

The early emigrants to Pennsylvania were chiefly members of the Religious Society of Friends, and entertained the same pacific and benevolent feelings as their Governor. Though coming into a wilderness country, inhabited only by Indians, they brought no warlike weapons—they built no forts, had no soldiers, or military defence of any kind; but relied solely on the protecting care of that Almighty Being who can control the hearts of all men, and stay the hand of violence and outrage. Their humane and Christian treatment won the hearts of the Aborigines, and a friendship was established which has been transmitted from generation to generation to the present day.

Laws were enacted to prevent defrauding them—care was taken that they should be fairly compensated for furs, game, &c., brought for sale, and that they should be charged no more than the current market price for what they bought; that if “any man, by any ways or means, in word or deed, should affront or wrong an Indian, he should incur the same penalty of the law, as if he had committed it against a fellow planter;” that if a dispute arose between an Indian and a white man, six men of each description should constitute a jury to settle it—and that “the Indians should have the same liberty to do all things relating to the improvement of their grounds and providing sustenance for their families, that any of the planters enjoy.”

The effect of these wise and just enactments was most favorable, and secured the confidence and good will of the Indians, who treated the settlers with great kindness and often ministered to their wants when destitute of food.