

Royal Gazette, and Miscellany of the Island of Saint John.

CHARLOTTE TOWN: PRINTED BY WILLIAM A. RIND, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

ADDRESS

OF THE PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE.

RESPECTABLE LEGISLATORS.

THE French nation having appointed you her Legislators, and your hearts having been disposed to enact wise laws, our minds have been deeply engaged to solicit the extension of your justice and benevolence to the Society of peaceable Christians to which we belong.

You know that in several states of Europe and North America, there are a great number of Christians known by the name of Quakers, who profess to serve God according to the ancient simplicity of Christ's church. Several towns and villages of Languedoc contain a number of families attached to the primitive Christians. Many other families which came from America, have settled at Dunkirk, under the auspices of the late government, in consequence of the invitation given to the inhabitants of Nantucket, for the purpose of extending the French fisheries.

These Islanders have proved themselves worthy of your kindness by their success; and the same motives will induce them to deserve it. Concerns, however, of far greater moment, have this day brought us before you.

In an age signal for the increase of knowledge, you have been

struck with this truth, that conscience, the immediate relation of man with his Creator, cannot be subject to the power of man; and this principle of justice hath induced you to decree a general liberty for all forms of public worship. This is one of the noblest decrees of the French Legislature. You have set a great example to the nations which continue to persecute for religion, and sooner or later, we hope, they will follow it.

We are come to implore this spirit of justice, that we may be suffered, without molestation, to conform to some principles, and use some forms, to which the great family of Friends, called Quakers, have been inviolably attached ever since their rise.

Great persecutions have been inflicted on us, on account of one of these principles, but to no purpose. Providence has enabled us to surmount them, without using violence. We mean the principle which forbids us to take arms and kill men on any pretence; a principle consistent with the holy scripture, "Render not," said Christ, "evil for evil, but do good to your enemies."

Would to Heaven this principle were universally adopted! All mankind becoming one family, would be brethren united by acts of kindness. Generous Frenchmen, you are convinced

of its truth; you have already begun to reduce it to practice; you have decreed never to defile your hands with blood in the pursuit of conquest. This measure brings you—it brings the whole world a step towards universal peace. You cannot therefore behold with an unfriendly eye men who accelerate it in their example. They have proved, at Pennsylvania, that vast establishments may be formed, raised, and supported, without military preparations, and without shedding human blood.

We submit to your laws, and only desire the privilege of being here, as in other countries, the brethren of all men—never to take up arms against any. England, and the United States of America, where our brethren are far more numerous than in France, allow us peaceably to follow this grand principle of our reason, nor do they esteem us useless members of the community. We have another request to make, which we hope you will not refuse, because it flows from those principles of justice to which you do homage.

In our registers of births, marriages, and burials, we have preserved the simplicity of the primitive church. Our maxims forbid useless forms, and limit us to those which are necessary for ascertaining the terms of human life consistently with the good order of so-