

the dust-faring men; though fools, shall not err therein. It is evidently designed by the Father of men, that their probation should try them as well in respect of sentiments as practice; and that they should exercise themselves as well to know the truth as to do it. And having an infallible guide put into their hands, they need not excuse their ignorance, by saying, "We do not know." The teacher of religion is not intended to have dominion over their faith, but to be a helper of their joy. Every man is bound to see and believe for himself, using the advantages given him, both by preaching and prayer, to know the truth.

It is true a difference of sentiment respecting the doctrines of religion, is to be observed among its teachers. And it is not strange; for there is not a variety of opinions among mankind, concerning every matter that engages their attention? Their sentiments are as various as the subjects of meditation, and the configurations of the several parts of their body. Are all politicians of one mind? or do physicians all harmonize in one mode of sentiment and practice? But shall the good of the community be neglected, or the means of removing sickness and preserving health be laid aside, because the most skilled in policy and the art of healing disagree? Or will we neglect the things which concern our everlasting health and prosperity, for a reason which we esteem of no force for settling the concerns of the present moment?

Religion cannot more exist without form, than there can be a man without any shape of his body. But as there is no one particular figure prescribed to us, but that there are as many different countenances as there are persons; in like manner there is no one form to which religion is limited, so far as to exclude it from all others. The essential things of religion are all commanded in the word of God, and many directions are given concerning the modes of it. And mankind are to exercise their understandings in feverently choosing a form of religion agreeable with the best ideas they can gain of divine truth, and the worship which will be to the honor of God and their own edification. But they need to practise sincerity and care in obedience to the spirit of truth, left by following their own imaginations they do distort the form of religion as to destroy its beauty and life; of which there is danger as much as there is of human beings being deprived of reason by having his body distorted by disease. While Christians are thus faithful to God and themselves in choosing the forms of religious service, they may differ in incidental circumstances, but not ordinarily in things of too great importance; but that they may live in friendship together as brethren of the same family. And when the teachers of Christianity do this, they are not to be charged with either ignorance or prejudice, merely because they do not all use the same expressions in praying and preaching; and each one knowing that some form is necessary to the existence, and much more to the prosperity of religion, in his zeal to promote it gives the preference to that from which appears to him most rational, edifying and consistent with the word of God.

#### A FRIEND TO RELIGION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
In the year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

#### AN ACT to prevent Fraud and Perjury.

BE it enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no action, shall be brought, whereby to charge an Executor or Administrator, upon any special promise to answer damages out of his own estate; or whereby to charge the defendant, upon any special promise answer for the debt, default, or misdoings of another person, or charge any person upon any agreement made up on consideration of marriage, or upon any agreement that is not to be performed within the space of one year, from the making thereof, unless the agreement, upon which such action shall be brought: or some memorandum, or note, shall be in writing and signed by the party, to be charged therewith, or some other person thereto by him lawfully authorized.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever a debtor in execution, having goods, effects, credits, to the amount of ten pounds or more, that are unattachable by the common and ordinary process of law shall, for or use the same, or so much thereof, for his subsistence, as shall amount to the sum upon which he is committed in execution, without giving the creditor, his agent, factor or attorney, notice where, and of what kind they are, and enabling

him if he thinks proper to accept the same, or such part of them, as will amount to the debt for which he is in execution in satisfaction thereof, such neglect shall be esteemed, and taken as a fraudulent transaction to the debtor; and every person who shall knowingly and assist a debtor, in such fraudulent transaction, shall be accountable and chargeable to the creditor, to double the full value of the money, goods or effects, by him or them thus secreted, spent or embezzled, in a special action on the case.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever a judgment creditor shall discover goods, effects or credits of his debtor, or that are unattachable by the common and ordinary process of law, he shall be entitled to the process provided in the act, made to enable creditors to receive their just debts, out of the effects of their absent or absconding debtors; and upon the agent factor or trustee's, being summoned in the manner the said act directs, all the money, goods, effects and credits in his hands, shall be secured to respond the judgment that may be given thereon, and he shall answer thereunto, at the first term, in case his principal has personal or other sufficient and legal notice of the suit, fourteen days before the court sitting: Provided always, That upon a judgment creditor's pursuing such remedy to recover his debt, he shall within seven days after the same process on the supposed agent is served, discharge the body of the debtor (the case he is taken in execution upon the same judgment) by a note or memorandum in writing, directed and delivered to the officer, who has him in custody, stating the reason and occasion of the discharge of the person of the debtor; and such a discharge shall not vacate, annul or in any manner injure the original judgment; but in case the judgment creditor, shall not within the seven days discharge the person of the debtor, in manner aforesaid, the process commenced as aforesaid, shall abate, and the debtor shall recover treble costs.

In the House of Representatives, June 18, 1788.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

THEODORE SEDGWICK, Speaker.

In Senate, June 19, 1788.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILIPS, jun. President.

Approved, JOHN HANCOCK.

True Copy. Attest.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

L O N D O N.

Trial of Warren Hastings, Esq.

SEVENTH DAY.

The Petitioner's gallery was half filled at 20 minutes after nine. All the other galleries were crowded at half past ten; and at 12 several hundreds could not gain admittance. At 1 the Committee took their seats. At 12 the procession came into Court, and after its usual solemnities, the Lord Chancellor addressed the Committee. "Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the House of Lords have ordered me to acquaint you, that they have made the following order:—That the managers for the Commons be directed to proceed upon the whole of the charges, before the prisoner be called upon for his defence.

Mr. FOX rose and said, "My Lords, the committee beg leave to retire for a few minutes, to consult in what manner they should proceed."

The Chancellor nodded his assent, and the committee withdrew. They were out about five minutes; and when they returned,

Mr. FOX immediately addressed the Court:—

The committee were unwilling to believe that the Lords, by any trifling inaccuracy in the wording their order (the words, "were directed to proceed") intended seriously to break in upon the constitutional power and privileges of the Commons.

The privilege of the impeachment was one of the most ancient and best founded privileges, recognized by all the best lawyers which this kingdom had ever produced, from Blacklock down to Lord Coke, and from him to the late Judge Blackstone. The *act of entreaty* *Parliament* had always been held the most sacred part of the law of the land, even in the worst of times. It was to be found in the journals and in the votes of both houses, that the Commons would never be so base as to surrender those privileges, which formed the best and surest barrier of the liberty of the subject. The Commons of England claim the privilege of impeachment, and of conducting the prosecution in any manner that to them shall appear to be most conducive to public justice. They claim a right to carry up to their Lordships any fresh article pending the trial of the articles already exhibited. They claim a right to exhibit any new article even during the moment their Lordships are deliberating upon their judgment. In short, they claim an unlimited right to impeach and manage the impeachment according to the *lex Parliamentaria*, as established for ages. After having made his representation and claim against any restraint which might be imposed by their Lordships, he said he would, on behalf of the commons of England (not abandoning this claim of right) agree to go on according to their Lordships' mode; for, to GO ON they were determined; well knowing that the justice of the cause, and the strength of the evidence to bring the facts home to the pri-

oner, were of such a nature, that it was impossible any court upon earth, that had either honor or conscience, could acquit the defendant, when the proofs, which would certainly be adduced, were brought forward at their Lordships' bar.

Mr. FOX then opened the Benares charge, and the treatment of Rajah Choy Sing.

In 1778, Mr. Hastings being, by the death of Sir John Clavering and Col. Monson, become his, he sent to Choy Sing, on a rumor of a French war, for an aid of 5000 rupies, in addition to the annual tribute of 25 lakhs.

This was not in consequence of a request to tax all the company's tributaries; for Choy Sing was the only one taxed: It was not on account of the distress of the company, and the disorder of its finances; for Mr. Hastings stated, that at the very time when he made his demand, there was in the treasury at Calcutta a surplus of 2,000,000 sterling. Unwarrantable as this was, the Prince complied with it, and paid the money by installments. In the year 1779, an aid of five lakhs more was made, over and above the annual tribute of 25 lakhs: This was also paid by installments—and the last payment was made on the 21st of October, following. In 1780, the demand was again repeated; and Choy Sing, whose patience was proof against every effort that had been made to stretch it till it should break, complied also with this third demand. This payment, however, not being made immediately, Mr. Hastings by way of punishment, wrote to Choy Sing to demand 1000 cavalry, without forcing the form of the company would pay for them. The patient Rajah replied, that he had no more than 1300 cavalry in all his territories; out of which he could then spare only 500; and that in lieu of the other 500 he would send 300 Matchlock men. On this the Governor immediately posted to Benares; but the Rajah under an arrest; fined him the sum of 500,000 sterling, because he did not pay it.

These were the charges he said he had to urge against Mr. Hastings relative to Choy Sing; who from a powerful Prince, was now become a wanderer upon the face of the earth, indebted to charity for the food he eat. Mr. FOX said he was convinced their Lordships would find the prisoner guilty of these charges; they had not alternative but to punish him, or to make themselves the accomplices of his crimes. Mr. FOX spoke four hours and a half; and concluded ten minutes past five o'clock. The Lords then adjourned to Monday.

B A L T I M O R E, June 3.

On the first inst. the beating of the ship Federalist (the same the merchants used in the last procession) completely rigged and highly ornamented, sailed for Mount Vernon. Captain Barney has the honor to present her to the illustrious FARMER, who owns that spot, as an offering from the Merchants, expressive of their veneration of his service and federalism.

J U N E 24.

Copy of a letter from the illustrious George Washington, to the Gentlemen proprietors of the ship Federalist.

"Mount Vernon, June 8, 1788.

"GENTLEMEN,

"CAPTAIN BARNEY has just arrived here, in the miniature ship called the *Federalist*, and has done me the honour to offer that beautiful curiosity as a present to me, on your part. I pray you, Gentlemen, to accept the warmest expressions of my sensibility for the specimen of American ingenuity, in which the correctness of the proportions, the usefulness of the workmanship, and the elegance of the decorations (which make your present fit to be preserved in a cabinet of curiosities at the same time they exhibit the skill and taste of the artist, demonstrate that Americans are not inferior to any people whatever in the use of mechanical instruments and the art of ship-building.

"The unanimity of the Agricultural State of Maryland, in general, as well as of the commercial town of Baltimore, in particular, expressed in their recent decision on the subject of a general government, will, not I persuade myself, be without its due efficacy on the minds of its neighbours, who, in many instances, are intimately connected not only by the nature of their produce, but by the ties of blood, and the habits of life. Under these circumstances, I cannot entertain an idea that the voice of the Convention of this time, which is now in session, will be dissimilar from that of her near allied sister, who is only separated by the Potomac-ack.

"You will permit me, Gentlemen, to indulge my feelings in reiterating the heart-felt wish, that the happiness of this country may equal the degree of its sincere friends: And that the patriotic town of which you are inhabitants (in the prosperity of which I have always found myself strongly interested) may not only continue to increase in the same wonderful manner it has formerly done—but that its trade, manufactures and other resources of wealth may be placed, permanently, in a more flourishing situation than they have hitherto been. I am, with sentiments of respect, Gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"To William Smith, Esq. and the other Gentlemen Proprietors of the Ship *Federalist*."

AUGUST 4, (Georgia.) May 24.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman of veracity in

Washington, White county, dated May 10, 1788.

"I yesterday about two o'clock in the afternoon was

in a violent shower of hail, which lasted about 20

minutes; the hailstones were from two to nine inches

in circumference; and the children in the streets

were beaten to the ground, and wounded, the glass

was beaten entirely down, and every growing of

wheat was injured. It did not extend above two

or three miles from north to south, the wind blew

from the south east. Between 3 and 4 o'clock

the clouds dispersed, and Heaven seemed again to

smile on Washington."

CHARLESTON, (S.C.) June 19.

On Monday last were executed pursuant

to sentence of the Court of Admiralty des-

tined for piracy on the American seas,

Capt. William Rogers, of New London,

in Connecticut; John Masters of Cheshire,

in England, and William Pendergrafs, of

Derbyshire, in England, charged and found

guilty of the murder of Mr. Abraham Na-

thans, of the Jewish nation, joint owner

with Rogers, and passenger on board the

ship *Britley*, in October last. Also Rich-

ard Williams, and William Cain, both of

England, for the murder of Capt. Nathan-

iel C. Webb, and Mr. Cleod or McLeod,

on the 19th of May last, on board the

schoner *Two Friends*.

The unhappy and miserable Rogers ap-

peared uncommonly penitent and reformed,

from the day of his being apprehended to

the moment of his execution, where he

solicited the attendance of the Clergy, and

joined in a pathetic prayer to the supreme

being; soliciting the pardon of his God

for every trespass he had committed; and

the forgiveness of every mortal that felt

himself injured by him. He to the last

denied having wilfully or maliciously kil-

led Mr. Nathan, and uniformly persisted

in the declaration, that he was not in found

mind when the bloody transaction took

place, and that he was subject to fits of

lunacy. This assertion Rogers has re-

peatedly made to Mr. Paxon both before

and after his trial (and to divers other

gentlemen) as he likewise has, in sundry

parts of a narrative of his life, which he

has been writing several days prior to his

death. The contemplation of leaving an

aged father and mother—two affectionate

respectable wife and five young children,

seemed to distress him beyond expression

or description, and deeply affected the nu-

merous spectators, male and female: Rogers

repeatedly at the place of execution,

begged the prayers of all present, and has

often conjured Major Phalon to give

good advice and directions to his unfor-

tunate children.

"Which Mr. Fanning, of Connecticut, cousin

of Gov. Fanning, and several others from that state,

have likewise declared; and also his being addicted to

strong liquor, which always bereaved him of his

reason.

N E W Y O R K, July 10.

A correspondent has favoured us with the fol-

lowing melancholy account—

An aged man was present at the court-house,

in Essex county, New Jersey, on Wednesday

last night, at the trial of his son, who was convicted

and found guilty of burglary, committed upon

the house of Mr. Helle Pasterfor, collector at

Acquatick, and received sentence of death, to

be executed on Friday the 11th inst. This young

hardened wretch no longer knew his doom, but

he called for a bowl of grog, and having supped

very heartily of it, retired to his apartment

without any visible sensations respecting his

awful fate. What aggravates this dreadful cir-

cumstance, is, that this venerable parent

has already experienced a similar trial—two of

his sons; another is now under sentence of death

in one of the Southern States, and destined to the

same unhappy end!—O! virtue, where hast

thou fled! bluish humanity—blush at these hor-

rid perpetrations which bring mankind to such

direful ignominy and death.

The Poughkeepsie, Journal of July 8, says,

since our last nothing very material has transpired

convention; they are still discussing the

circumstances by paragraphs, and we flatter our-

selves in our next we will give to the public, the

final result of their deliberations.

We learn by a vessel that arrived here last

week from Dublin, that on board passenger the banks

of Newfoundland, the fell to with a squadron of

ships of war, consisting of two of 44 guns, two of

32, and two armed brigs of 16; the above vessel

kept company with them for ten days, during which time, they never hailed her, or showed any inclination to be spoke with, they had no colours up, but from the uniform of the officers they appeared to be French men of war.

B O S T O N, July 10.

B F EXPRESS.

Friday last, at 5 o'clock, P. M. Mr. Pease,

arrived here, in 52 hours from New York, with

the glorious intelligence of the RATIFICATION

OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION by the

Ancient Dominion of VIRGINIA. The

letters containing these agreeable tidings, were

read by his Excellency the Governor, to a large

number of gentlemen assembled at his house,

which crowned the joy of the day.

FORM OF RATIFICATION

Of the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION by the

Convention of Virginia.

WE the Delegates of the people of Virginia,

only elected, in pursuance of a recommendation

of the General Assembly, and now met in con-

vention, having fully and fairly investigated and

discussed the proceedings of the Federal Con-

vention, and being prepared as well as the most

maurice deliberation will enable us to decide

thereon, DO, in the name and on the behalf of

the people of Virginia, declare and make known

that the powers granted under the Constitution

of the United States, may be resumed by them

whenever the same shall be perceived to be

oppression, and that every power not granted

thereby, remains with them, and at their will: That

therefore no right, of any denomination, can be

canceled, abridged, restrained or modified by

the Congress, by the Senate, or House of Repre-

sentatives, acting in any capacity, by the Presi-

dent, or any department or officer of the United

States, except in those instances where power is

given by the Constitution for those purposes:—

That among other essential rights, the liberty of

conscience, and of the press, cannot be canceled,

abridged, restrained or modified by any authority

of the United States.

With these impressions with a solemn appeal to

the searcher of hearts for the purity of our inter-

tions, and under the sanction, that whatsoever

imperfections may exist in the Constitution,

ought rather to be examined in the mode prescrib-

ed therein, than to bring the UNION into dan-

ger by delay, with a hope of obtaining amend-

ments previous to the ratification:

We the said delegates, in the name and in be-

half of the people of Virginia, do by these pre-

sents assent to and ratify the Constitution recom-

mended on the 17th day of September, 1787, by

the Federal Convention, for the government of

the United States; hereby assenting to all

whom it may concern, that the said Constitution

is binding upon the said people, according to an

authentic copy hereto annexed in the words fol-

lowing:—

(Here followed a copy of the Constitution.)

Done in Convention, &c. &c.

EDMUND PENDELTON, President.

Attest JOHN BECKLEY, Clerk.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman in Providence,

his friend in this town, July 6th.

That spirit of villany, which has been for a

long time consigning this State, as a State, over

to endless infamy—is not laid. It appeared in

all its deformity, a few days since in this town.

You must know, that our federalists proposed

celebrating the anniversary of our independence

this year, with those marks of festivity, which

the prospect of our national affairs would justify.

On the evening preceding the 5th a lawless and

numerous banditti, headed by some justices of

Know Thy memory—and other infamous charac-

ters—arrived in town from the country, and

lodged in a wood adjacent to the place designed

for the festivity; and by threats and menaces of

destruction, attempted to deprive the inhabitants

of the great privilege of enjoying themselves in

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