

unnature of facts which occurred in consequence of
Doctrines held and promulgated by Elias Hicks -

Friends of Philadelphia & parts adjacent having frequently
heard that Elias Hicks held & at times published Doctrines
different from those which are believed and held by our
Religious Society, it was cause of painful concern that any
thing like contrast in Principles and Doctrines should
appear among us, who as a religious Body had always been
noted for union and simplicity in the profession & avowal
of the Christian faith - Joseph Whittall having at the
time of the yearly meeting in New York in 1822 had a
conference with him upon some of those points wherein
he differed from Friends, particularly respecting the character
and office of the Redeemer, and finding that Elias persisted in
his opinions, & that there was little probability that efficient
steps would be taken to prevent the spreading of them, after
his return from his religious visit, he resorted to several
Friends, his having taken this private opportunity with him,
and that he believed him to be so determined in his views
that if asked he would not deny the sentiments he had ex-
pressed, and as it was known that Elias was coming to
meet at meetings within our yearly meeting & also the opening
of the two northern monthly meetings in this City, several of
the Ministers & Elders of the City & County, after our meeting
for sufferings had broken up in the 5th month 1822 conferred
together upon this subject, which they considered deeply
interesting to the welfare of our religious Society, & satisfied
with the opportunity thus given for a weighty conference
on a matter of such importance being generally expressed, and
the sentiments of Friends freely expressed, it was then men-
tioned that some of the members present ought to see Elias ~~that~~
when he should come on this way, and inform him that
such reports had been spread concerning him, and give
him an opportunity of refuting or removing them; a
few were accordingly named, but as he did not come
at the time expected, no such interview took place.

Joseph Whittall some time after this furnished Friends
with the statement on the 1st page -

On the 30th of the 11th month, some Friends being together
on business relating to our religious Society, whilst thus engaged,
Ezra Comfort a Minister, came to the store, and appearing to
be under considerable exercises, informed them that he had

just returned from the Southern Quarterly Meeting, where he
had been much tried under the preaching of Doctrines by
Elias Hicks in the general meeting which for immediately pre-
ceded the Quarterly Meeting, that through the intervention of
circumstances he had been prevented from speaking to him
and having signified his desire to have an interview with
Elias, left with them a written statement of the excep-
tionable Expressions - signed by himself & Sarah Bell his
companion - for which statement see 2^d Page -

The Friends who were thus together on the affairs of the
Society requested two of their number to visit Elias Hicks on his
coming to the City, which they accordingly did on the evening of
his arrival the 7th of 12 month and informed him they came
as Elders, to enquire what foundation there was for these reports,
particularly the expressions contained in Ezra & Sarah's account.
He denied them as being his expressions - they then urged his
seeing Ezra in company with them, which he refused - As this
interview had not been satisfactory to them, four of the aforesaid
Friends met again the next evening, and the result of the meeting
being reported, it was agreed that one of these two Elders that
had visited Elias the evening before, should call on him the
next morning, and again urge his seeing Ezra Comfort & Sarah
Bell in their company, which request was accordingly made, but
again declined by Elias Hicks - On the 9th the Elders of all
the meetings of this City were invited to meet - ten of them
attended, & five were absent - after considering the nature &
ground of the complaint, this occasioned, they bethought it
incumbent on them consistently with the Station they were
placed in, to endeavor to have the cause of concern further
enquired into and if possible removed, & deputized two of
their number to call upon Elias Hicks and request he would
visit the Elders, and thus in a select opportunity confer upon
the subject matter which brought the exercise upon the
minds of Friends; they called the same evening, made the request
& Elias again declined it - but on the 10th one of those friends
was informed that Elias would meet the Elders on the 12th at Green
Street meeting House at 3 o'clock afternoon - On the 11th ten of the
Elders were together, and agreed to meet him at the time & place proposed
by him, but had no intimation that any others were to be present than
Elias and his companions - accordingly on the 12th they went to Green
Street meeting House, and there found a considerable number of other
Friends, several of whom were not members of any meeting of Ministers
& Elders, and several were from meetings held out from the City; As
this promiscuous company rendered an investigation of such weighty