

Poster issued by The Society of Friends: Judicial Swearing

Publication/Creation

19th Century

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/h9w6dt63>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



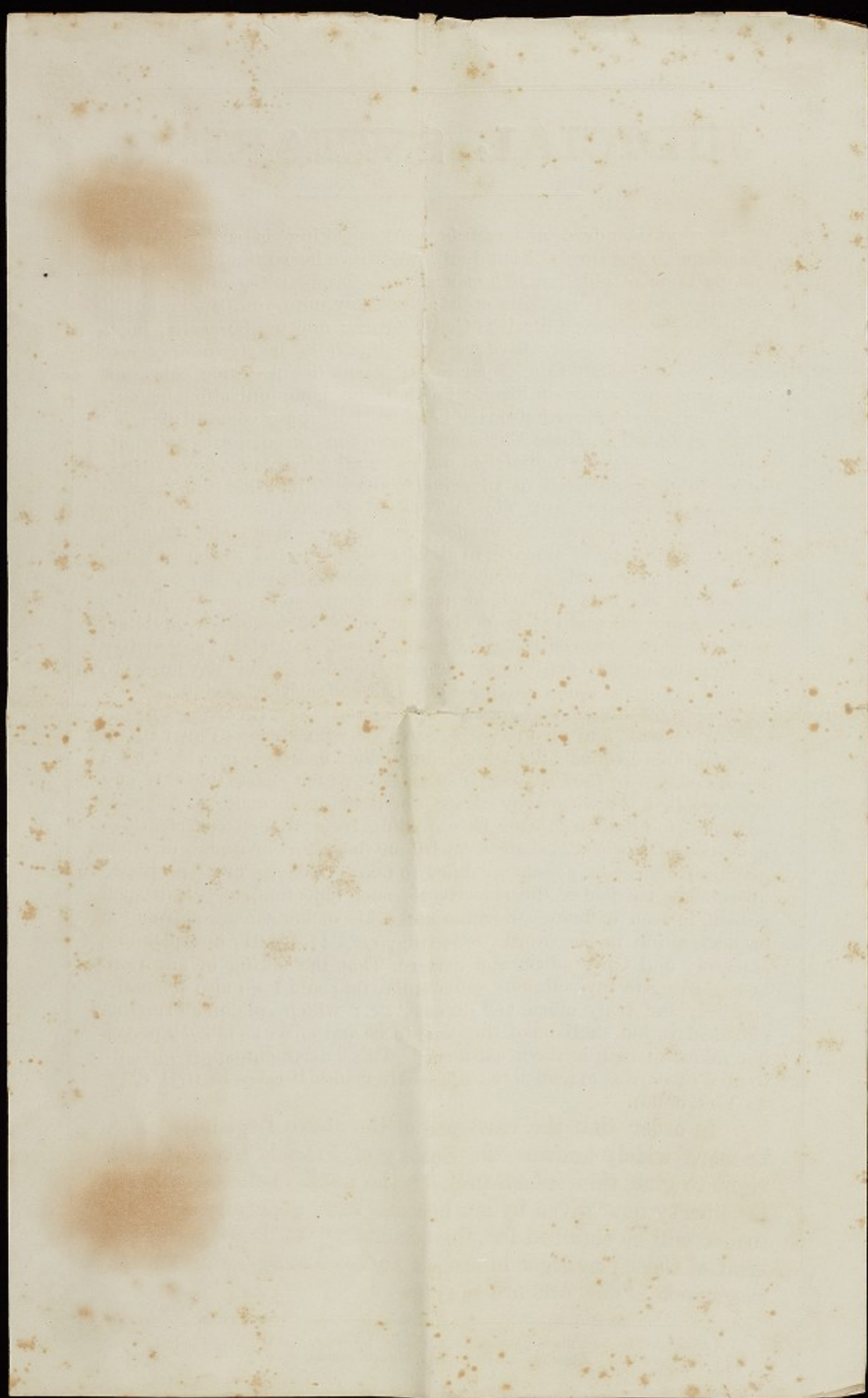
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

JUDICIAL SWEARING.

A HIGH standard as regards truth-speaking is set before all Christians in the words of our Lord, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (*Matt. v. 33—37*). Some Christians, accepting these words as applicable to the taking of Judicial as well as to all other oaths, have always conscientiously objected to swearing of every kind; and the Legislature has provided (1 & 2 Vict. c. 77) that members of the Society of Friends, Moravians, and Separatists, may take a solemn affirmation or declaration instead of an oath, in all places and for all purposes whatsoever, where an oath is or shall be required, either by the common law, or by any Act of Parliament; and if any such person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall be lawfully convicted, wilfully, falsely and corruptly to have affirmed or declared any matter or thing, he or she shall incur the same penalties as by the laws are enacted against persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

There are other members of the community who prefer an affirmation to an oath, and an increasing number who object to an oath on conscientious grounds, for whom some relief has been provided by a statute passed in 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c. 125), which enacts that "If any person called as a witness or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, *viz.*—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, That the taking of any Oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare,' &c.: which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form." This enactment, applying only to civil cases, was extended to witnesses in criminal cases in 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 66).

In order that the existence of the above Legislation may be more widely known, the Society of Friends has deemed it right to give this information to the public, believing that as the liberty now given by law becomes more generally used, the sooner will be obtained for the community at large the enjoyment of those privileges in respect to the making of an affirmation which is now confined to a few.

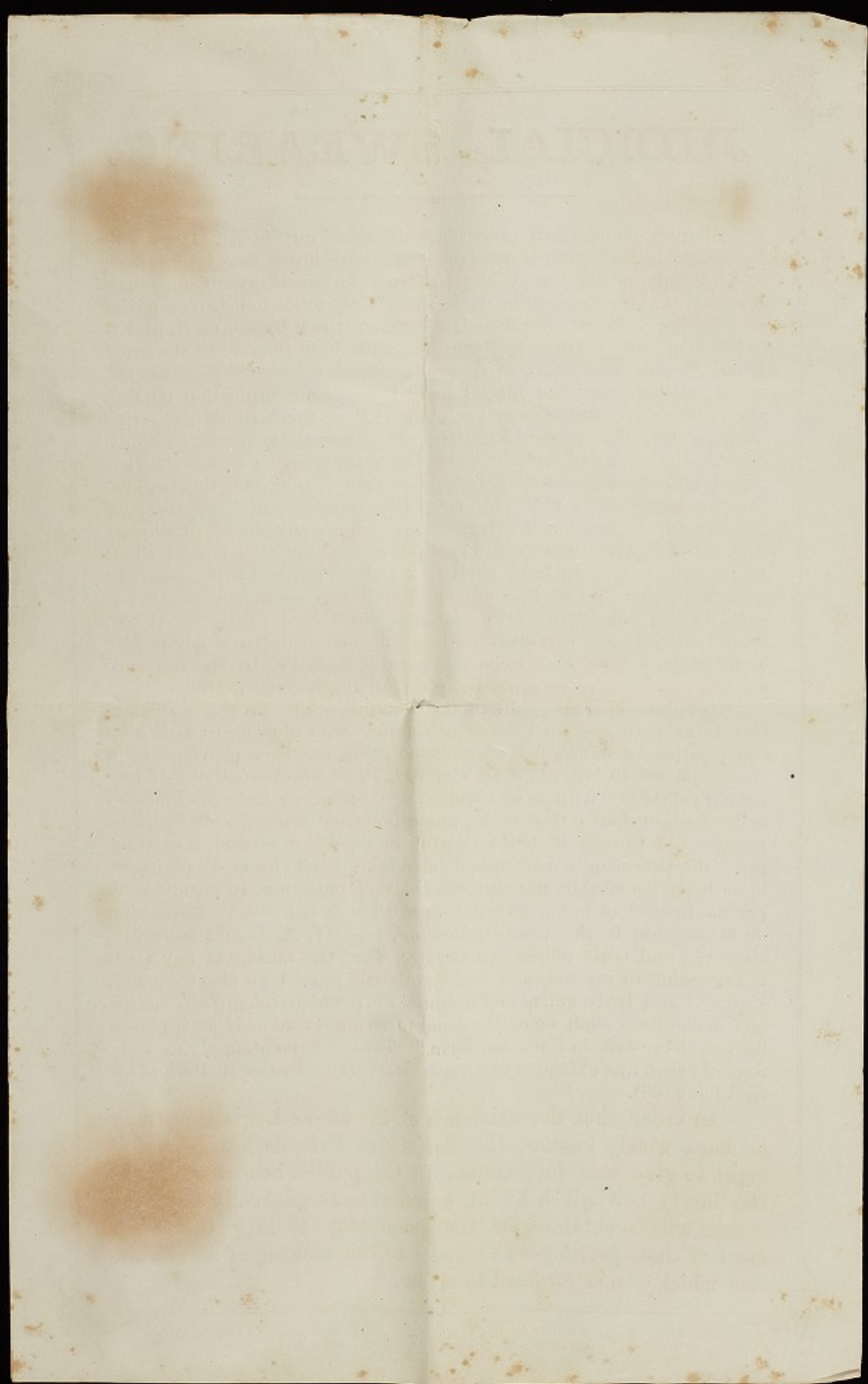


JUDICIAL SWEARING.

A HIGH standard as regards truth-speaking is set before all Christians in the words of our Lord, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (*Matt. v. 33—37*). Some Christians, accepting these words as applicable to the taking of Judicial as well as to all other oaths, have always conscientiously objected to swearing of every kind; and the Legislature has provided (1 & 2 Vict. c. 77) that members of the Society of Friends, Moravians, and Separatists, may take a solemn affirmation or declaration instead of an oath, in all places and for all purposes whatsoever, where an oath is or shall be required, either by the common law, or by any Act of Parliament; and if any such person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall be lawfully convicted, wilfully, falsely and corruptly to have affirmed or declared any matter or thing, he or she shall incur the same penalties as by the laws are enacted against persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

There are other members of the community who prefer an affirmation to an oath, and an increasing number who object to an oath on conscientious grounds, for whom some relief has been provided by a statute passed in 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c. 125), which enacts that "If any person called as a witness or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, *viz.*—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, That the taking of any Oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare,' &c.: which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form." This enactment, applying only to civil cases, was extended to witnesses in criminal cases in 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 66).

In order that the existence of the above Legislation may be more widely known, the Society of Friends has deemed it right to give this information to the public, believing that as the liberty now given by law becomes more generally used, the sooner will be obtained for the community at large the enjoyment of those privileges in respect to the making of an affirmation which is now confined to a few.



JUDICIAL SWEARING.

A HIGH standard as regards truth-speaking is set before all Christians in the words of our Lord, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (*Matt. v. 33—37*). Some Christians, accepting these words as applicable to the taking of Judicial as well as to all other oaths, have always conscientiously objected to swearing of every kind; and the Legislature has provided (1 & 2 Vict. c. 77) that members of the Society of Friends, Moravians, and Separatists, may take a solemn affirmation or declaration instead of an oath, in all places and for all purposes whatsoever, where an oath is or shall be required, either by the common law, or by any Act of Parliament; and if any such person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall be lawfully convicted, wilfully, falsely and corruptly to have affirmed or declared any matter or thing, he or she shall incur the same penalties as by the laws are enacted against persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

There are other members of the community who prefer an affirmation to an oath, and an increasing number who object to an oath on conscientious grounds, for whom some relief has been provided by a statute passed in 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c. 125), which enacts that "If any person called as a witness or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, *viz.*—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, That the taking of any Oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare,' &c.: which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form." This enactment, applying only to civil cases, was extended to witnesses in criminal cases in 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 66).

In order that the existence of the above Legislation may be more widely known, the Society of Friends has deemed it right to give this information to the public, believing that as the liberty now given by law becomes more generally used, the sooner will be obtained for the community at large the enjoyment of those privileges in respect to the making of an affirmation which is now confined to a few.

JUDICIAL WEAR

1875

1875

Faint, illegible text, possibly a list or index, covering the upper middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text, possibly a list or index, covering the lower middle section of the page.

1875

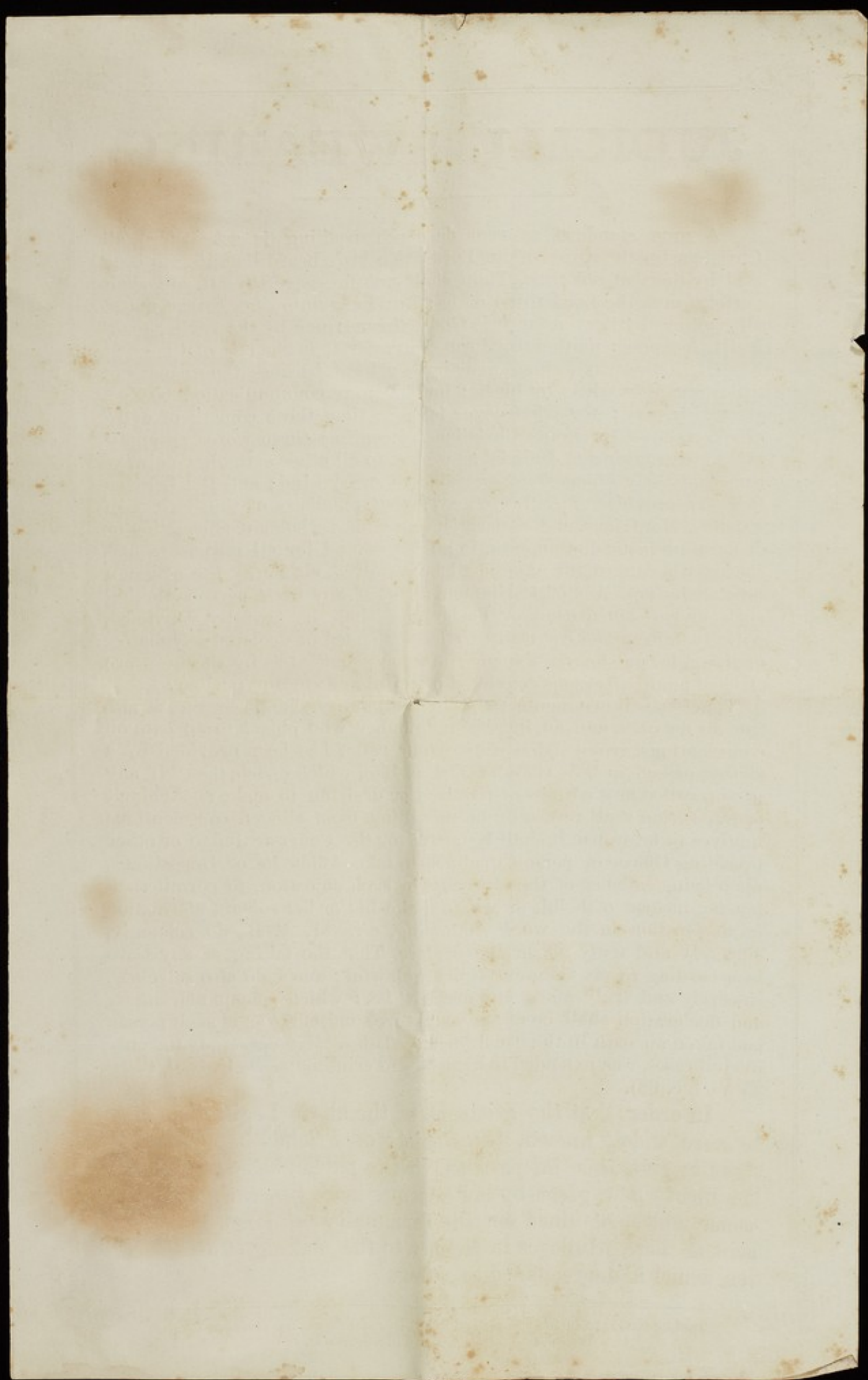
1875

JUDICIAL SWEARING.

A HIGH standard as regards truth-speaking is set before all Christians in the words of our Lord, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (*Matt. v. 33—37*). Some Christians, accepting these words as applicable to the taking of Judicial as well as to all other oaths, have always conscientiously objected to swearing of every kind; and the Legislature has provided (1 & 2 Vict. c. 77) that members of the Society of Friends, Moravians, and Separatists, may take a solemn affirmation or declaration instead of an oath, in all places and for all purposes whatsoever, where an oath is or shall be required, either by the common law, or by any Act of Parliament; and if any such person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall be lawfully convicted, wilfully, falsely and corruptly to have affirmed or declared any matter or thing, he or she shall incur the same penalties as by the laws are enacted against persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

There are other members of the community who prefer an affirmation to an oath, and an increasing number who object to an oath on conscientious grounds, for whom some relief has been provided by a statute passed in 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c. 125), which enacts that "If any person called as a witness or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, *viz.*—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, That the taking of any Oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare,' &c.: which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form." This enactment, applying only to civil cases, was extended to witnesses in criminal cases in 1861 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 66).

In order that the existence of the above Legislation may be more widely known, the Society of Friends has deemed it right to give this information to the public, believing that as the liberty now given by law becomes more generally used, the sooner will be obtained for the community at large the enjoyment of those privileges in respect to the making of an affirmation which is now confined to a few.



JUDICIAL SWEARING.

A HIGH standard as regards truth-speaking is set before all Christians in the words of our Lord, "Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black: but let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (*Matt. v. 33—37*). Some Christians, accepting these words as applicable to the taking of Judicial as well as to all other oaths, have always conscientiously objected to swearing of every kind; and the Legislature has provided (1 & 2 Viet. c. 77) that members of the Society of Friends, Moravians, and Separatists, may take a solemn affirmation or declaration instead of an oath, in all places and for all purposes whatsoever, where an oath is or shall be required, either by the common law, or by any Act of Parliament; and if any such person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall be lawfully convicted, wilfully, falsely and corruptly to have affirmed or declared any matter or thing, he or she shall incur the same penalties as by the laws are enacted against persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

There are other members of the community who prefer an affirmation to an oath, and an increasing number who object to an oath on conscientious grounds, for whom some relief has been provided by a statute passed in 1854 (17 & 18 Viet. c. 125), which enacts that "If any person called as a witness or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, *viz.*—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, That the taking of any Oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare,' &c.: which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form." This enactment, applying only to civil cases, was extended to witnesses in criminal cases in 1861 (24 & 25 Viet. c. 66).

In order that the existence of the above Legislation may be more widely known, the Society of Friends has deemed it right to give this information to the public, believing that as the liberty now given by law becomes more generally used, the sooner will be obtained for the community at large the enjoyment of those privileges in respect to the making of an affirmation which is now confined to a few.

8/10/13

475