

wise and populous countries, as conceiving them best for the increase of human stock and beneficial for commerce. . . . Nor did any of these ever dream it was the way of decreasing their people or wealth. . . . With justice, therefore, I deny the vulgar opinion against plantations that they weaken England; they have manifestly enriched and so strengthened her.¹ William Penn was born in 1644 and received the grant of Pennsylvania by Royal Letters Patent in discharge of a Crown debt in March 1680-1, the grant being extended by deeds from the Duke of York (afterwards James II) in August 1682. In modern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware he had a wide field for colonising, and he set forth the persons whom to his mind 'Providence seems to have most fitted for plantations.' It would have been well for England if others had shared his views as to the right treatment of natives. 'Don't abuse them but let them have justice and you win them.'² Penn did not come into prominence until the later years of Charles II's reign, and he was then still a young man. Of the men of the Restoration years in England who were concerned with the overseas empire, he, more than any other, brought religion into his scheme of life, and it is noteworthy that religion in this case was in its most unorthodox form, that of Quakerism.

¹ See *Select Tracts relating to Colonies*, B.M. 1029e, 15, No. 4, p. 26. The words quoted will be found also in *Some Account of the Province of Pennsylvania in America lately granted under the Great Seal of England to William Penn, etc.* (1681). This is in the British Museum among *Tracts on the American Colonies* (1681-1736).

² In *A Letter from William Penn, Proprietary and Governor of Pennsylvania in America to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders of that Province resident in London* (1683), p. 7.