

many years ago the British legislature established by law ; as judging it from the conduct of the people, as well as the nature of the thing itself, to be really in all respects equivalent to an oath ; as without doubt it is. Many indeed murmured against this act when in agitation, as if it was indulging the Quakers with a greater privilege than any other Protestants, even church men, enjoyed ; and cast a slur or reproach on all those who take oaths. To this it may be answered, that it is in the power of other Protestants to wipe off the slur or reproach if they think it one, and intitle themselves to the same privilege with Quakers, by only leaving off the use of profane cursing and swearing. Whenever any sect or body of them shall prove themselves duly qualified, there is no doubt but the parliament will on their application substitute the solemn affirmation instead of an oath, as well for them as they have done for the Quakers.

His second direction is, “ to suspend the right
 “ of voting for members of assembly from the
 “ *Germans*, till they have a sufficient knowledge
 “ of our language and constitution ; this provi-
 “ sion he says, is as reasonable as the other.”
 I grant it ; that is, it is not reasonable at all : for
 after what has been said on the occasion, it does
 not appear that there is any ground for depriving
 those people of their privileges, especially as the
 Quakers would be entirely excluded from the as-
 sembly by the first article. This shews he is still
 afraid his party would not be able to obtain their
 ends ; and that three fourths of the people must
 be deprived of either the privilege of sitting in
 the assembly, or voting, before he thinks they
 would have a chance for it : and even then it is a
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