

1680-11-11

**James Harrison, John Haydock, John [Cobban] and Richard [...],
Charles Gerard, 2nd Earl of Macclesfield, Viscount Brandon and
Charles Hoghton, 4th Baronet, November 11, 1680**

James Harrison

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To Gerard & Charles Houghton
members of the house of commons

On the behalfe of our selves, whose names are under
written and many others of our suffering friends in
this County of Lancashire we make & apply
unto you the Representatives of the County members
of Parliament, acquainting you that we are very
great sufferers, upon the Statutes made Against
Popish Recusants, in Queen Elizabeth & King James
times; & of most heinous oppression lay upon us
the truth sake & exercise of o^r Conscience to
God by the late Act made against Conventicles.
As also great sufferings by Imprisonment and
spoiling of o^r goods in the case of Swearing and
Tythes; in which we have a testimony for God;
we humbly Request you to weigh our deep suffer-
ings, & that you would be pleased to move in
Parliament for o^r Relief, that these heinous and
most unchristianlike burdens & sufferings, we are
daily exposed unto, and are oppressed, and we may
be eased off; which we hope you yo^r selves will
Judge to be very Equall; we neither bring Paym^t
nor Popishly affected, that we should not suffer by
Laws made against them, whose principles and
Practices we deny, and that o^r yea & nay might
be taken in stead of an oath, in that according to
Christs doctrine we cannot Swear at all, as also if
we might be eased of this great oppression and
deep suffering of & Conventicle tythes; these are
some of the most weighty of o^r Grievances, which
under present sense of our great sufferings we lay
before you, in hopes of Redress. We not desiring
to be tedious to you, take leave, & Rest.

Yo^r Obedt Friends

James Harrison
John Haydock
Richard Tubb
Richard

From vs call'd Quakers in
the South part of Lancashire
the 1st of 9^{mo} call'd November
1680

and that we may no
longer suffer under
that unjust illegal
law full act known
as the 5th of James
the very Quinony &
Conventicle but
you will be pleased
to endeavor to repeal
it being altogether
against the
natural Rights and
privileges of this
our nation

Petition
to
Gerard & Cha^s Houghton

9 moth. 1680.

J. Harrison et al