

WEDNESDAY, August 22, 1834.

FOR THE AMERICAN.

To the Right Rev. Mr. John Hargrove.

REVEREND SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING the high sounding title with which you are here addressed, it is still a matter of no small surprise that you should presume to consider yourself as one of the "clerical band"! Indeed I have been puzzling my brains, day and night in vain to find out on what ground you rest your claim to that sacred character! Pray, sir, how and when did you become a clergyman? was it when you were received amongst the methodists as a local preacher? This you know never constituted any man a clergyman; but even if it did, have you not most flagitiously broken the engagements you then made, and renounced the authority you then received? And who, since that time, has made you one? But we will pass this over for the present, and attend to the subject matter of your "clerical" defence.

Your letter purports to be a justification of your own, and reverend colleagues conduct in attending the war dance; but, sir, instead of shewing the innocence, or propriety of that procedure, you have made an open and savage attack upon an innocent and unoffending individual, who dared to disapprove of that indecent, unseemly exhibition. After having read your letter with due attention, and deference, it does not to me appear to be any thing of worth, or contain any thing like argument in the whole of it. It is true, sir, you have laboured; but like the mountain in Esop it is hard to perceive by all that labour that any thing now is done, than that an illegitimate, clerical mouse is born! You have, however, attempted to impose on us for argument, a weak deistical assertion "that the jars amongst religious professors are the real source of infidelity;" but, herein, sir, you differ with the ablest and best of judges; for it is by them generally allowed that infidelity is most commonly produced by the hypocrisy and wickedness of those who profess to know God, while, by their works, they deny him. Pray, sir, do not suppose I wish to stigmatize you as being one of that character; but if it should happen to be your case, you will be so good as to make the application to yourself.

You have further in the fullness of your pious heart, informed us that the "Theatre is a regular battery against vice;" if so, it must be calculated to produce good morals, piety, virtue & religion; in this however I am somewhat incredulous, for the united testimony & experience of all ages have borne witness to the contrary. You also have charged Mr. Dashiell with throwing the tomahawk at the heads, and hearts of the war dancing clergy; but sir, in the above assertion, you have done much more than that; you have lifted the fist of wickedness against God himself, and aimed a deadly blow at the vitals of religion. Might it not be proper here to apply to you the expostulation of St. Paul to the sorcerer, "O! full of all subtlety & mischief, thou child of the devil!" I had almost said the devil—but will leave you to read the rest of the verse, and make the application to yourself. You know, sir, that the same great apostle, Paul, explicitly condemns all revelling, &c. Now what is revelling, but loud & clamorous mirth—and was not the war dance a scene of such mirth? if so, how shall we exculpate you from the charge of the prophet, "Thou hast formed bands with the wicked, and walked in the steps of the ungodly;" and yet, sir, you pretend to be an ambassador from Jehovah! But how dreadfully, how flagitiously have you prostituted that sacred character.

The time is not long past, and no doubt you remember it well, when you did not fail to cry aloud against theatres, assemblies, &c. but now you come forward in the face of the world and declare, that the war dance, which is more indecent and unbecoming a christian auditory than even the theatre itself, which you now say is a battery against vice; this savage exhibition, you declare, was "worthy the divine"! Alas, what a proof is here, what a damning proof, of the "mutability of conscience." Propitious Heaven! Drop one pitying tear over such a polluted conscience, as is here displayed. "O! How are the mighty fallen!" What! Is it the man whose profession but a short time since, sounded so high? Is it possible, sir, that you have so deeply apostatized from the spirit of the gospel as to proclaim in the public prints, that "the theatre is a regular battery against vice;" that "there is nothing prohibitory thereof in all the holy gospel," and that "the war dance was a scene worthy the divine"? Pray, Mr. Hargrove, stop and reflect, but for a moment—Read the history of those unfortunate men whose lives have atoned for their country's iniquities. You will there find that the theatre, or some other such place of dissipation, was the cause and beginning of

all their misfortunes. But alas, for you; the light which was within you, (if indeed you were truly enlightened,) has become darkness, thick impenetrable darkness, without one lucid interval.

You charge Mr. Dashiell with uncharitableness, because he has had the assurance to declare that no clergyman, or private christian, possessing the grace of God, would, at this enlightened day, frequent the theatre, or be seen at the war dance. But, Sir, if you had one vital spark of divine grace remaining in your soul, instead of denouncing that sentiment as uncharitable, you would applaud and defend it, as the sacred truth of God. But if those practices are, as you hold forth, agreeable to the mind and will of God, where are the scriptures and reasons which establish them as such? I would challenge you, Sir, to produce one single passage in all the word of God which allows of such practices. But perhaps I am too confident! for it is said that you are a wonderful master of scripture; that it is in your hands something like a piece of wax, and will bend any way, and every way, as may best suit your purpose; and further, that you sometimes make use of a Bible which is not in the hands of christians in general. I think it is called Arcana Caelestia,* or some such an out-landish name—from this Bible you may probably gather something to support the tottering cause of dissipation; but from the gospel of Jesus Christ I am certain you cannot; nor yet from a conscience which is formed according to the Sacred model.

To conclude, Sir, I am utterly at a loss to conceive for what purpose you took up your pen on this occasion. Was it to become an advocate general in the cause of wickedness; to discover the venome of our heart against piety, good morals, decency and holiness; and against the man who dared to advocate, in a public manner, the sacred cause of virtue? All this you have certainly done: But perhaps you intended also to display your talents, and introduce you self to public notice—in this too you have succeeded; and no doubt will be pointed at with the finger of scorn, not only by the boys in the streets, but also by every well-wisher to decency and good manners; while the reverend gentleman, whom you have so basely calumniated, will meet the reward of his piety in the good wishes and blessings of his

FELLOW-CITIZENS.

August 20, 1834.

* This is a celebrated work of the late Pion Emanuel Swedenborg, whose writings, I am told, by his followers (of whom Mr. H. is one) are held to be of equal authority with the Holy Scriptures.

A PLAN
FOR ESTABLISHING A
SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY

With a view of bettering the condition of the poor and affording them permanent employment.

1st. Every person who may subscribe for this school, propose a sum of money, as three, one hundred and twenty dollars, shall be considered a perpetual number of the institution; and be entitled to vote for directors thereof; and shall be furnished annually with half the interest of his or her subscription, calculating at 8 per cent. in the tickets to be applied as shall hereafter be mentioned; and upon his or her demise, his or her legal representative shall be vested with the same rights and privileges.

2d. Every subscriber of any sum less than one hundred and twenty dollars, and not less than sixty dollars, shall be entitled to vote as aforesaid, and to receive annually such a number of tickets, in proportion to those of the first class, as his or her subscription may entitle to; but these rights shall not descend to his or her legal representative.

3d. Every subscriber of not less than ten dollars per annum for four years shall be entitled to votes as aforesaid, and to receive in tickets two fifths of his or her annual contribution; but these privileges shall only appertain to subscribers of this class while they continue to contribute.

4th. Every subscriber of any sum under ten and not less than five dollars per annum, for four years, shall, while he or she may continue to contribute, be entitled to vote for directors, and to receive in tickets three-tenths of his or her annual contribution.

5th. Every subscriber of a smaller sum than five dollars, for any number of years, shall receive such proportion of the tickets allowed to subscribers of the 4th class, as his or her subscription may bear to theirs, but shall not have the privilege of voting.

6th. When a sufficient number of subscriptions shall have been obtained to justify an organization of the institution, a general meeting of the contributors shall be called, after six days public notice; and the persons entitled to vote shall elect from among themselves twenty four directors of the institution, whose duty it shall be to manage all its concerns, and to make such regulations as they may deem fit, not contrary to these fundamental rules.

7th. As soon as possible after the first choice of directors, they shall proceed to procure, in as central a situation as they can obtain, either on ground rent, or in fee simple, a suitable lot for the purpose of erecting thereon a school of industry, and such other buildings, as they may find from time to time necessary to the objects of the institution, and as

their funds may justify. And with all prudent and convenient dispatch, they shall cause to be erected thereon a proper building, fit for the reception of such articles as may profitably afford employment to the poor; for the accommodation of the poor, while at work; & for the lodging of such persons as may not have families, and may be more conveniently boarded in the school of industry. They shall also cause to be erected a soup house or public kitchen, to be made use of as shall be hereafter provided in this plan.

8th. The directors shall endeavor to engage suitable persons to receive at the market prices, the fruits of the labor of the poor, who may work in the institution, and advertise what cannot thus be disposed of, for sale at the school of industry.

9th. The directors shall divide the city and such parts of the precincts, as they may think proper to annex to it, into districts, with a view of obtaining as correct a knowledge as possible of the wants of the poor, and the ability to contribute, by their own exertions to their own maintenance, and of preventing as much as possible, impositions on the institution. These districts shall be as small as circumstances will allow, that those invested with the superintendance of them may not have too much of their time and attention diverted by its duties from their private employments.

10th. The directors shall appoint all those officers and servants necessary to the regular management of the institution, whom they shall compensate according to their respective services, and the agreement, which they may make with them, and whom they shall remove at their pleasure; and they shall endeavor that all services, requiring but a small portion of time, and attended with little trouble, be rendered gratuitously.

11th. Whenever the directors shall be prepared, they shall give notice, that they are ready to afford employment to those poor, who will apply. All applicants shall be set to such work, as they may be capable of doing, and the state of the institution may furnish; and shall receive for their work suitable remuneration, according to the previous agreement, between them and the directors, out of which shall be deducted the price of the provisions furnished them, fixed at the most moderate terms the institution can afford. As soon as sufficient preparations can be made, those laborers having no families, shall be accommodated in the School of Industry, for which a proper deduction shall be made from their wages. And if the institution shall answer the hopes of its patrons, and the funds permit, small and comfortable tenements shall be erected on the lot, or suitable lodging rooms provided, for the accommodation of laborers and their families.—But in all cases, a moderate compensation for advantages accorded to the laborers, is to be deducted from their wages.

12th. As soon as the Soup house shall be ready, the directors shall deliver to every subscriber, his or her proportion of tickets in the following manner: One-fourth at first, and one-fourth at the end of every three months. The price of the tickets shall be fixed at prime cost; but no tickets issued for any quarter, shall be of any avail in another quarter; but if not used, shall revert to the institution; and all persons neglecting to send in the course of any quarter, for their proportion of tickets, will be considered as yielding them for its benefit. Every ticket shall entitle the person presenting it, to such a portion of soup as is adequate to, which shall be what the director may think sufficient for one person; and in like manner, for any number of tickets. And persons, not having such tickets, may be furnished with soup at the Soup house, at such price as the directors may determine. But, in delivering the soup, the laborers shall first be supplied; secondly, those bringing tickets from the subscribers; and thirdly, the purchasers of soup.

13th. With a view of enabling poor persons to save fuel at their own houses, whenever room can be spared and the expense afforded, apartments shall be fitted up, in which those poor, who may frequent the Soup house, shall be permitted to remain during the day, and until such hours as the directors may determine, and shall be allowed and encouraged to bring their own work and do it there. But persons who may show themselves incorrigibly idle or lazy, shall not afterwards be allowed the indulgence, till they have given sufficient evidence of reformation.

14th. It shall be the duty of the directors to introduce every useful invention and improvement, by which fuel may be saved, the various processes of cookery rendered easier and cheaper, and light communicated to the greatest advantage at the smallest expense. Also to begin with those kinds of employments which are most simple and practicable, and gradually to introduce others, till, if possible, the poor of every description, who want employment, may find it at the School of Industry.

15th. The directors shall divide themselves into four classes of six each.—These classes shall in rotation attend to the business of the institution during three months; at the end of which time they shall report to the directors the state of the institution, and their opinion concerning any steps by which it may be benefited. The class on duty shall meet at least once in each month. The

directors shall meet once every three months, when nine shall be sufficient to do business; but they shall also meet every year on the anniversary of their first meeting, when a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to constitute a board. They shall organize their own body as they may think fit; they shall fill the vacancies therein during the time for which they are elected;

They shall have power to call special meetings of the subscribers; and they shall have all the rights which are possessed by the subscribers to the institution, which are not now reserved, or may not be hereafter reclaimed by them; particularly the disposition of monies, the purchase of necessary materials, provisions, &c. the settling of compensations, and the adoption of all measures which they may conceive likely to conduce to the benefit of the institution.

16th. At every meeting of each class of the directors, they shall call upon all persons, whom they may find it necessary to request, to aid them in their object, to assist at their meetings, with a view of obtaining all the information, by which they can render the institution of the greatest possible utility.

17th. It shall be lawful for the class of directors on duty to allow at the end of every month, to those poor persons who have gained most by their work, in the course of the preceding month, rewards proportionate to their merit and ability, and the funds of the institution; and to confer suitable marks of approbation on those who have been most conspicuous for their order, sobriety and respectable behavior. But they shall take all possible precaution to prevent any alms being solicited by or given to the persons employed in or frequenting the institution.

18th. The directors shall, on the other hand, devise and inflict such reasonable penalties as may tend to prevent the laborers from coming too late to their work, or absenting themselves from it at their pleasure; provided they cannot make such an apology, as will satisfy the persons whom they may appoint. They shall also make all such wholesome regulations as may encourage virtue, order and industry, and discourage vice, idleness and every thing inconsistent with the prosperity of the institution, and the present and eternal interests of its objects.

19th. The directors may permit materials to be furnished for the employment of persons who, on account of obstacles which they may deem sufficient, cannot attend regularly the School of Industry, for the purpose of working them at home; provided they can obtain sufficient security. And such persons shall be allowed the same wages with those employed at the School of Industry, and also on similar terms, the benefit of the Soup house.

20th. When the directors shall think themselves possessed of sufficient funds, they shall lay up, in those seasons when wood is cheapest, such a quantity of that article as they may think proper, to be sold again at a reasonable price to those persons employed in the School of Industry who have families to be provided for; also to those poor persons not employed therein, who are heads of families, and may produce recommendations from the superintendants of those districts in which they may respectively reside. And when the directors shall think their funds equal to the undertaking, they may lay in a stock of the necessary articles of food and raiment, to be disposed of as above directed; and they may receive in payment such articles, either of a fine or coarse fabric, as they think they can sell at a reasonable profit.

21st. The directors shall appropriate a small portion of their funds to the purchase of such books of moral and religious instruction, as are calculated to improve and benefit those employed in the School of Industry, to be read by such as are able at intervals of relaxation. And when the funds may permit, they shall add to this stock of books such as may be likely to improve in the mechanical arts, such laborers as are capable of improvement of this sort; but these books shall not be lent to these laborers who do not work in the institution, except they give sufficient security that they will not abuse them, and will return them safely.

22d. The directors shall invite the clergy of the several religious denominations in the city to preach once on every Lord's day to the poor who reside in the School of Industry, each taking his turn to officiate, at such hour as shall be most convenient to himself; and for this purpose they shall set apart such room as they think can be best applied to this object. But if the directors, after sufficient experience, shall find this mode not the best for procuring such religious information as it may be desirable to afford to the objects of the institution, then they shall apply to the representative bodies of the several religious denominations to set apart suitable places for the poor who reside in the School of Industry, that they may have opportunities to attend upon public worship and religious instruction, according to the religious principles which they profess. And they shall appoint one of the most discreet and trusty persons, belonging to each religious denomination, to conduct the rest of the same persuasion to the place of worship which they are to attend, and to accompany them again to the institution,

23d. The directors shall endeavor to procure for those employed in or for the institution, the aid of the Baltimore General Dispensary; and they shall hold communication with the managers of that excellent charity, with a view of ascertaining whether some plan cannot be adopted, which will relieve the contributors to it from the support thereof, by incorporating it with the School of Industry, and yet secure to the poor of every description the benefits which the Dispensary is calculated to yield.

24th. The directors shall invite and encourage all persons to whom they can be useful to make themselves known, and shall use a proper means to induce the parents of poor children to send them to the institution, as soon as they may be capable of earning any thing by their labor. And when they shall be able so to extend their usefulness, they shall take proper measures to have these children instructed in common learning, that they may be better fitted for discharging their duties in life; also to afford the same benefit, according to their discretion to those poor persons of riper years, employed in the institution, who may be in need thereof. The times devoted to these objects, shall be such portion of every Sunday, as can be spared from their religious duties, and of every other day as can be prudently subtracted from their daily occupations.

25th. Once every four years a general meeting of the subscribers shall be called, when a statement shall be laid before them of the situation of the institution, and of any measure, which may tend to its greater prosperity, and may not be within the power of the directors; at which general meetings, and at any intermediate ones, which may be called by the directors, or by any twenty subscribers, (to whom on the refusal of the directors to call a special meeting, the power of calling one is hereby given, provided their names be annexed to the public notice of such meeting,) they shall make such regulations as they may think wise and proper, not violating any faith herein pledged. And at the stated meetings, they shall elect twenty four directors; and should they be disposed to make any alterations of this plan, not violating faith pledged they shall be first agreed to by a majority of the meeting, at which they may be proposed, and afterwards confirmed by a majority of a meeting, which shall assemble within ten days thereafter, after notice in the public prints of six days; without which confirmation the alterations shall not be valid.

26th. Subscribers shall, at all times, be allowed free admission to every part of the establishment, to examine the details of its administration, to require from its officers any reasonable information or explanation, and to enjoy the other proper privileges. But what indulgence may be accorded to persons not subscribers, shall be determined by the directors, and regulated by their judgment.

27th. Whatever profits may be made by the institution, shall be expended in giving relief to the poor who may not be able to work, and at the same time may fit objects for the public alms house, and the directors shall take the greatest care to guard against imposition, and adopt the best methods of satisfying the subscribers that the relief has been applied to the best of their knowledge; and with a conscious regard to the merits and necessities of the objects. But no distribution of this sort shall take place until after the institution has been one year in operation.

28th. The directors shall apply to the legislature, at their next session for an act of incorporation, and their petition shall contain a prayer to grant them pecuniary aid, and to adopt such measures as may banish mendicancy from the city and precincts. And whenever the directors may obtain sufficient funds for the support of the institution, independent of the voluntary subscriptions of the citizens, they shall not only cease to call upon annual subscribers, but also refund to those subscribers, who may belong to the first two classes, the capitals of the sums which they may have respectively paid. But this payment may be made in annual instalments, if the directors shall think it necessary so to do.

Notice.

THE citizens of Baltimore and its vicinity are respectfully invited to assemble at Bryden's Inn, on Thursday the 23d inst. at 6 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of taking into consideration the plan for the relief and employment of the Poor, prepared by the committee appointed for that purpose. As the year is so far advanced, and the subject of the greatest importance, the citizens are earnestly requested to be general and punctual in their attendance.

By order of the committee,
JOS. G. J. BEND, chairman.
August 20 d3r

Exhibition—Last week.

INVISIBLE WOMAN!

THE proprietor intending to leave this place on the 26th of this month, thinks it incumbent on him to give this notice, that those who have not seen the experiment, may have it in their power.

The experiment has been so well described in the different newspapers, that a repetition of it would be useless—suffice to say it has given general satisfaction to those who have honored it with their visits.

Price, as usual, 50 cents, for grown persons—children half price. To be seen in Lemon alley, leading from Market street to the Theatre.
August 18 d4r