CHAPTER 1.

LAW CONCERNING LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

Chapter 1. *Almighty God*, being Only Lord of Conscience father of Lights & Spirits & the author as well as Object of all divine Knowledge, faith & Worship, Who only can enlighten the minds, & persuade & Convince the understandings of people In due reverence to his Soveraignty over the Souls of Mankind.

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That no person now or at any time hereafter Living in this Province Who shall Confess and acknowledge one Almighty God, to be the Creator Upholder & Ruler of the World, And that professeth him or her self Obliged in Conscience to Live peaceably & justly, under the Civil government, Shall in any case be molested or prejudiced for his or her Conscientious persuasion or practice, Nor shall hee or shee at any time be compelled to frequent or Maintain anie religious worship place or Ministry whatever Contrary to his or her mind, but shall freely & fully enjoy his or her Christian Liberty in that respect without any Interruption or reflection. And if any person shall abuse or deride any other for his or her different persuasions & practice in matter of religion, Such person shall be Lookt upon as a disturber of the peace & be punished accordingly.

But to the end That Loosness, irreligion & Atheism may not Creep in under pretense of Conscience in this Province Be it further Enacted by &c the authoritie aforesaid That according to the example of the primitive Christians, & for the ease of the Creation, Every first day of the Week called The Lord's day People shall abstain from their usual & common toil & Labour, That whether Masters, Parents, Children or Servants, that may the better dispose themselves to read the Scriptures of truth at home or frequent Such Meetings of religious worship abroad as may best Sute their respective persuasions.

Originally chapter 1, confirmed by chapter 63, 1683, and declared a fundamental law by chapter 141, 1683. Abrogated in 1693, but accepted in Petition of Right, June 1, 1693, as chapter 1.