

"out the spiritual artillery of European countries; for this Christianity was one of the considerations of the royal Charter, and the very basis of its great founder, William Penn; not Christianity founded on any particular religious tenets; not Christianity with an established church, and tithes, and spiritual Courts; but Christianity with liberty of conscience to all men."

"From the time of Bracton, Christianity has been received as part of the common law of England. I will not go back to remote periods, but state a series of prominent decisions in which the doctrine is to be found.

"The first legislative act in the Colony was the recognition of the Christian religion, and establishment of liberty of conscience. Before this, in 1646, Lord Baltimore passed a law in Maryland in favor of religious freedom, and it is a memorable fact, that of the first legislators who established religious freedom one was a Roman Catholic and the other a Friend. It is called the great law of the body of laws in the province of Pennsylvania, passed at an Assembly at Chester, the seventh of the twelfth month, December.

"And to the end that looseness, irreligion, and atheism may not creep in under the pretence of conscience, it provides for the observance of the Lord's day, punishes profane cursing and swearing, and further enacts, for the better preventing corrupt communication, that whoever shall speak loosely and profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit or Scriptures of Truth, and is thereof legally convicted, shall forfeit and pay five pounds and be imprisoned for five days in the House of Correction. It is not an *auto da fe*, displaying vengeance; but a law punishing with great mildness a gross offence against public decency and public order, tending directly to disturb the peace of the Commonwealth. *Chief Justice Swift* in his *System of Laws*, 2 vol., 825, has some very just reasoning on the subject.

