

Glory to God

extract from Proposition XIV § vi

§ vi. . . . To conclude this subject, Glory to God and our Lord Jesus Christ who has allowed us to suffer faithfully for his Name, without shrinking or fleeing from the Cross; this has been the case for twenty-five years, since we were recognized as a distinct and separate people. By his mercy we now enjoy some liberty; this did not come about by any outward efforts of ours, but rather God worked in the hearts of those who oppose us. This liberty was not procured by any outward influence, but rather by the testimony of our harmlessness in the hearts of our superiors.¹ God has preserved us until now in the patient sufferings of Jesus, so that we have not betrayed our cause by persecuting anyone. As far as I know there are few, if any, other Christians that can say this.

Our malicious enemies have nothing to say against our unique, innocent, Christian cause, except to say that we would do the same things if we had the power. This is a piece of unreasonable malice; they take upon themselves the privilege of judging the future, although they do not have any direct revelation of it. . . . If we ever become guilty of persecution by using bodily punishment to force other people to accept our way, then we should be considered the greatest of hypocrites, and no one should hesitate to persecute us. AMEN, says my soul.

Sources: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, Proposition XIV § vi (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) p. 429 and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae*

¹ The word “superiors” occurs in Barclay, both in English and Latin. To our modern ears it sounds very strange, but we can find no justification to substitute a word like “rulers.”

verè Christianae apologia, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob
Claus, 1676) pp. 331-332.