

Image

To the Governor
The Humble Address of the Deputie, called Quakers in the Province
of New York
Shewing that we the Kings Dutifull Subjects being most of us Patient
Planters (for Reasons of Conscience) and having all along thro the former
Governors Enjoyed the Liberty of a Vote for Members to serve in
Assembly whereby we might be Represented as well as the Rest of
Freeholders of this Province in our Confessions & Petitions. Are now forced
to Approach to Humbly request your Honor without Complaint, in a Matter of
the Highest Moment Relating to our Priviledges as freeholders
Subjects, being lately Denied it undoubted Right of choosing
our Own Representatives at an Election in Queens County
on the Island of Nassau on the 5th or 17th 1701 because we could not
(for Conscience sake) swear we were freeholders, altho it was
well known to the Sheriff, & might be that no more was
as farther Appraised by Certificate under the hands of freeholders
ordered for our poles & a Act of Parliament to pass & finally
it hath graciously pleased the King & Parliament to pass & finally
in the Kingdom of England, and we & was never acquainted of our
hours before performing of so Late Earl & Bollemont, who
upon Complaint granted us Poles, but as it is, Marit
pleads the Governor that since the Earl & Bollemont, so that
Application to the Late Lord Cornbury, who Demanded
Oppression of Judges at a word concerning a Right to vote
from whom he should answer, it belonged not to Governor nor
Judges to give any Oppression therein, but referred it unto
Sheriff,
Who was also obligated to lay before the Governor an Oppression
that we have and being imposed upon by some of our Neighbors who
are likewise Dissenters as well as our selves yett they have presumed
to take away our Substance by distressing our goods, & Lying
of our Lands at their own will & Pleasure because we could not
think it our Duty to contribute with them to build their Nonconformist
Brethren a Dwellinghouse, &c. do humbly conceive they have
no legal Power to impose any such Tax upon us
The Premises Truly Considered, we humbly pray that the
Governor will be pleased out of his Mature Wisdom to consider
of these Abuses, & afford us suitable Redress thereon, which
will very much Engage us as in Duty bound to pray for
the Governor's Welfare & Prosperity
Thomas Stevenson
John Way

Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC02509.01)

Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702

A Council held at Jamaica in Queens
County the 11. Day of November 1702
Present the Governor Edward Viscount Cornbury
William Smith - }
Peter Stuyler - }
Sam. Sh. Bronghton }
New Lawrence - }
Gerrard Boesman }
Robert Heathcote }
On Reading the Petition of the people called
Quakers in this province It is hereby ordered that
the petitioners do lay before this board the
particular Justices whom they have been
aggrieved in order that they may be redressed for
the future
By order of the Governor
X
Edw. Cornbury

Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702.
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Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702

Transcript

To The Governor

The Humble Address of the People called Quakers in the Province of New York.

Showing that we the King's Dutyfull [sic] Subjects being most of us Ancient Planters (or Decended [sic] of such) and haveing [sic] all along thro the former governments enjoyed the Liberty of our votes from members to [illegible] in Assembly, whereby we might be Represented as well as the rest of the Freeholders of this Province in our Persons & Estates, are now forced to Approach Humbly the Governor without Complaint, in a matter of the highest moment relateing [sic] to our Privilidges [sic] as freeborne subjects, being lately denyed [sic] the undoubted right of choosing our owne [sic] representation at an Election in Queenes [sic] County on the Island of Nassau on the 5 o7br 1701 because we could not (for conscience sake) sweare [sic] we were freeholders, altho it was wee known to the Sherriff [sic], & Judge C[oe] that we were [illegible] as farther Appeared by Certificate and the hands of two Justices of the Peace of the said County, & that we had signed the Declaration ordered for our release by Act of Parliament thereby hardshipp [sic] it hath graciously pleased the King & Parliament to ease our friends of in the Kingdom of England, and such was never required of us here, before the coming of the Late Earle Bellomont, who uppon [sic] our Complaint granted us Release; but so it is, may it please the Governor that since the sd Earle's decease, we made application to the Late Lieut. Governor Nanfan, who demands the oppinion [sic] of Judge Atwood concerning our Right to votes from whom he received answer that it belonged not to Governor nor Judge to give any oppinion [sic] therein, but referred it unto the Sherriff [sic].

Wee [sic] are also necessitated to lay before the Governor an oppression that we lye under being imposed uppon [sic] by some of our Neighbors (who are likewise dissenters as well as ourselves) yet they have presumed to take away our substance, by distreining [sic] on our goods, & disposeing [sic] of the same at their owne [sic] will & pleasure, because we could not think it our Duty to Contribute with them to build their Nonconformist Preacher a Dwelling house, & we do humbly conceive they have no legall [sic] power to impose any such tax uppon [sic] us.

The promises Duely [sic] confirmed, we humbly pray that the Governor will be pleased out of his Nature wisdom to consider of these abuses, & afford us suteable [sic] Redress therein, such will very much Engadge [sic] us as in Duty Bound to Pray for the Governor's Welfare & Prossperity [sic]

J Rodman
Thomas Stevenson
John Way
William Bickley