

H. C. Jan. 27, 1779.
The Report of the Committee for taking under consideration the
Petition of the People of Pasquotank relative to the Slaves liberated
by the Quakers

Your Committee having taken under Consideration
the petition of the people of Pasquotank relative to the Slaves —
Liberated by the Quakers came to the following opinion — That
the Conduct of the said Quakers in setting their Slaves free at a
time when our open & declared Enemies, were endeavouring to
bring about an insurrection of the Slaves was highly criminal
& reprehensible and that it was also Directly contrary to the
known and Established Law of the Country — That upon the late
happy change in our Government, the former Laws prohibiting
the freeing of Slaves, except under certain circumstances, could
not be carried into Execution, because on the change of Government
there remained no Churchwardens to execute the same & it

of course became necessary to make provision against the
evil then in practice & more alarming than ever & to answer
this End an Act was passed at a Genl Assembly held at Newbern
the 8th day of April 1779, and as some doubts have arisen
whether the Slaves liberated before the passing of that Act
were subject to the same penalties & proceedings as
as Slaves liberated afterwards your Committee are of opinion
that Justice & Policy require that a Bill should now be brought in
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~~in explaining the intention of the Act~~ to explain the said - to
confirm all sales ^{of slaves hereto made} bonafide ~~made~~ in consequence of it
in order that the evil intended to be guarded against may
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In the House of Commons 27 January 1779
Concurred with Thos Benbury S:C
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In the House of Commons 27 January 1779
Concurred with Thos Benbury S:C [Speaker, House of Commons]
By Order John Hunt CHC [Clerk, House of Commons]

Ms. Apr. 26, 1782.

To the next General Assembly of the State of North Carolina.

The humble Petition of the Standing Committee of the People called Quakers (for the Eastern Quarter) Respectfully Sheweth,

That, whereas there still remains to be in force a Law prohibiting the freedom of Slaves, intimating as though it was to distract the publick Peace, or with an Intent to excite Domestic Insurrections.

We do sincerely declare, that we are free from every Intention of stirring up Strife or Bloodshed amongst our fellow Creatures, being we hope Redeemed therefrom, and brought thence the Love of Christ Jesus our Lord, to wish peace on Earth, and good will to Men. — And that it is from deliberate consideration and the Conviction of our own minds that we are brought to believe that no Law, moral or Divine, hath given us any Right or absolute Prerogative over our fellow Creatures, so as to deprive them of Liberty and freedom for Life.

Also, being desirous to fulfill the Injunction of our Blessed Lord, "To do unto others as we would they should do unto us," and knowing in our selves, we would not willingly be in Bondage to any People whatever, in Obedience to our great Master, we think it our Incumbent Duty to restore to them that Natural Right.

Having shew with great Submission and simplicity, laid before you the sole Motions by which we were induced to act many free, and are thereby still constrained to wish the freedom of those that yet remain in Bondage: we earnestly desire you will take these things in calm Consideration, and Repeal the Acts which now prevent Freedom, liberating such as ^{by any of our property} may desire Liberty to enjoy it, without danger of being again Reduced to Bondage, but be Deemed as free People protected by Law.

Signed by order & on Behalf of the s^d Committee
the 14th Day of the 3^d Month, 1782.

Levi Menden Clerk.

We appoint Mark Newby, William Albertson & Joseph Kenley to attend & present the above Petition to the Assembly.

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