

At a General Assembly begun and holden at Philadelphia, the fourteenth day of October, A. D. 1705, and continued by adjournments until the twelfth day of January, 1705-6, the following acts were passed:

CHAPTER CXV.

THE LAW CONCERNING LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

Almighty God being the only Lord of Conscience, Author of all divine knowledge, faith and worship, who can only enlighten the minds and convince the understanding of people, in due reverence to His sovereignty over the souls of mankind, and the better to unite the Queen's Christian subjects in interest and affection:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by John Evans, Esquire, by the Queen's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person now or at any time hereafter dwelling or residing within this province, who shall profess faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God blessed forevermore, and shall acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration, and when lawfully required, shall profess and declare that they will live peaceably under the civil government, shall in any case be molested or prejudiced for his or her conscientious persuasion; nor shall he or she be at any time compelled to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever contrary to his or her mind; but shall freely and fully enjoy his or her Christian liberty in all respects without molestation or interruption.

Passed January 12, 1705-6. Allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter, having been considered by the Queen in Council, October 24, 1709, and not acted upon. See Appendix II, Section III, and the Act of Assembly passed May 28, 1716, Chapter 204.