Hampshire Gazette

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HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

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NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 6, 1786.

To the Public.

BY the advice and encouragement of a number of Gentlemen in this County, the Subscriber has established a *Printing Office* in Northampton, where printing of all kinds usual in America will be performed with care and dispatch.

In a country like this, where our national character and happiness so entirely depend upon a general diffusion of knowledge among the people, the extensive advantages of such periodical publications cannot be too often explained or too highly estimated.—The United States of America owe their existence as an empire to that superior degree of knowledge which the people at large have enjoyed and maintained through every period of their progress, from the first settlement of the country to the late revolution. In no country have the rights of mankind been more generally understood, and more rationally and systematically maintained. It is well known that the establishment of schools in every part of the country and the circulation of News-Papers, are among the principal causes which have led us to our present situation: the danger is, that the enjoyment of peace and tranquility will produce inattention to these subjects; that when the feelings excited by our troubles have subsided, our minds will sink into that indolence which is natural to such a state, our children will grow up in ignorance, and ignorance is the parent of slavery and all the national vices which mark the decline of empire.

Whatever may be the fate of the Subscriber in his attempt, the establishment of a press in this town certainly promises many advantages to this part of the country. The greater part of the extensive and flourishing counties of Hampshire and Berkshire, are much more commodiously situated to receive their communications from this office than from any other, while increasing the number of presses in the country, will probably increase the number of readers and writers, an object to be desired by every friend of liberty and literature.

WILLIAM BUTLER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JAMES BOWDOIN, Esquire,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS information has been given to the Supreme Executive of this Commonwealth, that on Tuesday last, the 29th of August, being the day appointed by law for the sitting of the Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at NORTHAMPTON, in the County of HAMPSHIRE, within this Commonwealth, a large concourse of people, from several parts of that county, assembled at the Court-House in NORTHAMPTON, many of whom were armed with guns, swords and other deadly weapons, and with drums beating and fifes playing, in contemptuous and open defiance of the authority of this Government, did, by their threats of violence and keeping possession of the Court-House until twelve o'clock on the night of the same day, prevent the sitting of the Court, and the orderly administration of justice in that county:

AND WHEREAS this high-handed offence is fraught with the most fatal and pernicious consequences, must tend to subvert all law and government; to dissolve our excellent Constitution, and introduce universal riot, anarchy and confusion, which would probably terminate in absolute despotism, and consequently destroy the fairest prospects of political happiness, that any people was ever favoured with; and which this people will realize, if they do not suffer themselves to be misguided by the machinations of internal real enemies, who treacherously assume the character of their best and most zealous friends:

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the council, to issue this proclamation, calling upon all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Grand-Jurors, Constables, and other officers, civil and military, within this Commonwealth, to prevent and suppress all such violent and riotous proceedings, if they should be attempted in their several counties.

AND I DO hereby, pursuant to the indispensable duty I owe to the good people of this Commonwealth, most solemnly call upon them, as they value the blessings of freedom and Independence, which at the expence of so much blood and treasure they have purchased——as they regard their faith, which in the sight of God and the world, they pledged to one another, and the people of the United States, when they adopted the present Constitution of Government——as they would not disappoint the hopes, and thereby become contemptible in the eyes of other nations, in the view of whom they have risen to glory and empire——as they would not deprive themselves of the security derived from a well-regulated Society, to their lives, liberties and property; and as they would not devolve upon their children, instead of peace, freedom and safety, a state of anarchy, confusion and slavery,——I do most earnestly and most solemnly call upon them to aid and assist with their utmost efforts the aforesaid officers, and to unite in preventing and suppressing all such treasonable proceedings, and every measure that has a tendency to encourage them. And the Attorney-General is hereby directed to prosecute, and bring to condign punishment the Ringleaders and Abettors of the aforesaid atrocious violation of law and government; and also the Ringleaders and Abettors of any similar violation in future, whensoever or wheresoever it shall be perpetrated within this Commonwealth.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this second day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By his Excellency's command.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Establishment of the Worship of the DEITY, essential to National Happiness.

Plusque boni mores,
Quàm bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS.

BY AN AMERICAN.

"RELIGION!"

Without thee, what were unenlighten'd man!
A savage roaming through the woods and wilds,
In quest of prey; and with the unfashion'd fur
Rough clad; devoid of ev'ry finer art,
And elegance of life. Nor happiness
Domestic, mixt of tenderness and care,
Nor moral excellence, nor social bliss,
Nor guardian law, were his.
Nothing, save rapine, indolence and guile,
And woes on woes, a still revolving train,
Whose horrid circle had made humane life,
Than non-existance worse; but taught by thee,
Ours are the plans of policy and peace,
To live like brothers, and conjunctive all,
Embellish life. THOMPSON.

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

YOU are pleased to ask my opinion on the sentiment expressed in Doctor Price's observations respecting the "article of religious liberty; and whether there may not be an establishment of religion consistently with the civil and religious rights of all denominations; and the expediency of such an establishment in these States?"

Hubmit the subsequent thoughts to your candour.——

Doctor Price by his generous and disinterested labours in the cause of human nature, merits the applause of all the friends of civil and religious liberty in the world, and especially in every American. I esteem it a special favour that he and other foreigners of enlarged minds have given us their enlightened thoughts on the momentous subject of government, and the permanent foundation of such a system of regulation as shall tend to make wise and happy, present and future American generations. May we profit by their labours!

We need the assistance of the wise and good, as well as the smiles of an omnipotent providence, to lay firm and lasting the basis of the most glorious empire on which the sun ever shone.

Happy land of universal liberty! Thrice happy thy future sons, if wisdom direct and establish the councils of their fathers! While the subjects of European monarchies pine in ignominious vassallage, and look up from a humble distance, to their haughty lords and oppressors, the free born American smiles with conscious dignity and independence, in the possession of the rights and privileges of a man, and is eligible to the office of honour and influence in the road of merit, depending not on the capricious whim of a despotic prince, or his favourite, but on the uncorrupted voice of his fellow citizens.

May Americans by their wisdom and virtue forever merit those high encomiums which the enlightened [illegible] have bestowed upon them.

Europe has for ages groaned under civil and ecclesiastic oppressions [illegible] of tyranny in church and state. The [illegible] have in time past revolted [illegible] still feels the [illegible] roused to seize the prize of state. The [illegible] generally fallen on two evils, 2nd [illegible] oppressic instance, and the power of [illegible] freedom, but [illegible] pot, as the consequence, who has [illegible] in the [illegible] veted their chains. 'Incidit in Scy[illegible] simus vitare Charibdim.' Happily we have [illegible] gulf, without feeling the rub of tyranny, or [illegible] whirlpool of anarchy; and our war-worn [illegible] has reached the fair haven of peace. The [illegible] and burden is past, but the work of the day is yet to be finished. We have to seize the advantages which providence hath put into our hands, [illegible] to turn them to the public good.

Such is the state of human nature, that the sanctions of religion are necessary to give energy to law. 'Mankind are held back from wrong by the commanding awe of a power, infinitely superior to the power of their own creating;' and are excited to the practice of the moral and social virtues, by the animating hope and assurance of future approbation and reward.

Doctor Price passes over in silence, a point I conceive essential to the future prosperity of [illegible] states; that is, the support of the public wo[illegible] of the Deity; I mean not the establishment [illegible] ny one sect or denomination, accompanied [illegible] with an exclusion or toleration. Uniform[illegible] mode or sentiment is not to be expected. [illegible] most all the different sects into which chr[illegible] dom is divided, are scattered throughout the [illegible] tinent. No one state is uniform, either in [illegible] or modes of worship, and therefore no on[illegible] nomination can be established on the prin[illegible] of equal liberty.

The magistrate steps out of the line of his [illegible] ty, the moment he establishes his opinion as the standard of orthodoxy; because in his religious notions every man is his own judge, and his speculative opinions falls not under the cognizance of human laws. In this respect the constitutions of the American states have shewn a noble freedom from the shackles of human inventions in religious matters, unparalled by other nations: but in [illegible] to shun the dangers which religious establishments have brought upon mankind, we cast off all religious worship, or leave it to the option of individuals at large, whether public worship, or relig-