

A Vindication of WILLIAM PENN, Proprietary of *Pensilvania*, from the late Aspersions spread abroad on purpose to Defame him. With an Abstract of several of his Letters since his Departure from *England*.

WILLIAM PENN having been of late Traduced as being a Papist, and likewise being Dead, I thought meet to give a short Relation of the rise and ground of that slanderous Report, and Detect it, with an Abstract of his own Letters received since to shew that he is alive.

One of the first and most furious Fomenters and Authors of that late lying Report of *William Penn's* being a Papist (after diligent Enquiry made) appears to be *Thomas Hicks*, a Baptist Teacher, the envious false Dialogue-Maker, who has been openly prov'd a notorious Forger, Slanderer and Defamer of the People called Quakers, wickedly and maliciously rendring them no Christians, but Deceivers and Impostors, &c. and defaming them in their sufferings, which are for Conscience towards God, insinuating, *That the satisfaction of their wills and lusts, and promoting their carnal Interest, to be the chief motive and Inducement thereto, and the great thing in their Eye,* (as in his Dialog. i. p. 75.) As also his lies and slanders, That he had it under *W. P's* Hand to manifest him the falsest Villain upon the Earth, and that several of his Friends had been with him to see it, and were satisfied it was so, and desired him not to look upon the rest of Friends as upon *W. P.* And further, that the Books his Name was too, were not of his own Writing, but that he kept a Jesuite for that purpose.

Now I having information of this false Report and Slander, and being chiefly concern'd in the Affairs of *W. Penn* in his Absence, look'd upon my self oblig'd in Conscience to vindicate his Innocency and Christian Reputation: Whereupon I took with me *R. Davis* and *R. M.* with several others upon the *Exchange*, and asked *Tho. Hicks*, if he had it under *W. Penn's* hand to manifest him as aforesaid? To which he Answered, *Yes, he had.* Then I desired him to name one of the Friends that was so satisfied; his shuffling Answer was, There was a great many of them, but could remember the Names of none of them, it being four or five yeats ago. I then desired to see his Letter? He Answered, He had none. I Queried, What he had under his own Hand then? He Replied, He had it in Print. I demanded the Title?

He Answered, *The Sandy Foundation*, for which he was put in the *Tower*. Note, That an Explication was sincerely given forth by *W. Penn*, concerning the said Book, Entituled, *Innocency appearing with open Face*, which gave such satisfaction that he was set at Liberty.

So this was the substance of his Answer, by which you may perceive the feebleness of his false suggestion, and the baseness of his Spirit: then as to his gross Lye of *W. P's* keeping a Jesuite to write his Books, when I charged him with it, to that he was Mute, and would give me no Answer, but shuffled to another thing.

Hereby you may see that the said *Tho. Hicks* appears to be a busie Slanderer as well as a manifest Forger of notorious falsehoods, as before charged.

The false suggestion of *Tho. Hicks* taking *Air*, did encourage others to add thereto, and amongst the several Stories this was one. That *W. Penn* perverted one *Mr. Edsaw*, a *Suffex* Gentleman, to the *Romish* Religion, who lived and died near his house. The first that I could find who was so bold to affirm this, was *F. F.* who quoted the Duke of *Somerset's* Steward for his Author, to whom I applied my self, and he affirmed, he Reported it not, neither knew any thing of it: That being detected, *F. F.* charged it upon Captain *Gratwick* of *Suffex*, Brother-in-law to the said Captain *Edsaw*, to whom Messengers were sent by *W. Penn's* Wife to know the truth thereof, and he also denied it, and said, *He would spit in the Face of any man that would charge it upon him.* This he declared before several Witnesses, and said, If she were not satisfied with what he had there declared, he would wait upon her, and give her what satisfaction she pleased under his hand, for he scorn'd to abuse so Civil a Gentleman behind his back: So the rise of that Story lodges as yet at *F. F's* door. And for the pretended perverted Person Captain *Edsaw* (for so he was called) they who are desirous to be further satisfied, may enquire of the Warden of the *Fleet*, where, by the Book it doth appear the said *Robert Edsaw* was committed Prisoner to the *Fleet* for Debt the 27th of *November* 1678. and not known to go abroad after Commitment to his dying day, which was