

On the 14th of 10th month, 1682, William Penn made his celebrated Treaty with the Natives, under the Elm tree at Shackamaxon. He and his friends, without any instrument of war or defence, met the vast assemblage of chiefs and warriors; and in a few brief sentences he unfolded to them his views and feelings.

"The great Spirit, said he, who made you and me, who rules in heaven and earth, who knows the innermost thoughts of man; knows that I and my friends have a hearty desire to live in peace and friendship with the Indians, and to serve them to the utmost of our power. It is not the custom of me and my friends to use weapons of war against our fellow-creatures, and for this reason we have come to you without arms. Our desire is not to do injury and thus provoke the great Spirit, but to do good. We are now met on the broad pathway of good faith and good will, and no advantage will be taken on either side, but all is to be openness, brotherhood and love."

This was not a mere flourish of smooth words,—The Governor and his friends meant what they said, and proved it by their actions. Though he had bought the province of King Charles, he paid the native proprietors a price for it which was entirely satisfactory to them; the terms of the compact which was to unite them in mutual good offices were settled and ratified, and the chiefs were so touched with the fairness and benevolence of Friends that they solemnly declared "they would live in love and peace with Onas and his children so long as the sun and moon shall endure."

So faithfully did they keep this promise, that, in no instance, amid all the wars and bloodsheds which followed the withdrawal of Friends from the government of the Province, was the life of a single member of the Society taken by them.