

but few of them are able to determine which path is the right one; for

"Who shall decide when Parsons disagree?" Though I would by no means be thought to deny the certainty of future punishment for the impudent sinner, yet in my humble opinion the clergy ought to dwell more upon the present ones. Mankind it is well known are generally for parting afar off the evil day. To tell a considerable part of the human race what will be their condition in a future state, has not so much influence on their minds as to inform them what will be the case with them in the present state. Besides without love to God, we are told our faith is vain. The doctrines of many of the clergy have a very great tendency to impress on the mind dread and fear, instead of reverence or love; and it is doubtless the case that where one proflyte is made to religion through the influence of preaching up the threatenings of hell punishments to all eternity for the sinner, fifty are frightened into the mere forms of it, more from the fear they have of the punishments which they are told await them, than from the love and gratitude they bear their all benevolent and all wise Creator; and the hope of such like the hope of the hypocrite, must perish.

If mankind are reasonable beings, they ought to be treated as such, and means should not be used to frighten them out of their reason. That the religious (forgive me ye candid) I mean fanatic doctrines of many effect this, is but too evident from the general tenor of their conduct:

Principles of Morality, and the advantages attendant on religion in this life, are too much neglected to be held up to view by many of the clergy, and an appeal is made to the passions rather than the understandings of mankind, and reason has very little to do with the pretended conversion of many to the cause of religion and virtue; pretended it can only be, when reason has no room for action, and a gust of passion bears predominant sway.

PORISMOU TH, June 7.

We have lately been informed of a man, who strange to relate, sings *tune* and *counter*, at one and the same time; on one side of his mouth he sings tenor, and on the other side he sings counter. This remarkable circumstance reminds us of a story we have heard related, of the peculiar way which some of the citizens of N-Y-k, have in eating fish. It is well known that this fish is very bony; to rid themselves of this inconvenience, they put a piece of the fish into one side of their mouths which after having performed the revolution of the mouth, the bones are entirely separated and thrown out at the other side, where the hands ready to receive them; and this is done with a quickness hardly to be conceived. Thus while one side of the mouth is receiving fish, the other side is constantly discharging the bones, the throat swallowing what remains, and the hands going up and down in constant succession.

EXECUTION OF ELISHA THOMAS.

On Tuesday last, sentence of death was executed on *Elisha Thomas*, for the murder of Capt. Peter Deane. The very peculiar circumstances of this unhappy man's fate, induced a vast concourse of spectators to attend his execution—report says 6,000. He appeared to be much affected with his situation, and employed the few moments then allotted him, in pious exercises, but did not address the spectators. Indeed, the melancholy catastrophe which his rash conduct had occasioned, operated so powerfully upon his sensibilities, that it was with difficulty he supported himself till the fatal moment which was to cut the thread of his existence had arrived.

Resolved, That the several officers of the militia in this Commonwealth, who have heretofore been appointed to their respective offices, and who through inadvertence have neglected to subscribe the oaths, as is required by law, and have officiated as such in their respective offices, be and are hereby confirmed in their several appointments, and their going already had in consequence thereof, shall be as valid, as though no such neglect had taken place; provided they severally subscribe such oaths, on or before the first day of September next.

Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL PHILIPS, jun. President.  
In the House of Representatives, June 10, 1788.  
Read and concurred.

THEODORE SEDGWICK, Speaker.  
Approved—  
JOHN HANCOCK.  
A true copy— Attest.  
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, May 28.  
A correspondent who equally defers the honorable payment of our public debts, and the adoption of the constitution by every state, observes with great satisfaction that the state of Georgia have granted thirty millions of acres of land to the new confederacy provided the adoption of nine states should take place. This is a fact about four times as large as old Massachusetts, and at two thirds of a dollar per acre, will link twenty millions—or about double the sum now unredeemed of continental loan-office certificates. Such is the noble spirit of conciliation, concession and union, now existing in the Americans. We trust this tribute of respect to the new confederacy will be followed by others equally important at home and abroad.

The convention having mutually considered the Constitution, or form of government reported to Congress by the Convention of Delegates from the United States of America, and submitted to them by resolution of the Legislature of South Carolina, by their representatives, held in the city of Charleston, on Monday the 12th of May, and concluded by divers adjournments to Friday, the 23d day of May, Anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and in the 12th year of the independence of the United States of America.

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