

seeking to the Lord for instruction, my mind settled to attend on the business of the meeting; on the last day of which, I had prepared a short essay of a petition to be presented to the legislature, if way opened: and being informed that there were some appointed, by that yearly-meeting, to speak with those in authority, in cases relating to the society, I opened my mind to several of them, and shewed them the essay I had made; and afterward opened the case in the meeting for business, in substance as follows:

“I have been under a concern for some time, on account of the great number of slaves which are imported into this colony; I am aware that it is a tender point to speak to, but apprehend I am not clear in the sight of heaven without speaking to it. I have prepared an essay of a petition, if way open, to be presented to the legislature; and what I have to propose to this meeting is, that some friends may be named to withdraw and look over it, and report whether they believe it suitable to be read in the meeting; if they should think well of reading it, it will remain for the meeting, after hearing it, to consider, whether to take any further notice of it as a meeting or not.” After a short conference some friends went out, and looking over it, expressed their willingness to have it read; which being done, many expressed their unity with the proposal; and some signified, that to have the subjects of the petition enlarged upon, and to be signed out of
meeting