

85^o
Dear Friend
Jonah Thompson

Philad^o ^{to} 24. 4 / mo. 1756

We cannot omitt making use of this opportunity of our dear Friend Jonah Dixon's return amongst you, tenderly to salute thee. It was, with pleasure, that, after a longer Delay than usual we heared of thy safe arrival. How will have, doubtless, heared of the Troubles & Confusion, which for many Months past, have surrounded us, & which, in some respect, are like to increase, if France should declare a war; we are in the Lord's Hand whom, we trust, will cause all things to work together for good to those that faithful seek to know & do his will. Many of our Friends begin to rouse from that Lethargy in which they have too long been plunged, thro' a love of this world, an endeavour to reconcile those two contraries the world & Heaven; many addresss having been presented to the Assembly & Gov^t & Epistles wrote to Friends declaring our disunity with the warlike measures that have been & are now gone into. Friends begin to see, what they might long ago have seen, if the God of this world, the deceitfulness of wealth & Honour had not blinded their Eyes viz the Impossibility

To us impossibility for us, as a People, with true Honour
& integrity of Heart, in time of War, of conquests &
Bloodshed to maintain the Government & be honest
& true to that noble, evanglike Testimony which
God ha. given us, to bear a, a People; the Beauty &
Lustre of which will never be recovered amongst us, but
by, I fear, great sufferings, which might in a good
measure have been avoided had y^e Pennsylvanian acted
more, in that Childlike uprightness & simplicity which
is alone the Beauty & Strength of the Gospel of Christ
But the wise are taken in their own snare, the ~~long~~^{suffering} which
they have endeavoured, to shun, by human worldly wisdom,
will I believe be suffered to come many fold upon them
by mean, of those very acts by which they thought to shun it.
However, Glory be to God, may we abide the turning
of his Hand & say with sincerity, thy will be done.

Our dear Friends Jam^e Fothergill, Mary Peasley & Cath^r
Payton are still amongst us whose Christian Labours have
been a very great support, comfort & strength to us in
these calamitous Times; a considerable part of the time
of the two last have been employed in visiting the
Families of Friends in this City; to the strength & consolation
of

many honest seeking Soul, tho' not without contradiction &
contentions, even from weak Brethren, the common Lot of the
faithful impartial followers of Christ. They are not
yet clear in their minds to conclude when to leave us, tho'
I believe it will not be long first. We should be glad
if, an opportunity offers thou wouldst let us hear by a
few lines, of thy welfare, Sarah Morris here present
desiring that her love may be remembered to thee;
we have lost poor Eliz. Pennock & John Smith & Edward
Cuthals are gone to live at Burlington, which is an inducement
to some of us. My wife joins me in
sincere love to thee thy wife & family I remain
thy affectionate friend Anthony Benesch

died 1784

Anthony Benedict

Dear
Jonah Thompson
at Nether Compton
Josh. Dixon near Sherborn in
Dorsetshire

Lechlade
July 1931
Mrs F. G. Summerhayes

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John Wesley