

Effect upon the house-top. This "Dragonian Code," these bloody laws, this terrible system, is in our own hands; we, think and judge for ourselves,—be not gulled out of the blessings of a good government by such base and abusive misrepresentations!

The idea of "Conclave," originated with the antifederalists at the fourthward,—it is a term fraught with chicanery, reguery and villainy, and an insult upon those twelve States who were represented in Convention! This insult upon the majesty of the people, we have no reason to suppose, would ever have offended the public eye, in this quarter, and Pricus been a member of that illustrious assembly!

Pricus is an enemy to the union of the United States, for none but such characters could reprobate that work of wisdom and benevolence, the address that was used to reconcile to many jarring interests, as were in the late Convention. This union, thus happily effected, is the most pleasing circumstance respecting our country, that has transpired since our independency.

Mr. Wilson's allusion to the "Lycian League" and "Amphibionian Council," was doublets in point; and the miserable fate of those nations as portrayed by the glowing pencil of Pricus, fully evinces the necessity of our union, and of speedily adopting a firm and efficient national government, for these American States. Not "because we are no longer capable of enjoying our liberties (invidious expression!) but, because the present auspicious moment seems to be pointed out by the finger of Heaven, as the most favourable to the attainment of this important object. Learn to be wise by others' harms, and you shall do full well."

Fellow citizens! we have fought for our liberties; we have cemented our union by the richest blood of our brothers and friends! we have destroyed the system of foreign power and laid the British government in the dust; and now, through the favour of Heaven, we are about to erect a glorious fabric on the ruins of tyranny, that we may realize the blessings of "Peace, Liberty and Safety." But the danger of stability and discord would defeat the design I and still deprive us of all the happiness which we fondly anticipated from the costly purchase of Independence! And shall our "honour, our character, our freedom," be swallowed up in the vortex of anarchy and confusion! Shall it be said of us, Why is there a price put into the hands of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to improve it? Forbid it Heaven!

"The star of intelligence," sheds its benign influence upon us; the necessity of a firm, efficient Federal Government, is seen and felt by every man; the United Voice of America proclaims the truth. This conviction, must lead to the adoption of that system, which the wisest men that America could select from her sons, have framed. May Heaven preserve us from the fell designs of local, disappointed, bigotted and party politicians. That the fabric of the Federal Republic! ennobling idea! may be speedily established on the basis of that UNION, which gave us Independence, and which, if continued, will give us, "devoutly to be wished," the blessings of National Government.

Pricus calls upon the youth of America, to attend to the publications and politics from 1763 to 1775. What Pricus! are those weapons that were employed against the foreign enemies of our country, to be turned against our brethren? No, let the rather turn their thoughts to the contemplation of the *propagated System*, let the culture of a "spirit of union and harmony," and by mutual concessions lead the way to an adoption of such a government, as will ensure them peace and security, and perpetuate those liberties for which their fathers fought, to all succeeding generations. They appear to be fully sensible that the proposed Constitution alone is competent to these great purposes.

Suppose any member of the late Convention had foolishly expressed himself in the words of Pricus, which by the way is doubted; pray what has that to do with the MERITS of the Constitution?—Friends, let us not break the chain of union! Pricus is one of those who will risk every evil that an infuriated divided people can suffer, rather than not effect his purpose; the overthrow of America's *last Hope*, the proposed constitution.

It is a matter of joy, fellow-citizens, that you have been led to choose several members of the late Continental Convention, to sit in that of this State. Much information will thereby be derived, which could not be expected from any other quarter. And if they are such "ambitious and daring" men as Pricus has represented—their "secret councils" may be exposed, and all the "reguery, chicanery and villainy of the Conclave," developed.

"Let the old Patriots come forward," (the day of election is over)—and let the young ones not keep back. We are all equally interested and concerned;—and instead of secret reserves, unparliamentary and unpardonable timidity; let them take a decided part. Let the proposed Constitution, be the constant subject of discussion; its

worth appreciates the more it is scanned; its competency is more and more apparent.—Citizens of America! pleading term! its music to the friends of our National Honour, Union, Liberty and Happiness!

HONORIOUS.

From the Independent Chronicle.

Messrs. Printers,

WHEN I read Dr. Franklin's address to the President of the late Convention, in a late newspaper, I was at a loss to judge, until I was informed by mere accident, from which of the contending parties it went to press. "I confess," says the Doctor (and observe the printer's tell us it was immediately before his signing) "I confess that I do not entirely approve of this Constitution at present." Surely I thought, no zealous federalist, in his right mind, would have exposed his cause to such a publication to the world that his great philosopher did not entirely approve the Constitution at the very moment when his "hand marked" his approbation of it; especially after the federalists themselves had so often and so loudly proclaimed, that he had fully and decidedly adopted it. The Doctor adds, "I am not sure I shall never approve it." This then is the only remaining hope of the federalist, so far as the Doctor's judgment is or may be of any service to their cause, that one time or another he may approve the new Constitution.

Again, says the Doctor, "In these sentiments I agree to this Constitution, with all its faults, if they are such; because I think a general government necessary for us, and there is no form of government but what may be a blessing to the people, if well administered." But are we to accept a form of government which we do not entirely approve of, merely in hopes that it will be administered well? Does not every man know, that nothing is more liable to be abused than power. Power, without a check, in any hands, is tyranny; and such tyrannies, in the hands of even good men, so insatiable is the nature of it, will probably be wanting, if not tyrannically exercised. The world has been experienced enough of this, in every stage of it. Those among us who cannot entirely approve the new Constitution as it is called, are of opinion, in order that any form may be well administered, and thus be made a blessing to the people, that there ought to be, at least, an express reservation of certain inherent unalienable rights, which it would be equally sacrilegious for the people to give away, as for the government to invade. If the rights of conscience, for instance, are not sacredly reserved to the people, what security will there be, in case the government should in their hands a predilection for any one sect in religion? what will hinder the civil power from erecting a national system of religion, and committing the laws to a set of lordly priests, reaching, as the great Dr. Mathew expressed it, from the desk to the skies? An *Hierarchy* which has ever been the grand engine in the hand of civil tyranny; and tyrants to return will afford them opportunity enough to vent their rage on *flourishing heretics*, by *wholesale severities*, as they were called by national religions, in a country which has long boasted its freedom. It was doubtless for the peace of that nation, that there should be an *uniformity* in religion, and for the same wise and good reason, the act of uniformity remains in force to these enlightened times.

The Doctor says, he is "not sure that this is not the best Constitution that we may expect." Nor can he be sure that it might not have been made better than it now is, if the Convention had adjourned to a distant day, that they might have availed themselves of the sentiments of the people at large. It would have been no great contumacious, even in that august Body, to have shown so small a testimony of regard to the judgment of their constituents. Would it not be acting more like men who wish for a safe as well as a stable government, to propose such amendments as would meliorate the form, than to approve it, as the Doctor would have us, "with all its faults, if they are such." Thus the Doctor consents, and hopes the Convention will act *heartily and unanimously* in recommending the constitution, wherever their influence may extend, and turn their future thoughts and endeavours to the means of having it well administered. Even a *partial* form of government may, in the Doctor's opinion, be well administered.—For, says he, there is no form of government, but what may be a blessing to the people, if well administered. He evidently, I think, builds his hopes, that the Constitution proposed, will be a blessing to the people—not on the principles of the government itself, but on the possibility that *with all its faults*, it may be well administered;—and concludes, with only yet, like him, doubt of their own infallibility, and put their names to the instrument, to make an *Uniformity MANIFEST!*

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. Butler,

IN reading thy paper of the 26th of December, I observed a piece, representing "the judgment of a church in Hampshire county, in case of two persons, &c." It appears the writer is endeavouring to confute the Baptists of the erroneous opinions they have concerning John's baptism, &c. I rejoiced when I saw a controversy of that nature in the newspapers, as it is but seldom we see any thing of that kind in them; which appears to me to be but reasonable, that ecclesiastical matters are as obvious, and as disputable, as political or civil affairs, and of equal consequence. The writer above mentioned, I think, has sufficiently demonstrated that John's baptism, or the water baptism wherewith Christ was baptized, was a ritual of the law; tho' the writer calls it Jesus Christ's baptism; but what that is, may be spoken to hereafter;—and I should have had no objections to the performance, had not the writer made an objection, without ever answering the same by the gospel, or gospel arguments; he says, "True, but it was the very night in which he was betrayed, so it must be then or never;" and bring for proof, "1 Cor. ii. 23" but as I can find no such text in my bible, so I believe the writer can as well prove that the Lord's supper was under the law, as John's baptism, which was the objection; for I presume the objection was just, and can as well be supported as that of the baptism of John; for the law of ceremonies was not fulfilled, until Jesus Christ, while on the cross, said, "it is finished."—Which ordinance referred to in the objection was before the law was finished; being no other than a Jewish feast, instituted in Egypt, when the first born thereof was slain; and which, in a particular manner, typified Christ, who was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. But that it was ever commanded, either by Christ, or his apostles, to be a standing ordinance in his church, any more than John's baptism, is denied; and that they were, viz. John's baptism, and the Lord's supper (so called) both under the legal dispensation, is affirmed.

As to what the writer has asserted concerning Christ's commanding "the future constant use of the Lord's supper," it is, to say, not to prove any more than John's baptism; for the writer says, "which promise I feel was to cease the moment Christ died;" and I readily grant it was; then where was the command for "the future constant use of it?" The writer suggests, that the ordinance of the supper was "the chief mean of visible connection and communion with God." Shocking thought! But what idea is it short of Popish? who, by the institution of a Romish clergy, believe that in eating a bit of bread, and drinking a sip of wine, they eat Christ's body, and drink his blood; which never can be done only spiritually, by any being on earth; and which may be done by all christians without the use of bread and wine, which is called the Lord's supper.

The writer also in answer to the question, "What was John's baptism?" says, "John's ministry was all under the law, so it was a type, like other religious actions under the law" so I grant, and was not the pascal feast a type of Christ as much? No argument can be produced, I presume, why the pascal lamb, or the ordinance of the supper was not a ritual of the law, as much as John's baptism. If any should hereafter object, that the supper was something more, or different from the passover, or that it was commanded to be observed as a *solemn ordinance* may (if desired) be spoken to hereafter.

The writer at the close of his arguments, says, "we shall as clearly delineate what is true christian baptism, with its nature and evidence, when any shall desire it."—Now as the apostle says, there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, 'tis hereby earnestly requested of the said writer, to delineate what that baptism is; or the true Christian baptism; in doing which he will doubtless oblige, he doubts not, a multitude, but especially

A FRIEND.

SAVANNAH, (Georgia) Nov. 24.

By captain McLean, who arrived here on Monday last from the Windward Islands, we have advice, that a hurricane happened there on the 24th of last month; he was then off St. Eustatia, and afterwards went into the Danish island of St. John, where he learnt that all the shipping at St. Croix were driven a shore, except one brig, that foundered at her anchors; that great many houses and other buildings were thrown down, and numbers of lives lost; and that the sugar canes had suffered much.

C. H. A. R. L. E. T. O. N., Dec. 6.

Late advices from Augusta inform, that the Spaniards have offered the Upper Creeks a large tract of land on the other side of the Mississippi. Several warriors and head men have been view it, and returned extremely well pleased with their proffered situation. If the Spanish proposal is generally accepted to by the savages, there will be a stop to the war at present; but Georgia will have more to fear from

the continual interruptions of these savages, who are not like to forget that they have been compelled to leave that land where the bones of their ancestors are interred.

PHILADELPHIA, December 19.

In State Convention, Dec. 15.

The committee appointed to confer the motion of Mr. Wilson, relative to a cession, to the United States, for a district for the seat of the federal government, report the following resolution:

That when the constitution proposed by the late general convention shall have been organized, this Commonwealth will cede to the Congress of the United States, the jurisdiction over any place in Pennsylvania, not exceeding ten miles square, which, with the consent of the inhabitants, the Congress may choose, for the seat of the government of the United States, excepting only the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, and that part of the Northern Liberties included within a line running parallel with Vine-street, at the distance of one mile northward thereof, from the river Schuylkill to the northern side of the main branch of Cobcock creek; thence down the said creek to the marsh land, and so much of the adjoining bank on the same side of the said creek, as shall be necessary for the erecting any dams and works to command the water thereof, are excluded from this exception.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this convention, that until congress shall have made their election of a district, for the place of their permanent residence, and provided buildings for their accommodation, they have the use of such of the public buildings within the city of Philadelphia, or any other part of this state, as they shall find necessary.

Unanimously Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be presented to the President, for his able and faithful discharge of the duties of the chair.

To which the President answered:

Gentlemen,

"I feel with the utmost gratitude the honour you have just now done me, and I shall always esteem your approbation as my highest reward for performing my duty to you, or rendering any service to my fellow-citizens."

The convention then adjourned *fine die*.

On the evening of the public rejoicing for the ratification of the federal constitution, a number of ship-carpenters (the sailors concluded a boat, on a wagon drawn by five horses, through the city, to the great amusement of many thousand spectators. On their way thro' the different streets, they frequently threw a sounding line, and cried out, "three and twenty fathoms—fast bottom,"—and in other places, "six and forty fathom—found bottom—safe anchorage," alluding to the numbers that composed the minority and majority of the late convention of Pennsylvania, which ratified the federal constitution.

N. E. W. Y. O. R. K., January 4.

We are informed by a gentleman who arrived lately from the West-Indies, that the federal constitution has been considered in the islands as a smaller piece of human wisdom. Many planters have declared, that as soon as there is prospect of its adoption, they will arrange their affairs and embark for this country, in order to establish a claim of citizenship coeval with the new government.

POUGKEEPSIE, Jan. 5.

Christmas day two fellows, Mother and another, confined in gaol in this place for passing counterfeit paper money, formed a plan to murder capt. Dodge, the gaoler, and make their escape. Their infernal design was accidentally discovered by their disclosing their intention to one of the other prisoners, who made it known to a few minutes before the time which in all probability, would have put an end to the existence of the gaoler, the fellows having each prepared themselves with hickory clubs.

Last week at the Oblong in this county, two oxen, run away with a sleigh with two men in it. One of the men whose name was Baldwin, in trying to save himself by falling out of the sleigh, unfortunately broke his neck, and died instantly.

BOSTON, January 10.

Proceedings of Convention.

Observe the Honourable CONVENTION assembled at the State-House in this town, agreeable to appointment,—for the purpose of consulting to and ratifying the Federal Constitution.—The following is a journal of their proceedings.

IN CONVENTION, January 9, 1788.

ON motion, Ordered, That the hon. Nathaniel Gorham, Esq. John Cushing, Esq. Dr. Charles Jarvis, hon. Tristram Dalton, Esq. Walter Spooner, Esq. hon. Caleb Davis, Esq. and the hon. John Taylor, Esq. be a committee to receive the returns of the several States.

Ordered, That a Committee of five persons be appointed to collect, count and sort the votes of the Secretary.

The hon. Caleb Davis, Tristram Dalton; Aaron Wood, Eleazer Brooks, and Charles Turner, Esquires, were appointed on the said Committee.

The Convention then proceeded to the choice of a Secretary by ballot, and the vote being taken, it appeared that GEORGE B. MINOT, Esq. was chosen, who accepted of the choice, and was duly sworn, to qualify him for exercising the duties of that office.

Voted, That Mr. JACOB KUHN, the Messenger of the General Court, be appointed Messenger to this Convention.

Voted, That 4 o'clock, P. M. be assigned for coming to the choice of a President.

Voted, That five Members be chosen.—The following gentlemen were then elected, viz.—The hon. Noah Goodman, Esq. Mr. Phanael Bishop, Cooley, hon. Azer Orne, Esq. and Mr. Thomas Davis.

Voted, That a committee of seven be appointed to prepare rules and orders for the regulation of the Convention.—The hon. Nathaniel Gorham, Esq. Dr. Charles Jarvis, hon. John Taylor, Esq. Mr. William Wedgery, hon. Tristram Dalton, Esq. hon. Theodore Seigwick, Esq. and James Bewdoin, jun. Esq. were then appointed on the said Committee.

Ordered, That the committee who were appointed to receive the returns of the members, be instructed to examine them and report.

Assigned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

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