

And yet saying no regard to those sacred bonds, have of late, in a disorderly manner, withdrawn themselves from all connection with said church, not only without its council and concurrence, but contrary to its painful labours and faithful remonstrances, and united themselves to what is called a Baptist Church.

And now said church, still meaning to practice fidelity to Jesus Christ and them; in consideration of the premises; in consideration also, of the noted habit of the people called Baptists, to maintain all opposition to their bias, with the utmost of perfection; and lastly, in consideration of the utter inconsistency of their scheme, with that of the bible; the said church holds itself called to exhibit scriptural light to the said two persons, and to whomsoever else it may concern; in confidence, that when their minds are disentangled from the bondage of error, as they certainly will be in this case, they will then know we have treated them in consistency with our stable profession; and then we shall judge the said two persons entirely to the judge of right.

Now as the people called Baptists, hold it a necessary part of obedience and following Christ, to be buried in water, as they say he was in baptism: We therefore are bound to testify and prove,

I. That Jesus Christ's baptism, was not christian baptism.

1. Because christian baptism is a seal of christianity; but the christian dispensation was not in being when Jesus Christ was baptized, and so there was no such thing to be sealed at that time; and then it must be a seal to nothing, which is no seal at all. Therefore the baptism of Jesus Christ was not christian baptism.

2. Because Jesus Christ's baptism was under the law; but no ordinance under the law could at the same time be under the gospel; and if not under the gospel, it could not be a christian ordinance: therefore Christ's baptism was not christian baptism.

3. Because Christ's baptism was part of that law, righteously, which he came to fulfil, and which must be fulfilled before the gospel dispensation could begin; as justification must be finished before sanctification can begin; therefore Christ's baptism could not be christian baptism.

4. Because as every thing done to fulfil the law was legal, and as Christ's baptism was confessedly done to fulfil the law; Matt. iii. 15, therefore Christ's baptism was legal, not christian baptism.

5. Because to be baptized in obedience to the legal dispensation, must be legal obedience; but Christ was baptized: therefore his baptism was legal, not gospel obedience.

6. Because what Christ came to do was to fulfil the righteousness of the law, Matt. v. 17. But that was law-work, not gospel-work: therefore Christ's baptism was legal, not evangelical.

7. Ordinances of the law, and of the gospel, are different; but Christ's baptism was an ordinance of the law, as the next argument will show: therefore Christ's baptism was not a gospel or christian ordinance.

Objection. But the Lord's supper was instituted under the law also.

Ans. True, but it was the very night in which he was betrayed, so it must be then or never. 1 Cor. ii. 23. Whereas Christ was baptized several years before. Beside, he commanded the future constant use of the Lord's supper; but no such command about his baptism; but that was part of his perfect law, righteousness, which none ever could do but himself.

Nay further, Jesus Christ knew that he was appointed by the father to be faithful in all God's house, the church, as Moses was, Heb. iii. 2. But Moses appointed the paschal feast, as a constant token of divine presence and favour, and a mean of communion with him, which paschal feast was to cease, the moment Christ died. Therefore he must appoint the gospel feast, the Lord's supper, before he died, or else he would not be as faithful in God's house, as Moses was; but would leave it quite destitute of this chief mean of visible communion and communion with God; which would show he had not finished his work, and be a blot on him and his kingdom forever.

11. The baptism of Jesus Christ, was the appointed mean of entering on his public legal ministry, which he must fulfil, both as it was a part of the law, which he was to obey perfectly, and also, because otherwise he could not claim

Legal priests were always induced to their public ministry, by washing or being baptized with water; therefore it was commanded for Aaron, his sons, and his successors, to be washed or baptized with water when they went into their public ministry. Exod. xxix. 4. xl. 12. 1 Cor. iv. 6. So Christ, who knew the whole law, when he was going into his public discharge of the legal priesthood, knew he must be washed or baptized with water; and as no legal priest could enter that public ministry, till thirty years of age, Num. iv. 3, 47, so Jesus Christ, when he arrived to that age, Luke iii. 23, knowing it was the appointed mean of entering the ministry of the law, was obedient in that, as in

every thing: therefore Christ's baptism was wholly legal, not christian.

2. This is exactly the reason which Jesus Christ gives to John, when he came to be washed or baptized by him; "that it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness." Implying, I can't fulfil all righteousness, viz. of the law, unless I submit to it; nor you do your duty unless you administer it; for this was the reason why John was sent to baptize—And as this was a noted part of obedience to the law, so all righteousness could not be fulfilled without it: therefore Christ's baptism was not christian baptism.

3. It is declared, John i. 31, &c. that the very reason why John was sent to baptize, was that he might by that ordinance, make Christ manifest to Israel, viz. to be their promised high-priest; and he was made manifest, by public baptism, according to law, by the heaven's visibly opening at the same time; and by the descent of the holy spirit on Christ, and by the voice from heaven approving him. Therefore as soon as the necessary trials of forty days in the wilderness were out, he began to preach. Matt. iv. 17. Therefore Christ's baptism was altogether legal, not christian.

III. The baptism of Jesus Christ was no part of christian obedience. For,

1. Then it must be obedience to himself; for Jesus Christ is the head of all christian matters. It came to do the will of God, Psa. xl. 8, not to do his own will, John vi. 38. But the will of God by Jesus Christ, primarily, was his fulfilling the law, and his baptism was part of that work, as he told John at the time; therefore Christ's baptism was obedience to the law, not to christianity.

2. To be christian obedience, it must be under christianity, not under the law; but it was under the law, not under the gospel: therefore the baptism of Jesus Christ was wholly legal obedience, not christian.

3. Not only the fact was under the law, but the view and design of it was to fulfil what the law already required, and to be a lawful qualification for his public ministry while under the law; the last act of which ministry and priesthood, was his offering up himself in death, Heb. viii. 3, 7, 27. Therefore the design of Christ's baptism was altogether legal, and peculiar to himself—which was implied, when he said, "suffer it to be so now." Matt. iii. 15, as the only instance of it in the world.

IV. Christ's baptism could not be a pattern for his people's obedience. For,

1. Obedience to the law for justification, never can be a part of his people's obedience: but Christ's baptism was a part of his obedience to the law, for the justification of sinners. Therefore no pattern for his people's obedience.

2. If Christ's baptism was pattern for his people to copy, then there must be a law in christianity for his people to be baptized as he was; but there is no such law: therefore Christ's baptism was not a pattern for them to follow.

3. Therefore there is no more reason to follow Christ in this action, than in all the actions of his obedience to the holy law.

Question. What was John's baptism?

Ans. John's baptism was a rite which divine wisdom designed and proclaimed by Malachi of old—Mat. iii. 1, which was to serve three purposes.

1. John was a pioneer and herald, sent before his General, and the following christian army, to remove impediments; and as sin was the chief impediment, so John's work was to witness against it, and require repentance of it; and then to baptize, or wash with water, all who complied, as a badge of their cleanness from it; just as Jews always did to proselytes and priests, under the law, as token of their purity. But now John did this to all penitents, both because God ordered him so, and because the holy christian kingdom was then coming, in three or four years. So it was called the baptism of repentance.

2. As John's ministry was all under the law, so it was a type, like other religious actions under the law; to be a picture of that holiness, which was to be characteristic of approaching christianity; that every body might see in that symbol, what they must be, and what Christ could make them, viz. all over holy. But no use for types when the substance is come, except among Jews.

3. As Christ could not enter on his public ministry without baptism, and it could not be administered without a qualified officer: So, John i. 31, tells us the very reason why John was qualified, was that he might introduce Jesus Christ to his public ministry under the law, by the baptism of that dispensation.

And with this testimony we refer the said two persons to God the righteous Judge. Only adding, that we shall as clearly delineate what is true christian baptism, with its nature and evidence, when you or any in your behalf shall desire it.

—**IT** All Persons indebted to the Printer hereof, in Papers the last year—and those also who are indebted for Advertisements, are requested to make payment.

From the CONNECTICUT COURANT. To the LAND HOLDERS and FARMERS.

NUMBER V. Continuation of remarks on the Hon. ELBRIDGE GERRY's objections to the new Constitution.

IT is unhappy both for Mr. Gerry and the public, that he was not more explicitly publishing his doubts. Certainly this truth has been from inattention, and not through want of ability—all his honourable friends allow him to be a politician even to metaphysical nicety.

In a question of such magnitude, every candid man will consent to discuss objections, which are stated with perspicuity; but to follow the honourable writer into the field of conjecture, and combat phantoms, uncertain whether or not they are the same which terrified him, is a task too laborious for patience itself. Such must be the writer's situation in replying to the next objection, "that some of the powers of the legislature are ambiguous, and others indefinite and dangerous." There are many powers given to the legislature, if any of them are dangerous, the people have a right to know which they are, and how they will operate, that we may guard against the evil. The charge of being ambiguous and indefinite may be brought against every human composition, and necessarily arises from the imperfection of language. Perhaps no two men will express the same sentiment in the same manner, and by the same words; neither do the same words express precisely the same ideas with all languages. From hence arises an ambiguity in all languages, with which the most perspicuous and precise writers are in a degree chargeable. Some persons attain to the happy art of perspicuous expression, and it is equally true that some persons through a mental defect of their own, will judge the most correct and certain language of others to be indefinite and ambiguous. As Mr. Gerry is the first and only man who has charged the new Constitution with ambiguity, it is there not room to suspect that his understanding is different from other men's, and whether it be better or worse, the Landholder presumes not to decide.

It is an excellency of this constitution, that it is expressed with brevity, and in the plain common language of mankind.

Had it swelled into the magnitude of a volume, there would have been more room to entrap the unwary, and the people who are to be its judges, would have had neither patience nor opportunity to understand it. Had it been expressed in the scientific language of law, or those terms of art which are often had in political compositions, to the honourable gentleman it might have appeared more defined and less ambiguous; but to the great body of the people altogether obscure, and to accept it they must leap in the dark.

The people to whom in this case the great appeal is made, best understand those compositions which are concise and in their own language.

Had the powers given to the legislature, been loaded with provisos, and such qualifications, as a lawyer who is so cunning as even to suspect himself, would probably have intermingled; there would have been much more danger of a deception in the case. It would not be difficult to show that every power given to the legislature is necessary for national defence and justice, and to protect the rights of the people who create this authority for their own advantage; but to consider each one particularly would exceed the limits of my design.

I shall therefore select two powers given them, which have been more abused to oppress and enslave mankind, than all the others with which this or any legislature can be clothed. The right of taxation or of collecting money from the people; and of raising and supporting armies.

These are the powers which enable tyrants to scourge their subjects; and they are also the very powers by which good rulers protect the people, against the violence of wicked and overgrown citizens, and invasion by the rest of mankind. Judge candidly what a wretched figure the American empire will exhibit in the eye of other nations, without a power to array and support a military force for its own protection. Half a dozen Regiments from Canada or New-Spain, might lay whole provinces under contribution, while we were disputing who has power to pay and raise an army. This power is also necessary to restrain the violence of seditious citizens. A concurrence of circumstances, frequently enables a few dissatisfied persons to make great revolutions, unless government is vested with the most extensive powers of self-defence. Had Shays, the malcontent of Massachusetts, been a man of genius, fortune and address, he might have conquered that state, and by the aid of a little genius in the other states, and an army proud by victory, become the monarch and tyrant of America. Fortunately he was checked, but should jealousy prevent selling these powers in the hands of men chosen by yourselves, and who are under every contin-

ual restraint, accident or design, will in all probability raise up some future Shays to be the tyrant of your children.

A people cannot long retain their freedom, whose government is incapable of protecting them.

The power of collecting money from the people, is not to be rejected because it has sometimes been oppressive.

Public credit is as necessary for the prosperity of a nation, as private credit is for the support and wealth of a family.

We are this day many millions poorer, than we should have been had a well arranged government taken place at the conclusion of the war. All have thrived in this loss, but none in so great a proportion as the landholders and farmers.

The public must be ferred in various departments. Who will serve them without a meet recompense? Who will go to war and pay the charges of his own warfare? What man will any longer take empty promises of reward from those who have no constitutional power to reward or means of fulfilling them? Promises have done their utmost, more than they ever did, in any other age or country. The delusive bubble has broken, and in breaking it has beggared thousands, and left you an unprotected people; numerous without force, and full of resources, but unable to command one of them. For these purposes there must be a general treasury, with power to replenish it as lawfully as necessary resources. And where can this power be more safely vested, than in the common legislature, men chosen by yourselves from every part of the union, and who have the confidence of their several states; men who must share in the burdens they impose on others; men who by a seat in congress are incapable of holding any office under the states, which might prove a temptation to spoil the people for increasing their own income.

We find another objection to be "that the executive is blended with and will have an undue influence over the legislature." On examination you find this objection unfounded. The supreme executive is vested in a President of the United States; every bill that hath passed the senate and representatives, must be presented to the President, and if he approve it becomes law. If he disapprove, he makes no return within ten days it still becomes a law, if he returns the bill with his objections, the senate and representatives consider it a second time, and if two thirds of them adhere to the first resolution, it becomes law notwithstanding the President's dissent. We allow the President hath an influence, though strictly speaking he hath no legislative voice; and think such an influence must be salutary. In the President, all the executive departments meet, and he will be a channel of communication between those who make the laws, and those who execute them. Many things look fair in theory which in practice are impossible. If law-makers in every instance, before their final decree, had the opinion of those who are to execute them, which are so commonly made, only to be repealed and lessen the dignity of legislation in the eyes of mankind.

The vice-president is not an executive officer, while the president is in the discharge of his duty; and when he is called to preside his legislative voice ceases. In no other instance is there the shadow of blending or influence between the two departments. We are further told "that the judicial department, or those courts of law, to be instituted by congress, will be oppressive." We allow it to be possible, but from whence arises the probability of this? Ambitious judges may be corrupt, and justice may be prejudiced and ignorant, but these instances are not common; and why shall we suppose they will be more frequent under a national appointment and influence, when the eyes of a whole empire are watching for their detection.

Their courts are not to intermeddle with your internal polity, and what have cognizance only of those subjects which are placed under the control of a national legislature. It is as necessary for the safety of the law, and executive officers, to carry into effect the laws of the nation, as there be courts and officers to execute the laws made by your state assemblies.

There are many reasons why their decisions ought not to be left to courts instituted by particular states.

A perfect uniformity must be observed throughout the whole union, or jealousy and unrighteousness will take place; and for a uniformity one judiciary must pervade the whole. The inhabitants of one state will not have confidence in judges pointed by the legislature of another state, in which they have no voice. Judges who owe their appointment and support to one state, will be unduly influenced, and not reverence the laws of the union. It will at any time be in the power of the weakest state, by interdicting their judiciary, to defeat the measures, defend its revenue, and annul the most sacred laws of the whole empire. A legislative power, without

a judicial and executive under their own control, is in the nature of things a nullity. Congress under the old confederation had power to ordain and resolve, but having no judicial or executive of their own, their most solemn resolves were totally disregarded. The little state of Rhode-Island was purposely left by Heaven to its present manner, for a general conviction in the other states, that such a system as is now proposed is our only preservation from ruin.

What object can any one think would be paid for a national law, by judicial and executive officers, who are amenable only to the present assembly of Rhode-Island. The rebellion of Shays and the present measures of Rhode-Island ought to convince us that a national legislature, judiciary and executive must be united, or the whole is for a name; and that we must have these or soon be a mass of wood and drawers of water for all other people.

In all these matters and powers given to congress, their ordinances must be the supreme law of the land or they are nothing. They must have authority to enact any laws for executing their own power, or those powers will be evaded by the artful and unjust, and the dishonest trader will defraud the public of its revenue. As we have every reason to think this system was honestly planned, we ought to hope it may be honestly and justly executed. I am sensible that speculation is always liable to error. If there be any capital defects in this constitution, it is most probable that experience alone will discover them. Provision is made for an alteration on trial if it be found necessary.

When your children see the candour and greatness of mind, with which you lay the foundation, they will be inspired with equity to finish and adorn the superstructure.

A LANDHOLDER.

ST. JOHN'S (Antigua) Oct. 23.

We are given to understand, that there is a probability of a commercial intercourse being shortly opened with America. It is said the Americans will be suffered to export to the British islands, corn, flour, staves and cattle, in their own bottoms, of a certain tonnage, paying duties on those articles; and that at the next meeting of parliament it was to be among the first business brought forward.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 4.

The first Monday in April next is appointed by the Hon House of Delegates, of this state, to hold the election of delegates, to the proposed convention, for taking into consideration the federal constitution. It hath been also resolved by the same body, that the delegates to be persons elected to serve in convention, do assemble on Monday the 21st of April next at the city of Annapolis, and may adjourn from day to day, as occasion may require; and the said delegates, do then and there take into consideration the aforesaid constitution, and if approved of by them, or a majority of them, finally to ratify the same in behalf and on the part of this state, and make report thereof to Congress.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Jay, dated New-York, 1st December 1787.

"I thank you for your obliging letter of the 24th ult. enclosing a paragraph respecting me in Mr. Oswald's paper of the same date. You have my authority to deny the charge of sentiment it imputes to me, and to declare, that in my opinion, it is advisable for the people of America to adopt the constitution proposed by the late convention, if you should think it expedient to publish this letter, I have objections to its being done."

JOHN JAY.

On Friday the 23d ult. Thomas F. Bachelor, put an end to his existence by hanging himself, in Third-street near South-street.

And about a week before the above, a man near the same place, stabbed himself in the breast with a knife, of which he soon after died.

DECEMBER 12.

By a gentleman who arrived last evening from Delaware, we have received the following important intelligence:—

The deputies of the state convention of Delaware met at Dover, on Monday the third inst. and a house being formed, they elected James Lattimer, Esq. President. On Thursday they ratified the new federal constitution by a unanimous vote, and on Friday every member signed the ratification as follows:—

"We the Deputies of the people of the Delaware state in convention met, having taken into our serious consideration, the federal constitution, proposed and agreed upon by the deputies of the United States in general convention, held at the city of Philadelphia, on the seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, have approved of, assented to, ratified and confirmed, and by these presents, DO, in virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, for, and in behalf of ourselves and our constituents, fully, freely, and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify and confirm the said CONSTITUTION."

BOSTON, Dec. 20.

Saturday evening last, between 7 and 8 o'clock, four armed foot pads, made an attack on Mr. Caleb Coolidge, as he was on his way from Cambridge to this town.

The circumstances of this piece of villainy are nearly as follow: Mr. Coolidge having come from Providence that day, quitted the stage at Roxbury, where he took a horse to carry him to Cambridge, he having business there, which occasioned his departure from the direct road to Boston. Soon after he left Cambridge, he quitted the horse, and dismissed the boy who came thus far with him to carry the horse back. Thinking himself out of danger, he came along down the road, singly, and on foot, without any interruption, till within about a mile and a half of Charles-river-bridge, where he was stopped by a man, whom Mr. Coolidge took to be an Irishman. The fellow bid Mr. Coolidge stand, which he did; and on being ordered to deliver his money he hesitated a moment, and the fellow persisting in his demands, Mr. Coolidge, with a stout stick, struck him over the head, which laid the miscreant to the ground. Immediately, as Mr. Coolidge was going away, three other scoundrels, whom he did not suspect were to near, came up and forced from him his watch, pocket-book and cash, to the amount of 253l. with which they made off.

NORTHAMPTON, Dec. 26.

On Tuesday the 11th inst. the General Court of New-Hampshire convened together in the state-house in Portsmouth, there being a quorum they proceeded to business, the first matter submitted to their deliberation was the proceedings of the Federal Convention, when they voted unanimously for a Convention.

A fresh and large Supply of Hat-Trimmings,

For Sale, consisting of BEVER, Cassor and Felt Lining, of different colours. Beaver, Cassor and Felt Buttons. Round Looping—Silk Braids. Skiving of all kinds—Chain Button Loops of Do. Velvets, Silk and Worsted Hat-Bindings. Hat-Bands—Looping Needles. Hard and soft Hatters Brushes. Course and fine Bow-String—Jack Cards. Blocking-Line—Red Leather and Nurse Skin. Logwood, Coppers, &c. &c. Cash paid for all kinds of good Shipping Furs, and all kinds of skins by GEO. CALDWELL, and Co. Hartford, Nov. 19, 1787.

THE subscriber, hereby notifies his customers, in Belchertown, to meet him at Col. Dwight's on Thursday the third of January next, and those in Greenwich at Lieut. Field's on Friday following.

CALEB HANNUM.

Belchertown, Dec. 26, 1787.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership of Noah Sexton and David Hannum, is, by mutual consent, dissolved.

NOAH SEXTON.

Worthington, Dec. 22, 1787.

STRAVED from the subscriber the 26th of November last, a light faced black COLT, three years old, weighing large of his age, has a white streak in his face, a large mane, not docked, a white spot on his hind end, hoof natural crooked. Whoever will take up said horse and return him to the subscriber, shall be well rewarded by

LIMOTHY BROT.

Northampton, December 3, 1787.

FOR SALE,

at the Printing-Office in Northampton, The First, Second and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO, STRONGS' and BICKERSTAFF'S

ALMANACK,

For the Year 1788.

Just Published, and a few Copies for Sale, by the Printer hereof,

Mr. ATWATER'S SERMON, at the

Ordination of the Rev. JOHN TAYLOR,

to the Pastoral Care of the Church in Deerfield.