

to death." Forgive, indulgent Heaven! the ignorance and cruelty of man, by which the misapplication of this text of scripture, has so long and to often stigmatized the religion of Jesus Christ, with folly and revenge.

The following considerations, I hope, will prove that no argument can be deduced from this law, to justify the punishment of murder by death. Of the contrary, that several arguments against it may be derived from a just and rational explanation of that part of the Levitical institutions.

1. There are many things in scripture above, but nothing contrary to reason. Now, the punishment of murder by death, is contrary to reason. It cannot therefore be agreeable to the will of God.

2. The order and happiness of society cannot fail of being agreeable to the will of God. But the punishment of murder by death, destroys the order and happiness of society. It must therefore be contrary to the will of God.

3. Many of the laws given by Moses, were accommodated to the ignorance, wickedness, and "hardness of heart" of the Jews. Hence their divine legislator expressly says, "I gave them statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live." Of this, the law which respects divorces, and the law of retaliation, which requires "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," are remarkable instances.

But we are told, that the punishment of murder by death, is founded not only on the law of Moses, but upon a positive precept given to Noah and his posterity, that "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." In order to shew that this text does not militate against my proposition, I shall beg leave to transcribe a page from an essay on crimes and punishments, published by the Rev. Mr. Turner, in the 2d volume of the *Manchester Memoirs*. "I hope," says this ingenious author, "that I shall not offend any one, by taking the liberty to put my own stamp upon this celebrated passage, and to enquire, why it should be deemed a precept at all. To me, it appears it serves to censure this horrible tribe to justice. You will enjoy in point of knowledge, the meridian of a day, of which we only perceive the twilight. You will often review with equal contempt and horror the indolence, ignorance, and cruelty of your ancestors—You will fully comprehend the extent of the discoveries and precepts of the gospel, and you will be actuated, I hope, by its gentle and forgiving spirit. You will see many moderate opinion in religion and government, turned upside downwards, and many new connexions established between cause and effect.—From the importance and destiny of every human soul, you will acquire new ideas of the dignity of human nature, and the infinite value of every act of benevolence that is for its object, the bodies, the souls, and the lives of our fellow creatures. You will love the whole human race, for you will perceive that you have a common Father, and you will learn to imitate him by converting those sentiments to which their folly or wickedness have exposed them, into the means of their reformation and happiness."

4. If the Mosaic law with respect to murder, is obligatory upon christians, it follows that it is equally obligatory to punish adultery, blasphemy, and all other capital crimes that are mentioned in the Levitical law by death. Nor is this all: It justifies the extirpation of the Indians, and the enslaving of the Africans. For the command to the Jews to destroy the Canaanites, and to make slaves of their heathen neighbours, is as positive as the command which declares, "that he that killeth a man shall surely be put to death."

Every part of the Lawical law, is full of types of the Messiah. May not the punishment of death, inflicted by it, be intended to represent the demerit and consequences of sin, as the tides of refuge were the effects of the Messiah.

6. The imperfection and severity of these laws were probably intended farther, to illustrate the perdition and mildness of the gospel dispensation. It is in this manner that God has manifested himself in many of his acts. He created darkness first, to illustrate by comparison the beauty of light; and he permits sin, misery, and death in the moral world, that he may hereafter display more illustriously, the transcendent glories of righteousness, happiness and immortal life. This opinion is favoured by St. Paul, who says, "the Law made nothing perfect," and that "it was a shadow of good things to come."

The Farmers have not managed their land and flock so advantageously as they might, and as they would, if they could be prevailed upon to allocate for the purpose of making improvements in agriculture—and for devising ways and means to procure the cash for their produce.

It has been said that the common sense of all nations and particularly of savages, is in favour of punishing murder by death.

The common sense of all nations is in favour of the commerce and slavery of their fellow creatures. But this does not take away from their immorality. The practice of the Italian in punishing murder by death, can prove nothing in its favour, since it is well known that revenge in its utmost extent, is the universal and darling passion of all savage nations. Perhaps the practice, among them, originated in necessity and indulgence; for a people who have no settled place of residence and who use no labour, could sustain murder effectively in no other way.

It has been said that the horrors of a guilty conscience proclaim the justice and necessity of death, as a

punishment for murder. I draw an argument of another nature from this fact. Are the horrors of conscience the punishment that God inflicts upon murder? Why, then, should we shun or destroy them by death, especially as we are taught to direct the most atrocious murderers to expect pardon in the future world?

No; let us not countenance the government of God in the human breast: Let the murderer live—but let it be suffered for the reproaches of a guilty conscience: Let him live to make compensation to society for the injury he has done it, by robbing it of a citizen: Let him live to maintain the family of the man whom he has murdered: Let him live, that the punishment of his crime may become universal; and lastly let him live—that murderer may be extricated from the list of human crimes?

Let us examine the conduct of the moral ruler of the world towards the first murderers: See Cain returning from his field, with his hands reeking with the blood of his brother! Do the heavens gather blackness, and does a stalk of lightning blast him to earth? No; does his father Adam, the natural legislator and judge of the world, inflict upon him the punishment of death? No; the infatuated wife God became his judge and executioner. He expels him from the society of which he was a member. He fixes in his conscience a never dying worm. He subjects him to the necessity of labour, and to secure a duration of his punishment, pro-

portioned to his crime, he puts a mark of prohibition upon him to prevent his being put to death by weak and angry men, declaring at the same time, that "whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance will be taken on him by the sword." In order to shew that this text does not militate against my proposition, I shall beg leave to transcribe a page from an essay on crimes and punishments, published by the Rev. Mr. Turner, in the 2d volume of the *Manchester Memoirs*.

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For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.
To AGRICOLA.

B Y your production and signature, in last week's paper, I am warranted to conclude, that you are a real practical Farmer—that you see and feel the misfortunes we labour under, in general, on account of bartering our produce and satiety with country traders for that which profiteth not. But this bartering, though extremely prejudicial, is not our only sin. A spirit for enterprise and improvement in the mechanical arts in manufactures and commerce, seems to be disdained throughout the community; while agriculture, the first and noblest employment of man, appears to be stationary, at least in this country.

The Farmers have not managed their land and flock so advantageously as they might, and as they would, if they could be prevailed upon to allocate for the purpose of making improvements in agriculture—and for devising ways and means to procure the cash for their produce.

There is an Agricultural Society, Committee, or something else, in this State, that grew out of the Academy of Arts and Sciences. But what have they done? or what can they do? They have accumulated a fund, have proposed experiments, and offered premiums. But what avail to the farming interest of Hampshire? Yet, or what avail to the noble art in general? But little, I believe. Very few, if any of those gentlemen are actual Farmers—they are not the operators—and they may offer premiums to the end of time, without much danger of being called upon for payment, unless they will detail the proceeds for obtaining them;—and that they cannot do, out of experience, because they are not practical husbandmen. And it is their real, not nominal Farmers only, who can advance the art of Husbandry in all its substantial and beneficial branches.—And they can do it only by associating, and communicating their own ideas and experiments in their own way, face to face.

I therefore wish, that you, Sir, would mature a plan for forming an association among the Farmers of this country. If you can effect it upon proper principles, you will render infinite service to the landed interest, and will merit the glorious appellation of a friend and a patriot to the country of the county.

A YOUNG FARMER.

December 8, 1788.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. BUTLER.

T HE address which appeared in your last paper under the signature of "A FRIEND TO ALL PARTIES," gave me much pain on first reading. Because I feared the writer would injure the Honest Gentleman whose election he intended to establish. But I am happy to find that my fears were well founded. For the address, as I am told by Gentlemen from various parts of the country, has met with the nearly unanimous determination to oppose Honorable Mr. SEDGWICK at the approaching election. If my information is true, and I have no doubt of it, the Western District will be happily united to make compensation to society for the injury he has done it, by robbing it of a citizen: Let him live to maintain the family of the man whom he has murdered: Let him live, that the punishment of his crime may become universal; and lastly let him live—that murderer may be extricated from the list of human crimes?

Let us examine the conduct of the moral ruler of the world towards the first murderers: See Cain returning from his field, with his hands reeking with the blood of his brother! Do the heavens gather blackness, and does a stalk of lightning blast him to earth? No;

does his father Adam, the natural legislator and judge of the world, inflict upon him the punishment of death? No; the infatuated wife God became his judge and executioner. He expels him from the society of which he was a member. He fixes in his conscience a never dying worm. He subjects him to the necessity of labour, and to secure a duration of his punishment, pro-

portioned to his crime, he puts a mark of prohibition upon him to prevent his being put to death by weak and angry men, declaring at the same time, that "whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance will be taken on him by the sword."

I despair of making such an impression upon the present citizens of the United States, as shall abolish the abhorred and unchristian practice. From the connexion of this essay with the valuable documents of the late revolution, it will probably descend to posterity. To you, therefore, the unborn generations of the next century, I consecrate this humble tribute to justice. You will enjoy in point of knowledge, the meridian of a day, of which we only perceive the twilight. You will often review with equal contempt and horror the indolence, ignorance, and cruelty of your ancestors—You will fully comprehend the extent of the discoveries and precepts of the gospel, and you will be actuated, I hope, by its gentle and forgiving spirit. You will see many moderate opinion in religion and government, turned upside downwards, and many new connexions established between cause and effect.—From the importance and destiny of every human soul, you will acquire new ideas of the dignity of human nature, and the infinite value of every act of benevolence that is for its object, the bodies, the souls, and the lives of our fellow creatures. You will love the whole human race, for you will perceive that you have a common Father, and you will learn to imitate him by converting those sentiments to which their folly or wickedness have exposed them, into the means of their reformation and happiness."

I am told, and I repeat it with pleasure, that the greatest cordiality subsisted among the representatives of the Western District in the late session of the General Court. In all the great national questions which perplexed and divided the House, the members of the District were firmly united. Would to Heaven that the same concordant principle may be disseminated, and permanently established, among their constituents. And then we shall be as truly united in all our political measures, as we are in our local interests, and spiritual pursuits.

YEOMAN.

Dec. 9, 1788.

VIENNA, (Germany) Sept 12.

T HE fortress of Dubrov was attacked on the 19th by disembarkation of Turks from twenty-two vessels Major Keme at the head of the battalions of Brechinville, made a most valiant resistance; but at the end of three days was obliged to retire, and abandoned the place to the enemy. The loss of the Austrians was not more by these accounts, than 412 men, among whom however were some officers of distinction. The Turks are represented to have lost two thousand men.

L O N D O N, Oct. 17.

The loss of the Americans in their late unfortunate engagement, was 15 officers, and 900 soldiers killed and wounded.

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