increase above a hundred fold;
Good rye, also, doth grow here in great plenty,
Which food for young or old is very dainty

Here's peas and beans as good as I have seen,
In summer they are pleasant to eat green.
All winter long if I am not mistaken,
They are brave food with good fat beef and bacon.
Buckwheat is quickly raised, it grows amain,
And so likewise all sorts of English grain,
Which both for man and beast stands in great stead -
The overplus is shipt in flour and bread,
Unto such islands where such things they want,
And they return us pay in what they plant.

PHYSICAL THINGS IN THE WOODS

Here are waxberries growing in these parts,
Whose virtues are best known to men of arts;
This argument of them I'll only handle,
They make a pleasant, sweet, and lasting candle.
Were they but known amongst the popish classes,
No doubt but they would burn them at their masses.
They were unknown unto the former ages,
But now by gathering them some make good wages.
Here are brave things besides this berry-wax,
Elkermis, turmerick, and sarsifrax;
Physick herbs, roots, and fruits here are such crops,
Each year, as might serve many dragsters shops.
Should I tell all I have seen in my walk,
Like an apothecary I should talk.

OF THE STRANGE COTTON STONE

In divers places some people have found
A wonderful strange stone upon the ground ;
I saw a man who broke it, and did pull
Out of it something like to cotton wool.
He set it all on fire and let it burn —
I thought it would soon into ashes turn;
But putting it out it did appear again,
As twas at first, without legerdemain.
It seems to most to be a new found thing,
But some for its antiquity will bring
Old authors, which are not to be forgotten,
Although themselves are long since dead and rotten.
Should I affirm of it all I do hear -
How men make of it cloth and clothes to wear;
And when they're foul burn out the dirt in the fire,
Some men perhaps would call me a great liar;
These things do not accord with all men's reason,
So treating of them may be out of season.

SUGAR

We have a great tall sort of sugar tree
Grows in our swamps, most wonderful to see -
In School Kill River many of them stand,

And in some other places of the land;
They bring a blossom red in the month of May,
And I have seen and heard some people say,
Like large white-maple mostly they do seem,
But 'tis their sweetness makes them in esteem;
For in the pleasant, warm, and lovely Spring,
When flowers grow, and birds do sweetly sing,
These lovely trees they do flow out amain,
With liquors sweet as juice of sugar cane.
Barbados I do know exceeding well,
For I some years at least in it did dwell;
Their way of making sugar I did see,
Yet, for all that, give me the sugar tree;
This needs no slaves to plant, weed out, and bind,
Nor cart nor horses to bring home to grind;
No windmills for to squeeze the liquor out —
Pierce but the tree, the sugar it will spout,
In one night's time enough to fill a tub —
Some formerly made of it pleasant bubb.
Of late a dunce, a very simple noddy,
Did boil this liquor up into a body;
Then in a vain fantastical bravado,
He boasted of his making muscovado;
And so it was good, and of a great grain,
Although the fool had little in his brain.
I lately was advised by a Quaker,
Who heard that I had been a sugar baker,
To try my skill in driving on this thing —
Hoping I might it to perfection bring;
And so, perhaps, I may in a short time —
Hoping that sugar baking is no crime —
For no such quantities can here be made,
As will do much hurt to the shipping-trade;
Unto the West Indies we still intend
For sugar, rum, and molasses to send.

THE BEASTS WILD AND TAME

Here's many cows and horses, swine and sheep,
Which for delight and profit we do keep;
Besides those wild beasts which do range the wood,
Which both for food and clothing are so good;
The rich fur gowns which some of them adorn,
The greatest princes sometimes have them worn;
The skins of others when they are drest right,
They make clothing which may become a knight.
The fox, raccoon, the beaver, mink and rabbit,
Panthers, otters, and elks with us inhabit -
The male musk-rat, which hunters often seize,
His fragrant stones they do great ladies please -
Also the stately, nimble footed deer,
Whose flesh is good for food, and skins to wear;
The wild cats, possums, and great savage bear,
With many others which are very rare.

THE WILD FOWL

Here is much wild fowl near to us resorts,
I know not how to name you half the sorts.
The pigeons in such numbers we see fly
That like a cloud they do make dark the sky;
And in such multitudes are sometimes found,
As that they cover both the trees and ground;
He that advances near with one good shot,
May kill enough to fill both spit and pot.
Geese, turkies, ducks, pheasants, partridge and teal,
With such things we make many pleasant meal.
The stately swan, a bird of a great size,
Her downy skin there's many do it prize.
Here's eagles, hawks, and black birds, a great store,
And I might name unto you many more;
Brave singing birds which are of divers sorts,
About us frequently do tune their notes.
And now I'm treating of the flying things,
I may bring in the bee, for she hath wings,
And flies abroad because she loves to thrive,
By bringing home sweet honey to her hive;
Here many keep them greatly to their gain,
For with most people they do thrive amain;
Beeswax and honey I have never seen
More cheap and plentiful where I have been:
Come, then, you that would well bestow your money,
View this good land which flows with milk and honey.

THE FISH

We plenty have of many sorts of fish,
As choice and good as any man needs wish;
Eels, rock-fish, trouts, shads, herring, perch and pike
So plenty that I never saw the like;
Here's drums and sheep's heads, flat backs, and sunfish
With which some people often fill their dish.
Of crabs and clams and oysters I might tell,
And divers other fishes in the shell;
The lusty whale which we here kill and boil,
It yields great plenty of good bone and oil;
The sturgeon briskly through the water bounce,
And now and then they into boats do flounce.
At some times they are taken in our nets,
When fishermen but little for them gets;
But here are some who in this country dwell
That knoweth how to pickle them right well,
And make them fit to eat transport or sell.

SITUATION

By reason of a good situation
We lie completely for navigation,
Upon a sweet and pleasant shore,
Where for a hundred miles and more,
Having the help of tide or gale
Ships up a river safely sail,
Till they arrive unto the port
Where merchants mostly do resort.
Besides the River Delaware,
Here's others not so big by far;
Branches and creeks I know them well,
And many planters on them dwell;
And there is room and land good store
To entertain abundance more,
Who may in boats with wondrous ease
Carry their goods, or what they please,
Near to the places where they dwell,
To serve themselves or for to sell.
Plantations backward in the wood
Have store of water very good,
With springs and brooks they do abound
As may be seen in most men's ground.

BUILDING SHIPS

Within this six or seven year
Many good ships have been built here,
And more, some say, will be built yet,
For here is timber very fit,
Good carpenter who bravely thrive,
And master builders to contrive;
And also here are smiths enough,
Who can prepare the iron stuff.

ROPE MAKERS

Here are rope makers who do make
Such sized ropes as men bespeak,
All sorts of rigging for a ship
They can completely make it fit.
Although not usual they are able
To make from sail twine to a cable.
Good hemp grows here and as for tar
We need not go to fetch it far,
For there is to be had great store
No further off than Jersey shore
Where plenty of the same is made
Both for ships and ropemakers' trade.

BLOCK MAKERS

And when the ship comes off the stocks
We need not want good pumps and blocks.
Here's those that make them full as well
As any that in England dwell.

SAIL MAKERS

Here's sail makers who never fails
To make up any sorts of sails.
They with their work go thorough stitch;
Employ enough would make them rich
If strong drink did not them bewitch.
Here's divers merchants fully bent
To draw a trade with good intent
And so they do I understand
Industriously by sea and land.
All wise men wishes them good speed
That they may bring in what we need
And for themselves get honest gains
To pay for their great risk and pains

INHABITANTS

If you desire to understand
Who first inhabited this land,
Twas Indians whose skins do look
As black as bacon dried in smoke.
They take no care nor fear no want;
When they drink rum they sing and rant.
They lay but little up in store,
And when that's spent they seek for more.
The women they do plant and weed
Some Indian corn, to serve their need.
The men go out to hunt and fish.
And bring home food to fill their dish;
They furnish us with flesh and skins,
Of bucks and divers other things.
What clothes they wear are quickly made —
They do not help the tailors trade.
Like idle heathens they do live —
This short account of them I give.
Here's many Sweeds, some Finns and Dutch,
Whose trade with Indians was much,
Before the government of Penn,
But since, here are some other men
Who do not think it is unfair
To strike in with them for a share.
Here are some Germans up and down,
Besides the settlers of a town.
A town here is that's long and large,
All builded at the cost and charge

Of those stout Germans, who can work
As hard as slaves under the Turk,
Although here's no need of such toil,
We live in such a fertile soil.
Here are some Scots who think no shame
To own the country whence they came;
But I do think they have more wit
Than ever to return to it.
Here's Irish, French, some of all sorts,
Fast unto this good land resorts;
But greatest number came here when
The King granted Governer Penn
To be Chief Lord and Ruler here;
Then multitudes hither did steer,
And the most part of them indeed
Are English people, or Welsh, breed.
The Welshmen mostly thrive amain,
They need not go to Wales again;
The richer sort bring store of stuff
Upon which they live well enough.
The poor man he soon understands
That he, by working with his hands,
Gets money faster here by much
Than he himself and two more such
Could do before he did come here,
So they can with pleasant cheer.

BARBADOS

Barbados, I well understand,
Hath been a fertile spot of land,
And some in it have got riches
Who went there in ragged breeches.
Merchants and planters being rich,
Pride in them is at such a pitch,
That we may fear the heavens will frown
And shortly bring their greatness down.
As great fish little fish devour,
So their great men oppress the poor,
That both the poor and middling sort
Fast from them to this land resort,
And leave the great men with their slaves,
Who lately have appeared such knaves,
That they their masters fain would kill,
And all the white people's blood spill.
But such as to this place escape,
Are out of danger of that rape.

BARMONDAS

Barmondas was a pleasant spot,
But these blessings attend it not
Nor as hath done in former times
Her children have committed crimes

Against the Lord and growing worse
Their blessings are turned to a curse
That in that place they do not thrive,
But swarm hither to our new hive.

UPON THIS CONTINENT

Upon this brave large continent,
Remote from us some do repent
That they at first settled not here;
But now this way, some of them steer.
Carolina and New England,
As we may see and understand,
Are much in love with this good place,
And think it to be no disgrace
To leave their lands and come thus far
To dwell with us at Delawar.

IMPROVEMENTS

Some drives on as if fully bent
To outdo all this continent;
And so they do I understand,
Or they build houses and clear land
So fast as was not known before,
Since Christian men dwelt on this shore;
As such of New England knows well
Who do come here to buy and sell;
Great store of wheat and other grain
They fetch from us without disdain,
As they have done full nine year,
As is well known unto most here.

TOWNS

The city where most people dwell
Is PHILADELPHIA known full well;
It is a famous place indeed
To be built here with so much speed.
This lovely city it doth stand
Upon a stately neck of land,
Between two rivers, deep and wide,
Where gallant ships may safely ride.
Our houses are comely and good,
Some few of them are built with wood,
But the most part are stone and brick,
Placed in order pretty thick.
Upon this river Dalawar,
Extending in length very far,
Also in breadth every way,
Strangers do wonder, and some say
What means these Quakers thus to raise
These stately fabrics to their praise,
Since we well know and understand,

When they were in their native land,
They were in prison trodden down -
And can they now build such a town?
They wonder thus at what is past,
But what will they say of the last,
When all the buildings are quite done,
Which are intended and begun,
Here's many good houses in hand,
And many more, I understand,
Will be begun now with all speed,
To make a famous place indeed.
Here are more towns, but not so great,
Where many Welsh take up their seat,
And lives in love with much content,
That they came here do not repent.
Some towns and farms had settlement
Long time before Penn's government,
But since, they are improved much,
By English, Scotchmen, Welsh and Dutch.

OF PROVISIONS

Bread corn and other things to eat,
Are here both plentiful and cheap;
Our shambles with fulness abound,
Both veal, mutton, and lamb there's found.
Such store of beef and pork is here
That much is shipped from hence each year.
The brewers make good ale and beer
As ever I drank any where.
Not only so, but here are some
Will undertake for to make rum;
Here is good cider now made here
As ever I drank any where,
And likely to be more each year.
Some men have made a little wine,
Whose good endeavours may in time
Make many tuns right superfine.

HOPS

Here's large brave hops grows in our wood,
Which some affirm to be so good,
That since they become dwellers here
They still use them in brewing beer:
But now of late some men have found
That by transplanting in new ground,
They grow more plentiful and good
Than when they were wild in the wood;
And are the best I understand
That ever grew in any land,
When ordered by a skilful hand.

A POTTER

Here dwells a potter knows right well
How to make such pots as will sell.
He is so painful and so wise,
He makes some of each sort and size,
And all his ware is good they say ,
Ever since he found out good clay.
He doth drive on a brave brisk trade;
Great store of pots by him is made,
He having divers hands all day
Turning the wheels and working clay,
To make more pots. All the old
In a short time are gone and sold.

BRICKS

Here's brickmakers drives a great trade,
And good sound bricks by them are made.
They are well burnt of a good size,
For which we do them highly prize.
They have been cheap for some years past
Which did help up brick houses fast.
Brickmakers trade must needs hold when
The building itch infects most men,
As it is plain it doth do here
And likely to hold many year.

OYSTER SHELL OR STONE LIME

A few years since it was known full well,
Here lime was burnt of oyster shell,
No limestones in those parts was found,
But since by searching in the ground
Great store was seen in a short time,
On which some now make good stone lime,
Which in its goodness doth excell
That which was made of oyster shell,
And much cheaper 'tis at this time
Than we paid for oyster shell lime.

MINES

Besides, what is upon the land,
Here's divers mines now come to hand.
In many places some do find
Good iron, which they do not mind;
They hunt and search for richer stuff
By which they hope to make enough.
Some men without digging deep in
Have found and run both lead and tin:
And here is copper of the best
That ever came unto the test.

In shining it resembles Sol
For which some do it much extol,
So maulable that with much ease
The artificer, when he please,
Makes of it what he hath a mind
It works so pliable and kind.
But little progress yet is made
In any of this mineral trade;
Some small beginnings do go on
And more may be ere it be long.
Had we but men of wealth and skill,
Who would go on with a good will
In prosecuting of this same,
They might get wealth, honour, and fame.
More might be said, but I have reason
To leave this till another season.

ISINGLASS

Here's isinglass, bright, good and large;
Some to find it was at great charge,
But now thinks not their labour lost,
Since their gains roundly pay the cost.,
The earth affords it in great bounty,
As may be seen in Chester county
And divers other places more.
Some men do find it in great store.
The window glass is often here
Exceeding scarce and very dear,
So that some this way do take
Isingglass windows for to make;
Others from hence to England send it,
Where they to good advantage vend it.

THE LOADSTONE

It is not long since that I saw
Good loadstone which doth iron draw,
And here are some good men of fame
Affirms there's cart loads of the same
Upon a certain spot of ground
Within this province lately found.
About it here we have no quarrels,
Though some are shipping it off in barrels
And for England sending more home
Than needs to bear Mahomet's tomb.

PRINTER.

Here dwelt a printer and I find
That he can both print books and bind;
He wants not paper, ink nor skill
He's owner of a paper mill.
The paper mill is here hard by

And makes good paper frequently,
But the printer, as I here tell,
Is gone unto New York to dwell.
No doubt but he will lay up bags
If he can get good store of rags.
Kind friend, when thy old shift is rent
Let it to the paper mill be sent.

LINEN MANUFACTURES

Some planters justly make their cracks
How they do raise good store of flax;
And so they do I understand,
For it grows so well in this land
That from one acre some have found
Their drest flax worth at least Eight Pound.
If linen weavers do come here,
Of wanting work they need not fear.
Tis not long since some was beginning
For to drive on the trade of linen.
But now almost each good housewife
With her next neighbour is at strife
To see who can most linen make
They such delight in spinning take.

WOOLEN MANUFACTURE

Here's many men do make stuffs here,
Some only for themselves to wear,
Others do make them for to sell,
And on their trade lives very well.
Full hard and briskly do they tug it
To make both camblett, serge and drugget,
And divers other sorts of stuff,
By which they do gain well enough.
Spinsters and weavers need not fear,
But their work always will be dear.
Now here is tucking mills and racks
With many other pretty knacks,
By a good artist lately made,
And fit to forward clothing trade.

SAW-MILLS.

The sawyer's work, it being dear,
Some men of wealth and wisdom here
Are now erecting a saw-mill
Hard by the great river Schoolkill,
Where they can never want good stuff
Whilst there is timber trees enough.
I wish them good success and gains
For thus using their wealth and brains;
Their making merchandize of wood
Must needs be for the common good.

The saw-mill at Chester before
Was not enough; here wanted more,
That all the benefit may reap
Of buying boards and plank, good and cheap.

CORN MILLS

Here are corn mills pretty good store,
Yet some intend to set up more.
That all may have their corn ground well
Near to the places where they dwell,
And greedy millers to controul,
That they may not take too much toll.

THE LAWS

If any finds fault with our laws,
As if in them there were some flaws,
Let all such know that our foundation
Is the laws of the English nation,
Some few added to serve this place,
Which can to us be no disgrace.
They being built upon God's law,
Are fit to keep bad men in awe;
I hope they do all good men please,
For under them we live at ease.
We have no proud Lord Bishops here,
Nor do we need their courts to fear;
Which we too well did understand
When we were in our native land,
Were such a cruel plague and pest
That for them we could seldom rest.
The priests that persecuting crew,
Who craveth what is not their due,
In this place they can never thrive,
Because our laws allow no tithe;
Each man here freely serves his God
Free from the persecutor's rod.

OF OUR PRESERVATION FROM ENEMIES

Some may think we in danger stand
Of enemies by sea and land,
And that we are such silly sheep
We take no care our goods to keep.
Tis true there are some fighting men,
Who thus upbraid us now and then;
But I do say unto them this,
And wish them not to take it amiss-
Self-preservation we do seek
By all such means as we see meet;
Our care is to keep innocent,
That none within our government
Hurt any people, weak or strong,

To give them cause to seek our wrong.
Whilst we love and obey our God,
We do not dread the wicked's rod.
If we lose what is transitory,
God can give lasting things in glory;
And though' by bloody hands we die,
Yet we may live eternally.
God hitherto preserved us, when
Distresses came on fighting men;
And so we hope he will do still
Although we have no mind to kill
The creatures that are of pure kind;
We are not of a bloody mind;
Yet know that we are men of reason,
And may resist at a fit season;
If from our rights they would thrust us,
For not fighting do not trust us
I know some men lives on this shore -
Perhaps there may be many more -
Who think they break not God's command
When they resist with a strong hand,
The greedy wolf who comes to rent,
As here you have a precedent.

BABAT WHO STOLE THE SLOOP

One Babat with his varlet crew,
Who in good time may have their due,
Came to our port in the dead of night,
Entered a vessel, and did fright
The sailors greatly, till at last
Under the decks they got them fast
Their case indeed was very sad,
To save their lives they were full glad
The pirates then did make no stay,
But took men ship and goods away;
Presuming they were bold and wise,
And bravely had obtained a prize;
But one by ringing of a bell,
This news unto the town did tell.
Then up we rose for to consult,
And quickly came to this result;
These thievish villains to bring back,
If our assistance were not slack.
Presently there appeared then,
Good store of wise and expert men;
Some brave ship masters took commission
Both with men, arms and ammunition.
Some merchants brisk and seamen bold,
With others freely uncontrolled,
Pursued these pirates with design,
Their purposes to undermine.
And so they did; by courage stout
They bravely brought their ends about;

And in their business were not slack,
But that day brought the vessel back, —
Which was effected by this way:
Three of the rogues chanced to stay
Within a house on Jersey shore,
Whom they secured till they got more.
The rest was then keeping the sloop,
And much unwilling for to stoop,
But at each other they did swear,
Consulting which way they should steer,
When with vexation they did look
On these three prisoners that was took,
And themselves being hard beset
They thought it best away to get;
For in the sloop they durst not bide,
But run into the woods to hide,
Where they got quickly out of sight.
It being near unto dark night.
I shall omit all aggravations
Concerning those capitulations,
Which with our people they did make
Before they would the sloop forsake
In short, our men did think it best
Not thus to let the matter rest;
But since the sailors had relief,
And all recovered from the thief,
They would yet venture through the rain
To fetch the runners back again!
And so they did; they were so bold
With horse and foot through wet and cold.
Till at the last the knaves was found
As they were laid upon the ground;
Most woefully they then did look,
When they all were prisoners took.
Of their vile fact they did repent
When brought unto their punishment;
Which some do think was much too small
Because they were not hanged all.
By this brave act some men may see
We are not as some think we be;
That wicked villains when they please,
Can take us or our good goods with ease.

THE OLD MAN RAISED IN THE QUAKERS.

If you desire to understand
How far some quakers had a hand
In the aforesaid expedition,
They readily signed the commission;
Others, whom I thought more devout,
Searched much in the town about
To procure arms from friend or foe,
To furnish those who were to go;
And one with words made such a flourish

As the design did much encourage;
Were I young, said he, you should see
How brisk and forward I would be
These thievish villains to defeat.
Who upon us would put this cheat.
This man was real and in the right,
Spoke like himself, a Cromwellite.
Another he made a greater sound,
Crying he'd give a hundred pound
To those who go, if they obtain
The vessel, and bring her again;
Another cry was somewhat louder,
Saying, come lads, here's lead and powder;
Let each man take what he doth need.
In the design I wish good speed.
One who was master of a boat,
With our small fleet along did float,
And though he used not sword nor gun,
Yet with his arms and his tongue
He played his part exceeding well,
As those who were with him did tell.
Much more than this I did behold
And in their praise have thus much told.

OF SCHOOLS

If any think we are such fools
As not to care for any schools,
Or that we say there is no need
To bring our boys and girls to read.
Tis for want of right information
By pen or verbal declaration.
To let them know what care is took
That our children may learn their book,
Here we have schools of divers sorts
To which our youth daily resorts;
Good women who do very well
Bring little ones to read and spell
Which fits them for writing and then
Here's men to bring them to their pen
And to instruct and make them quick
In all sorts of arithmetic.
Divers good schools are to and fro
Almost in each place where I go;
Some of the masters men of parts,
Skilful in teaching many arts,
They can instruct youth full as well
As if they did at Cambridge dwell;
And here in Philadelphia be
Some men so generous and free,
That they a free school up hath set,
And do maintain the same as yet,
Without assistance from the poor,
Whose children, notwithstanding, more

Experience and good learning gain
Than their grandfathers could obtain.
These founders are so very kind,
That all persons who have a mind
May freely have their learning still,
In Latin, Greek or what you will.

OF THE AUTHOR.

If those who know me not by name
Do say what fellow is this same?
Where doth he dwell, is he a Friend?
Or is it safe for to depend
On this report he doth indite?
This answer unto such I write:
In Philadelphia I do dwell,
And it is truth which I do tell;
If I knew one mistaken line
It should not be a minute's time
But I would quickly blot it out.
Lest that it should disgrace my book.
The way that I profess and own
By John the Baptist first was shown.
When in the wilderness he preached,
And had the hearts of sinners reached,
He then in Jordan did baptize;
That ordinance I highly prize;
I am no Quaker nor can I
With their mistakes at all comply.

THE PRAISE OF QUAKERS

Yet I would give quakers their due,
And say of them that which is true;
Some few in doctrine much refine,
And more I hope will in short time .
Matters of state and government
Was managed by them to the content
Of all or most excepting such
As use to swear and drink too much,
And would go on without controul
Though they sit all night at punch bowl
And follow other mortal evils
Which doth send many to the devils.
Those wicked sort of libertines
At sober government repines.
When at the first I did come here
I had an open eye and ear,
And with a most attentive mind
Waited for what faults I could find,
Acted in courts at such times, when
Between Quakers and other men
Law suits or quarrels did depend,
If favour was shown to a friend

Or if all men did fare alike,
And each obtain his proper right,
Then after all I did behold
It was not friendship, no, nor gold,
Nor any crafty lawyers art,
That right or justice would pervert.
So far as I could understand
Things was done with an equal hand;
Nay, one thing further say I must,
If any odds the Friends had worst:
Persons were not respected for
Their different persuasions, nor
Was any into office put
Or out, cause he was or was not
Of this or that or the other sort;
But as he virtue did affect,
Or as of vice he was detect;
But when some Quakers did wrangle,
And about their light did jangle,
They into furious heats fell
Which I have no word here to tell;
Themselves have done it to my hand,
By which the world may understand
That they are broke and rent in twain,
Not likely to cement again.

OF PRECIOUS STONES

Amongst our many rare and lovely things
We have some pretty stones to set in rings
They are so transparent to all men's sight
Such as have wit and wealth in them delight.
Some say they will cut glass, and do, indeed,
The Bristol stone exceedingly exceed
In some highways there's many of them found,
But all the best are got under the ground;
Which shews themselves best in the darkest night,
Appearing then in splendour very bright.
Some have of them from home to England sent
Which gave persons of quality content.
To tell you all their worth I'll not aspire,
But freer than a flint they do strike fire;
We find them proper for the tinder box,
And some men make use of them in gun locks.

THE WORST OF PENNSYLVANIA.

But perhaps some men now will say,
Thy pen runs fast, I pray thee stay;
Thou givest this land a good report,
But before thither I resort
Let me now have as full relation
Of all that's bad in your plantation;
Let all the worst be open laid,
Of which as yet is nothing said.
My friend, wherever thou dost live,
This answer unto thee I give:
My business now is to remove
Some false reports, and to disprove
Those lying tongues, I understand,
Brought ill report on this good land.
However, notwithstanding I
Am willing thee to gratify,
For were I in the greatest haste,
Much time in this I need not waste;
The most and worst I can unfold,
Is some extremes of heat and cold,
Which now and then do change so quick
It almost makes some people sick,
Who do not of themselves take care.
Nor heed what clothing they do wear.
But such as are prudently wise
In meat, drink, clothes and exercise,
May have their health here full as well
As any place that I can tell.