

A BRIEF SKETCH, &c.

FROM the earliest period at which the Religious Society of Friends had intercourse with the Indians, it has been their endeavor to treat them with kindness and justice, to guard them against the imposition and fraud to which their ignorance exposed them; to meliorate and improve their condition; and to commend the benign and heavenly principles of the Christian religion to their approval and acceptance by an upright example consistent therewith.

Such were the motives which actuated William Penn in the settlement of Pennsylvania. In a letter addressed to the Natives before his arrival in America, dated, "London, the 18th of the Sixth month, 1681," he says;

"I am very sensible of the unkindness and injustice that have been exercised toward you by the people of these parts of the world, who have sought themselves, and to make great advantages by you, rather than to be examples of goodness and patience unto you; which I hear hath been matter of trouble to you, and caused great grudgings and animosities, sometimes to the shedding of blood, which hath made the great God angry. But I am not such a man, as is well known in my own country. I have great love and regard towards you, and desire to gain your love and friendship by a kind, just and peaceable life. The people I send are of the same mind, and shall in all things behave themselves accordingly; and if, in anything, any shall offend you or your people, you shall have full and speedy satisfaction for the same, by an equal number of just men on both sides; that by no means you may have just occasion of being offended against them."

Ms. A. 1. 1. 10

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