

tion, is no less necessary, than if we were directly concerned in them. It is necessary, in order to the discovery of the efforts made to draw us into the vortex, in season to make preparations against them. However we may consider ourselves, the maritime and commercial powers of the world will consider the United States of America, as forming a weight in that balance of power in Europe which never can be forgotten or neglected. It would not only be against our interest, but it would be doing wrong to one-half of Europe at least, if we should voluntarily throw ourselves into either scale. It is a natural policy for a nation that studies to be neutral, to consult with other nations engaged in the same studies and pursuits. At the same time that measures might be pursued with this view, our treaties with Prussia and Sweden, one of which is expired, and the other near expiring, might be renewed.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

It is particularly your province to consider the state of the public finances; and to adopt such measures respecting them as exigencies shall be found to require. The preservation of public credit, the regular extinguishment of the public debt, and a provision of funds, to defray any extraordinary expences, will of course call for your serious attention. Although the imposition of new burthens cannot be, in itself, agreeable, yet there is no ground to doubt that the American people will expect from you, such measures, as their actual engagements, their present security, and future interests, demand.

*Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

The present situation of our country, imposes an obligation on all the departments of government, to adopt an explicit and decided conduct. In my situation an exposition of the principles by which my administration will be governed, ought not to be omitted.

It is impossible to conceal from ourselves or the world, what has been before observed, that endeavours have been employed to foster and establish a division between the government and people of the United States. To investigate the causes which have encouraged this attempt is not necessary. But to repel by decided and united councils, insinuations so derogatory to the honour, and aggressions so dangerous to the constitution, union, and even independence of the nation, is an indispensable duty.

It must not be permitted to be doubted, whether the people of the United States will support the government, established by their voluntary consent, and appointed by their free choice; or whether, by surrendering themselves to the direction of foreign and domestic factions, in opposition to their own government, they will forfeit the honourable station they have hitherto maintained.

For myself, having never been indifferent to what concerned the interests of my country; devoted the best part of my life to obtain and support its independence; and constantly witnessed the patriotism, fidelity, and perseverance of my fellow-citizens, on the most trying occasions, it is not for me to hesitate or abandon a cause, in which my heart has been so long engaged.

Convinced that the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations; that those internal regulations, which have been established by law for the preservation of peace, are, in their nature proper, and that they have been fairly executed: nothing will ever be done by me to impair the national engagements; to innovate upon principles which have been so deliberately and uprightly established; or to surrender in any manner the rights of the government.—To enable me to maintain this declaration, I rely, under God, with entire confidence, on the firm and enlightened support of the national legislature, and upon the virtue and patriotism of my fellow-citizens.

JOHN ADAMS:

LONDON, March 31.

There is a rumour in circulation, and generally believed, that the king of Prussia has concluded a treaty offensive and defensive, with the French republic; in which he agrees to guarantee Belgium as an integral part of the republic, one and indivisible—to recognise the independence of the Batavian republic, and to concur in securing an equivalent to the Stadtholder, in another part to furnish an army of 60,000 men, to co-operate with the French, in case the emperor shall cross the Rhine, and to force him to agree to a peace upon just and equitable terms.

Such is the rumour, and it is said, that ministers have been in possession of the fact for several days from authority they do not question.

Various reports are in circulation that the emperor is on the eve of making a separate peace with France; and this circumstance arises from the promulgation of a new treaty entered into between his Prussian majesty and the French republic.

FORTSMOUTH, (N. H.) May 11.

I. M. F. O. R. T. A. N. T.

Arrived Mary, Rice, in 39 days from Hamburg. Informs that news was received at Hamburg, a few days previous to his leaving there, that the misundestanding between the United States and France, was amicably settled, and that Mr. Pinckney was certainly received and acknowledged, and that orders (which he saw and read) were issued by the Directory to capture no more American vessels, unless they had two sets of papers, and were carrying on a contraband trade.

That in consequence of the above, insurance had fallen from 25 to only 4 per cent. on American vessels bound to America.

[A gentleman of this town has received by this arrival a price current of the insurance, from a merchant at Hamburg, which mentions the premium at 4 1/2 to 5 per cent.]

The above vessel must have sailed April 1, which is later than any other information we have from that continent.

PHILADELPHIA, May 17.

Extract of a Letter from New York, to the Editor of the Philadelphia Gazette, dated May 16.

A gentleman who arrived here last Sunday from St. Croix, states, that previous to his embarkation for this city, accounts had been received there, that the valuable island of

ST. JUAN DE PUERTO RICO,

was, a few days before, taken from the Spaniards by the British army and navy from Martinique, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Ralph Abercrombie and rear-admiral Henry Hervey; the principal fortification made a hoist resistance, and cost the besiegers but a few men.

This valuable island is situated between Hispaniola and St. Christopher's, is 100 miles long and 40 miles broad, the centre of the contraband trade carried on by the British and French with the Spaniards, and is extremely fertile, producing the same kinds of fruits with the other islands.

A letter received in this city from Port au Prince of April 11, informs that, "We have now at the head of government a man of such character and abilities as afford us the greatest hopes that his arrival has been very propitious, as it happened at a moment when the brigands had attacked most of our out posts, which, from the long inactivity of his predecessor, lay quite destitute of defence, both in respect to troops and ammunition, but every thing is now assuring the most promising events. Flour, which lately was at 24 dollars, at once fell to 14 dollars, and is owing to the arrival of three convoys with upwards of 3000 barrels."

BALTIMORE, May 24.

The Minerva, Hinckley, arrived at Bolton on the 16th instant, from Hamburg, and brings advices of the 6th of April, which completely contradicts the report of Mr. Pinckney being invited back to Paris. They state, however, that commercial confidence had not diminished, as no apprehensions were entertained of a war between this country and France.

Annapolis, May 25.

A copy of a letter from a very respectable and ancient gentleman in the country, aged about ninety, to his friend in Annapolis.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE received another instance of your continued goodness to your unworthy correspondent. I mean bishop Watson's Apology for the Bible. Nothing more welcome. The Bible I embrace, and kiss with every affection of soul and body: and am firmly resolved, by the grace of Heaven, to put the whole stress of my present and future salvation upon what it contains.

No infidelity, with all its wit and sophisms, has ever yet, in the least degree, removed or shaken my *assured faith*. But on the contrary, confirmed it more than ever. And the reason, under God, is this. In deism, atheism, and all kinds of infidelity, I can see apparent marks of prejudice—of passion—of prepossession—and other malignant principles. But on the contrary, in the blessed, blessed Bible, I see quite the reverse of all these. I see calmness—coolness—softness—sound reasoning—divine philosophy—Heavenly mindedness, and every other sacred principle worthy the GOD OF SALVATION. If I was sure there was no other life than this, and I was asked by a child or brother for advice in the conduct of their lives, it should be this, "live up to the dictates of your Bible." But, blessed be God, it don't stop here. It extends happiness through all the ages of eternity!

The godly and learned bishop who wrote the "Apology" you sent me, has followed the infidel through all the windings and turning of his vulpine chase. He has hunted him out of every subterfuge of his "Age of Reason, and left Reynard to his destined fate. The faithful bishop has been thus particular, not to inform and set right a malignant and prepossessed obtuder, but that the *source of truth* may enlighten every well meaning and hopeful mind.

But there are more short, and general striking reasons, which not only attend, but follow that *eternal light* the Bible. The "Age of Reason" treats this book as spurious, and as an imposture! Then, I would ask the author, what impostor, or set of impostors, were the authors of it? What age of the world was it wrote in? And how came the world, to be so credulous as to receive it? These questions, and others of like nature, must be answered before we can or ought to give up the Bible. If the alchoran should be brought as a parallel with the Bible, we can easily answer all these questions relating to that; as to its author—in what time of the world it was wrote—By what means it was effected, &c. &c.

Again, I would ask the author of the Age of Reason if he does not think, upon his own principles, that the wisdom of God would give a law to his reasonable creatures, whom he has delegated as sovereigns to govern and rule all the inferior creatures in this his lower world? If he answers in the affirmative, as we think he must, then we ask, if the Bible be an imposture where is that law? Surely, every creature here must be a mute.

We find from sad experience there is evil in this world. From whence then can this originate? Not from God surely! An infinitely wise, good, and holy

Being, can never be the author of evil! Then let the Age of Reason say, from whence or from where doth it spring? Our Bible gives us a full and satisfactory account of this mystery. It tells us, we were created and came out of the hands of God, in his own image. That is, in perfect rectitude, purity and holiness. It tells us too, that we rebelled against our Creator, and broke through a command which was given us as a test of our obedience.—Hence we fell from our happy state—And hence springs all the evil we undergo in this life: even the "Age of Reason" itself springs from this latter root.

Here again, "Setting the Bible aside, another riddle or difficulty occurs. It is this. How?—When?—and where is it that we can ever be happy? Does the Age of Reason give a satisfactory answer to these things? Now, certainly, right reason dictates to us, that a *divine, wise, and good Being*, would never create any creature; and bring it into being, merely and only to make it miserable! No; no. Our Bible here is like that glorious luminary which gives light to our world. It not only informs us of the origin of evil, which we brought upon ourselves, but it is a *lamp to our feet, and a light to our paths, to guide us into the way of peace*, and consequently of happiness. And this is accomplished too by such means and ways as all the wisdom of this world could never hit upon, or the heart of man ever conceive! And yet, now Heaven has revealed it, the propriety, wisdom, and goodness of God is to gloriously displayed, that a candid mind cannot but see it, and a gracious soul adore it! Fallen from God as we are, what wisdom of man could find out a way of reconciliation? The whole world could not satisfy the justice of God so as to redeem one soul! But that precious and wonderful scheme of salvation, revealed to us in the Bible, clears up all difficulties. The incarnation of Jesus Christ, the son of God, to condescend so low, as to take the nature of man upon him, solves the difficulty! As God he can atone for sin, and satisfy the justice of Heaven. And as man he could die, and did, to effect this *wonderful redemption*! Man, as man, could only die and perish, as we all must have done! But God, as man, could die to redeem the *whole world*, who are willing to be saved by him!

The deists are very lavish and profuse in speaking of the benefits flowing from morality. This they do in such a manner as if they thought their morality exceeded the morality, or spirituality, of the Bible! But alas! Let any candid mind collect and gather together all the morals, both of the heathen and gentile world, and set them in opposition to the sublimity, purity, and rectitude of the moral in the Bible, and they will all meet the same fate, as the idol Dagon did before the ark of God!

Moreover, the prophecies of the Bible, some of which are fulfilled and come to pass, and others are now fulfilling by such slow degrees as God Almighty generally makes use of in his wise providence, to effect wonderful things in this world! I shall name only one of these as a specimen: it relates to the past and present state and circumstances of the Jewish nation. They were the only temporarily *chosen people of God*. These were redeemed from a state of slavery in Egypt by a wonderful chain of providences and miracles: And to whom, under their theocracy, was given laws and ordinances, prefiguring that *great salvation*, which was then promised should come by means of a most gracious person who should spring from out of one of their own tribes. This prophecy was fulfilled according as was foretold, relating to the tribe and the family—His offices, sufferings and death, and every thing relating thereto, all for their and our salvation! These people (notwithstanding all these favours from Heaven) sinned so often, and so grievously, against their God and king, as that at last he permitted them, for their provocations, to be carried captives to Babylon—Jerusalem to be taken—Their holy temple to be burnt—And after suffering many other temporal evils, as punishments, they were, and are yet, dispersed over all the four quarters of this globe! Nevertheless, they remain to this day a distinct and separate people from every other nation under Heaven! Go into what part of the habitable world you will, there you'll find this living continued, miracle subsisting! Here now is an ocular demonstration to us of the presence of the author of our Bible! This was often foretold by their prophets many hundreds of years before it came to pass; and after it did come to pass, there has been a flight of between fifteen and twenty centuries of years in which these people (though scattered through every nation of the world) have yet kept themselves distinct and separate from them all! O wonderful, wonderful Providence! What eyes can be so blind as not to see, and heart so callous as not to feel this! Take any two nations now upon earth, the most remote from a coalition, according to the nature of things.—For instance, take one colony of Turks or heathens, and another of Christians, and let them live together only one century of years; I would venture my life as a sacrifice, if they did not (many of them) mix and blend together, both by consanguinity and affinity in their short period.

But I am profuse, when our Bible is in question, I fear I weary my friend with too prolixity. Pardon me, dear Sir, and I'll be done. May God Almighty bless you and yours, with every blessing contained in that sacred book! So wishes, for pray him, who, with all due respect and love, lives, and I trust, by God's grace, will die.

Sir, your sincere friend, &c.

THE PARISH of ALL HALLOWS, in Annapolis county, being now vacant, the Vestry will receive applications from any episcopal minister between this and Whitsunday next. By order of the Vestry, JOHN T. COB, Rsg.