

To the Honourable the House of Senators and House of Commons of the State
of North Carolina, now met in General Assembly,

The Petition and Representation of The United Brethren settled in this State
in the Towns of Salem, Bethabara and Bethany, and others of their Members in Union with them,

Humbly sheweth,

That the Episcopal Church, called *Unitas Fratrum* or United Brethren, upon hearing of the great religious Liberty in America, and upon Invitation received, sent in the Years 1734, 1735, and 1736, a Number of their Members, mostly Natives of Moravia, to Georgia, as well with a view to propagate the Gospel among the Indians, as to provide Settlements, where their Members, who had been persecuted in their native Country, and thereby dispersed here and there, might find an Asylum. But when the War with the Spaniards broke out, their Fellow Inhabitants disturbed them for not carrying Arms, notwithstanding they had full Liberty of Conscience promised them at and before their Settling. They, being willing to give no Uneasiness to others, withdrew, and retired to Pennsylvania, where they settled in the Forks of Delaware, then a more Wilderness, lived in Peace with God and Peace with their Neighbours many Years very happy, & their Industry & prosperous Settlements drew the Attention of many.

And when in Consequence thereof, about 30 Years ago, the Brethrens Church received several Invitations to settle in some other Parts of the English Dominions, also particularly in North Carolina, which if they should accept of, they must be settled and established in the same View and upon the same Principles as at first in Georgia; They found it necessary to apply by their Deputies to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to grant unto the Brethrens Church the same Privileges in the other Parts of the Realm, as they enjoyed in Pennsylvania, to wit, "That their Affirmation might be taken

right as free from all personal Service in War, was after a just and good Enquiry, upon the Origin, custom, and Practice or Discipline, of said Church, an Act of Parliament passed in the Year 1749, to encourage the United Brethren to encrease their Settlements in America, which granted and secured unto them Both these said Privileges, under certain Restrictions, as may be seen from the Copy of said Act herunto annexed sub Lit. A, and which Act the present Government of this State has confirmed among other Acts formerly in force in this Territory.

Encouraged by said Act of Parliament, the most of the United Brethren now on this Continent, came from Germany, to enjoy these Favours of Liberty of Conscience for themselves, their Children and Childrens Children, many of them having for the Gospels sake suffered Persecution in other Countries, left their Houses and Homes, their dearest Relations and many other Blessings; And they have since then in their Settlements, and also as private Settlers lived very quiet and happy under the English Government; which Blessing your Petitioners, the United Brethren settled in North-Carolina, enjoyed in the same Degree, untill the breaking out of the present unhappy War.

It was then we began to be disturbed in our happy Rest, and we could nor would not act against our Privilege and our peaceable Principles upon which we settled in North Carolina. We wanted no more at the Change of Government, than to continue good Subjects and in our usual Way of bearing the public Burthen, and with regard to Militia Affairs to be considered in the same lenient manner as by the Act of Parliament is declared to be our Privilege. But now a late Act of Assembly has enjoined on us the Militia Duty, or else to pay heavy Fines. Another Act has declared us liable to furnish a Quotum of Men in the present Nine Months Service, or else the commanding Officer is to hire Men in our stead, and by Warrant to levy the Sum given for them, on the possessions of any Person belonging to us, and which latter we have undergone accordingly. We humbly conceive from the Constitution formed for this State, & from the above Act of Parliament confirmed to us by the present Legislature, that we are still entitled to the same Benefit of the Privileges which induced us to come into this Land, as we have not forfeited them by Words nor Acts against the new Government, and that we have good Grounds to petition both the Honourable Houses for Redress of this Grievance, conformable to our original Act and Privilege, which we also hereby do in the most humble Manner.

It is also enjoined upon us by an Act of Assembly to take an Affirmation of Fidelity to this State, and to make a Renunciation of Fidelity to the King of Great Britain his Heirs and Successors, and by the said Act all who shall not take such Affirmation & Renunciation are liable to be sent out of the Country, or if suffers to stay, to be deprived of all Benefits of the Law and other Immunities.

As free as we are in our hearts to affirm our Fidelity to this State, as much it goes against our hearts and minds to make such Renunciation, and that for several weighty Reasons, but particularly on account of our Union & Connexion with the Brethrens Church in general and her Calling to propagate

propagate the Gospel among the Heathen; For a great many of the Brethren do not know how soon one or the other may be called into the Service of a Mission under the English Government; And our Settlements have originally that Destination to be Nurseries of Missionaries.

For we have the highest Awe and Regard for an Oath or Affirmation, in remembrance of the Word of Christ: Let your Communication be Yea, what is Yea, and No, what is No. If our Mouths should say Yea, and the Heart say, we should be Hypocrites and give false Witness. And though every one of us shall give Account of himself, to God, and we are not to judge one another, yet to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean, and Charity obliges us not to offend One of our Brethren, for whom Christ died.

~~Now as the greater~~ Part of the United Brethren cannot nor will not take the Affirmation as prescribed, and it is against our Conscience, We humbly petition the Honourable Houses not to deny us our Constitutional Liberty. Let not our Persons and Properties lie open to the Invasion of Injury, except you find us guilty of treasonable Practices against this or the other States, which, by the Mercy of God, will never be the Case.

We hold ourselves in Conscience bound to seek the Good of the Land where we sojourn, we have done it, & are willing to do it in every honest Way. And none of us will scruple solemnly to promise, "That he will not do any thing injurious to this State or the United States of America, and that he will not give any Intelligence, Aid or Assistance to the British Officers or Forces at War with these or the other States."

If any one singly, or several jointly, act or do any thing against this Declaration, let them be tried and punished, as others, who have taken the Test and transgressed against it.

But our humble Request is, "That you may protect our Persons and Property against all Violence & Oppression, and to grant us the Benefit of the Law."

Let us continue quiet and peaceable in the Places where Divine Providence has placed us, which are dedicated to God for the Advancement of Religion, Piety, and Virtue, and which have been such approved Testimonies of the Brethren being industrious usefull Members of Society. Permit us to serve the Public in our usual Callings unmolested.

ment as formerly, and it will certainly cause many of them, who are waiting for it, to transport themselves hither, to establish yet more usefull Branches of Business.

We have no Arms, and will bear none against this State or the other States. We desire no Ports of Profit or Honour. We never refused to pay Taxes, nor ever had any Distresses made for Taxes.

Our Brethren in the States of Pennsylvania, Jersey, and Maryland, have in behalf of themselves and us, laid a similar humble Request before the Honourable Congress of the United States of America, and we are not without Hopes of having it granted, which we are induced to believe by a Letter from His Honour the President, to the Brethrens Deputy, of which we annex a Copy sub Lit. B.

If we in any ones Opinion have no Right, we pray for Indulgence and Mercy. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive Mercy.

We the Subscribers beg Leave to recommend this Petition and humble Representation into a kind and serious Consideration, and to grant to Us and our Fellow Brethren such Relief as the General Assembly finds meet and consistent with Justice and Mercy.

And your Petitioners will ever pray

Joh. Michael Graff Jr. Episc.

Niels Peterfen

Joh. Caspar Henigsmann.

Traugott Bagge.

Gottfried Präzel.

John Henry Herbst

Josua Trümbel Malfer

Jacob Mann, Dr. M.

Ludwig Meinung, Clerk

Joh. Christian Frits, Brecht. Master

Johann Georg Mat. Gungler
Farmer.

Jacob Meyen, Carpenter

George Baim Carter,
Planter.

Daniel Fries, Farmer.

George Lafrie, Blacksmith.

Gott. Fried. Ays, Potter.

Charles Holders, Dealer

Frederick Hise, Shoemaker.

Matthew Osterlein, Blacksmith

John Holland, Gardener

James Harst, Weaver

Peter Yarnell, Shoemaker

Samuel Ays, Distiller

Rudolph Christ, Potter

George Bivighaus, Clerk.

Christian Ains. Herkewelder, Bookkeeper

Matthes Muckler, Tobaccoist.

Wesley Hise, Steward

Henry Koch, Shoemaker

Jacob Blum, Farmer

John Hise,
Cooper.

M. Hise, Stack Driver

Christoph Schmidt, Weber

Johann Rand, Planter

Christian Trinkel, Carpenter

Johann Frant. Gimp, Dancer

Rudolph Seckle, Carpenter

Griffing, Mr. Baker.

Jacob Isaacff, Soapboiler

Thomas Spieske, Tugler John Kless, Weaver.

Adam Kaffler, Weaver.

Friedrich Priem, Cook.

Simon Gillman, Taylor

Johann Peter Oefgen, Farmer.

Georg Goefant, Daylabourer

John Krauss, Joiner

Jacob Wohlfard, Joiner

Gottlieb Schober, Glover

Jens Smith, Schoolkeeper.

John Scott. Tanner

John Kless, Weaver.

Gottlieb Strehle, Tanner

John Marten Schneider. Shoemaker.

Daniel Ekstrmann. Cooper.

Ludwig Moller, Potter

Melchior Brasp. Mason.

Andreas Krenn. Shoemaker.

Andreas Brofing Joiner

John Kless. Planter

John Miller Taylor

John Miller Taylor

John Schaub, Jr. Tannery

Johan Muecke. Distiller

Jacob Kapp. Miller

John Geo. Xaust. Planter

Phillips. Jagger. Cooper

Gottlieb Schelker. Carpenter

George Renner Planter

Mr. Lorenz Bage Minister
in Bethabara.

Paul Christian Stauber
Saddler.

Joerg Nissen Schoolmaster

Jacob Nissen, Miller

Philipp Franz Wagonmaker

Gottfried Grab, Schinmeister

Michael Karch Plant.

Peter Schnert, Planter.

Adam Cramer Tailor

1. 1. 1. Beretta, Planter

Johann Einfeldt, Schinmeister

Peter Binckely, Planter

Casper Fijer, Carpenter

Joh: Jacob Ernst, Minister
in Bethania.

Joh. Valentin Beck, Minister
in Friedberg.

young Jacob, Planter.

Jacob ^{his} IG Greter, Planter
mark.

Martin Walk, Planter.

Gebert Hoff, Planter

Martin Ernst, Planter

Georg Ernst, Planter

Johann Hoff, Shoemaker

Melzer Fijer, Joiner

Ernst Hoff, Planter

Martin Ernst, Planter

Johann Hoff, Planter

Johann Nicholas ^{his} HB Boikel, Planter
mark.

Philipp Hoff, Planter

Ernst Hoff, Cooper

Johann Hoff, Planter

Melzer Fijer, Tailor

Georg Hoff, Blacksmith

Christoph E. Elrod senior, Planter.

Johann Hoff, Planter.

Johann Hoff, Planter.

Planter, 1840

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