

That your petitioners are also collaterally descended from the Rev. Matthew Henry, son of the above named Philip Henry, well known by his public preaching among the early non-conformists of England and to a wider circle by his learned and laborious Commentary on the Scriptures.

That your petitioners and their ancestors from the times of the said Philip and Matthew Henry to the present day have been wont to worship in the chapels and meeting-houses called Presbyterian in an unbroken succession of generations without let or hindrance from any parties whatsoever.

That some of your petitioners sustain the office of Christian ministers among the afore-named societies and in this respect follow in the steps of their fathers for several generations, and others of your petitioners have been appointed Trustees of various of the afore-named Meeting-houses by regular appointment at the hands of their predecessors.

That nevertheless they understand that if recent decisions of the highest Courts of Law shall remain in force they will be endangered in the continuance of their worship in these their wonted places of assembly and will be liable to be ejected at the suit of any stranger from chapels with some one or other of which they and their ancestors have remained connected for a period approaching to 200 years and where alone they find a form of worship carried on which accords with their convictions of God's sacred truth.

That they have therefore heard with the liveliest satisfaction and gratitude that a bill has already received the sanction of the Right Honorable the House of Lords, the purpose of which is to confirm themselves and others situated like themselves in the possession of their present places of worship, and they humbly petition your Honourable House to bestow upon that bill your further sanction, that it may with all convenient speed become the law of the land, and thus the minds of your Petitioners may be relieved from much anguish and distress, the consequence of their present uncertain tenure of their Houses of Prayer and places of interment which have become endeared to them by so many cherished associations.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

(Sgd.) ROBERT HYDE GREG, M.P.

(Sgd.) CHARLES WICKSTEED, B.A.

(Sgd.) HANNAH MARY THOM,

ETC., ETC., ETC.

It is interesting to note that although the Rev. Joseph Hutton and his son, the Rev. Joseph Hutton, remained "English Presbyterians," the Rev. Joseph Henry Hutton, his grandson, joined the established church, and four great grandsons were ordained clergymen of the Church of England.

His grandson, Richard Holt Hutton, (p. 18) was at first a Unitarian, but afterwards joined the Church of England as a follower of Maurice. Of him it has been written: "Through a period of great intellectual and religious disquietude he made a splendid use of the vantage ground afforded by the pages of a prominent