

In 1567, the authorities discovered 100 people meeting in Plumbers' Hall in London...they had separated from their parish churches and taken communion together...In March 1568, another illegal gathering was uncovered in London, and 77 arrests were made; at least eight of those arrested were imprisoned...1593...In March, (Henry) Barrow and (John) Greenwood were convicted of devising seditious books...on April 6, they were hanged.

-Persecution and Toleration in Protestant England 1558-1689

...at which date the Journal of the Pilgrims commences, the voyage occupies 66 days, from port to port. It was a boisterous passage; their first experience of equinoctial storms between England and America...They were in great peril, obliged to beat about for days, unable, through the violence of gale, to carry a single sale.

The journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth: in New England in 1620:

By William Bradford, Edward Winslow, Robert Cushman, John Robinson

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King *James*, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, *Defender of the Faith*, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of *Virginia*; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. **IN WITNESS** whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at *Cape-Cod* the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *James*, of *England, France, and Ireland*, the eighteenth, and of *Scotland* the fifty-fourth, *Anno Domini*; 1620.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/mayflower.asp

As it was a time of great persecution, and we understood that in most counties friends were under great sufferings either by imprisonment or spoiling of goods or both...

-from the Journal of George Fox

“Well, friend William,” said Charles, “I have sold you a noble province in North America; but still I suppose you have no thoughts of going thither yourself.”

“Yes I have,” replied William, “and I am just come to bid thee farewell.”

“What! venture yourself among the savages of North America! Why, man, what security have you that you will not be in their war-kettle in two hours after setting foot on their shores?”

Excerpt—The friend of peace, Volume 4

By Noah Worcester

Anyone who believes in God “profess him or themselves to live quietly under the Civil Government, shall in any case molested or prejudiced, in his Person or Estate, because of his or their conscientious Persuasion or Practice, nor be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious Worship, Place or Ministry, contrary to his or their Mind...”

from William Penn’s Charter of Privileges, 1701