

(1) Joseph Whetall's Statement

II

Having attended the last yearly meeting at New York, I heard Elias Hicks deliver in public testimony in a large meeting in the month of June - "That the same power that made Christ a Christian, must make us Christians, and the same power that blessed him, must save us." - Being very uneasy with the Doctrines, I took a private opportunity to state to him my uneasiness - I informed him that for several years past reports had been in circulation unfavorable towards him, and that on these occasions I had mis-declared his character, from a belief that he must have been misunderstood, until last fall I met with a piece of writing said to be from his pen, in which he called Christ the Jewish Messiah, that he was alone the Saviour of the Jews, and that he was not the Son of God till after the baptism of John and descent of the Holy Ghost - To this I offered my objections as unscriptural, but he justified them. He also declared, that he considered it a matter of the greatest encouragement to believe that Christ was no more than a man, for if he was any thing more, it would destroy the effect of his example to him - He admitted that he had not till of late time held up the Doctrines that Christ was liable to fall like other men - When I quoted the testimony of John "That the Word was made (or took) flesh" - he said it was impossible - I offered my brethren, that if he persisted in preaching these Doctrines so contrary to the Scriptures and the Testimonies of our ancient Friends, it would produce one of the greatest schisms that had ever happened. He allowed it would ^{produce} a schism, but that it would soon be over for he believed his Doctrines must and would prevail - Seeing that we differed so widely in sentiment on these points, I proposed to him to have a few solid friends, Ministers & Elders convened that a discussion might be had, but he would not consent thereto, saying that he was so confirmed in his sentiments, that he would persevere therein, but the consequence be what they might -

Phila. 12 mo 12. 1822

(Signed) Joseph Whetall