

This Wee doe Lay before the Govern^r & his Councel & Assembly in the Wisdome of God to Consider of from us who are in Scorne Called Quakers

U. H.
Journal
original
p. 10

What we Can Say and doe in stead of an Oath It is in Obedience to Christs Comānd th^t we can not Sweare & take an oath & Christ o^r Lord & Saviours Comānd is I Say unto you Sweare not at all Though in the old time they were not to fforswear themselves but performe their oathes to the Lord & the Lord Jesus Christs Comānd is but Let your Comūnicacōn be yea yea & nay nay for whatsoever is more then these Cometh of Evil & S^t James Saith in his Gen^l Epistle to the Church of Christ Above all things my Bretheren Sweare not neither by heaven nor by the Earth nor by anie other oath Marke But Let your yea be yea & yo^r Nay be nay least you fall into Condemnation Now here ye may See th^t Christ & his Apostle Setts up yea yea & nay nay over & above an oath & Swearing & in lieu of an Oath Soe in Obedience to Christ & the Apostles Comānd it is th^t We doe not & dare not Sweare least we should goe into the Evil & soe fall into Condemnacōn as Christ & the Apostle Saith before but according to Christ Jesus & the Apostles Comānd doe Keep to yea yea & Nay nay Wherein they doe double their words to make them of more force Christ Jesus to the disciples & the Apostle to the Church And now if th^t when we are Called to Testifie the Truth or to Serve in anie Office or Place or Jurie if th^t We doe Breake o^r yea yea or nay nay then let us Suffer the same Penaltie as they th^t doe breake an Oath or are forsworne & this is not Repugnant to the Lawes of England haveing the same Penaltie upon the same Transgression for in Gemaica their Law is soe That o^r Brethrens Testimony upon yea yea & nay nay as Christ & the Apostle Comānded is taken & the same in the Acts & Province Lawes at Carolina & the same in the Pattent & Acts at Road Island & the same in the New Countrey of Jersey is taken instead of an oath W^{ch} the Govern^r & his Councel & Assembly may by an Act of Assembly Let us have the same Liberty here as o^r Brethren have in other Places Colonies or Provinces th^t we may not be Put to Inconveniencs for you doe know what trouble often manie of us are Put to because We can not Sweare nor take an Oath & doe Lose o^r Rights & th^t w^{ch} is due to us from others & how we have been made a Prey upon by manie because we cannot Sweare & have lost much in o^r Estates & Cannot be soe Serviceable in o^r Generacōn to the Countrey as we might be & allsoe w^t Trouble we have had who have been Overseers or Execut^{rs} or the like th^t have been entrusted wth Orphans fatherles & Widdowes Estates or Wills for want of an Oath And therefore you having Power to Remedie these thinges by making an Act we doe