

Mr. FENNO,

There are few persons of good sense who hope to see liberty prevail in France, who have not been shocked and discouraged by the measures they have adopted to abolish religion. It is not merely the Catholic doctrine that is attacked—it is the Christian religion. The head and founder of it has been treated with a degree of irreverence, which in this country will pass for incredible. Bigots in politics may if they please, attempt to suppress the natural feelings of wonder, of disgust, of alarm for the consequences of this unheard-of profligacy of manners and principles, which considerate persons will deem more dangerous to the liberty and happiness of France, than the combined armies. A clergyman whom I do not know, but who bears the character of a man of sense and virtue, exhorts his congregation to beware of the contagion of these monstrous examples. What minister would not betray the cause of religion, of morals, of heaven and earth, if he suffered the threats, or the newspaper abuse of bigots and persecutors in politics, to deter him from the discharge of this obvious and urgent duty?

Yet a writer, who calls himself "no Pharisee," and who might as properly have subscribed to his jargon of illiberal abuse, *no Scribe*, has arraigned Mr. A. for preaching against the irreligious proceedings in France. What has he to do with France, says the Pharisee—What has he to do with vice and irreligion, is the real question—He has to do with them as a preacher of religion, to expose them to his hearers—he has a right, and is bound to enforce his exhortations by the examples of the Jews, or Romans, or French.

"No Pharisee" mistakes the time and place. Our churches are not yet to be shut up, nor the Bibles burnt. Our clergy are to be respected and beloved. The attempt of "no Pharisee," to libel a minister, and to suppress the freedom of the pulpit, is a proof of the progress that licentiousness and irreligion are making. I venture to predict, that when it shall become the general practice of America to vilify and persecute our clergy, there will not be left, Liberty, Law nor Religion.

NO CLERGYMAN.

## CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

Friday, May 2.

The following observations were made by Mr. Smith of Maryland, on the proposed tax, on snuff and manufactured tobacco:—The house in committee of the whole.

Mr. Smith considered the observations of the member who had just sat down, as amusing, and ingenious, but not satisfactory. To him, it seemed a very odd scheme to crush American manufactures in the bud. Men of capital and enterprise advanced large sums of money in erecting snuff mills. After long exertions, they began to reap the reward of their expenses and their labor. At that critical moment, the government fouses down upon them with an excise. In his opinion, the resolution before the committee comprehended very great injustice to the manufacturers of tobacco. He understood that a snuff mill required a capital of five thousand pounds to begin with. We are going to impose eight cents per pound on snuff, which was more than double the price of the raw material. Here Mr. Smith inferred, that it would be necessary for the snuff maker to possess an addition of double his present capital; so that instead of five thousand pounds, he must possess fifteen thousand, before he can support his present business. After paying so vast a duty, house rent, the wages of journeymen, and a multiplicity of other cash disbursements, he is to give credit to his customers for six, nine, or twelve months. There was another hardship—he must keep accounts of his sale. (The words of the report referred to by Mr. Smith, are as follows: "he shall enter in to bond, with sufficient security to render a faithful account every three months, of the quantity of tobacco or snuff sold or sent out, within that period. Previous to taking any tobacco, for the purpose of being manufactured, he shall notify the same to the office of inspection, and shall keep a book, in which shall be entered daily, the quantity of tobacco or snuff

fold or sent out in each day.") This regulation may often prove a very great hardship. It will require an extra clerk, at an expense of three, four, or five hundred dollars per annum. For the manufacturers of snuff, this might be practicable: but, at least in his part of the country. (Maryland) tobacco-spinners are poor, work themselves, and employ boys to sell, many of whom, cannot so much as read. How are they to keep accounts, or how are they to escape perjury, when you bid them do what they cannot possibly do? Besides, tobacco is frequently sold not by weight, but by the yard. It had been said, that this tax was not more exceptionable than the excise upon spirits. This comparison did not hold.

By the tax on distilleries, the agriculture of the United States was greatly promoted. Land that would not bear wheat, was, in consequence of that excise, and the encouragement, at the same time given to this manufacture, covered with crops of rye. Hence there was no just resemblance in the two cases. But if we are to excise every thing, Mr. Smith said that the committee might excise, as properly as tobacco, those strings of onions, that were sent from Connecticut all over the Union. They were the staple of that state, as tobacco was of Virginia, and were equally fit to produce a revenue. He expected that he should next hear of an excise upon nails. Protecting duties had been laid for the encouragement of that manufacture in America. Progress had consequently been made in the business; and now there was nothing wanting, but a smart excise duty, to knock it on the head, under the pretence of raising a revenue. Printed cottons, linen, paper, were also articles that we should no doubt saddle with a stamp duty, as had been the case in Britain, and thus crush that infant manufactory. In the case of the present tax, it would be said that the manufacturer must lay it on his customers. Yes. But will his customers advance him a capital double to what he had before? Besides the tax, he must have visits of excise men, which are in themselves, extremely troublesome.

In fine, he considered this as a dangerous precedent. It commenced a system of taxation on internal manufactures, which would intimidate men from adventuring their capitals in manufactories, subject to be saddled with excises, the moment they began to be profitable—or whenever they were enabled (as in the case of snuff) to exclude the foreign article. Tobacco and snuff were, good articles to begin with, for few, except the manufacturer would complain; he considered this, as the opening wedge, and should vote against the measure.

## Foreign Intelligence.

BRUSSELS, February 23.

We are assured, that the plan of the next campaign will totally differ from the last. It appears certain that the Prussian army considerably augmented and joined by the contingents of the Circles of the empire will be exclusively charged with the operations on the Rhine, and that the Austrian troops now there will join the army under Prince Saxe Cobourg. It is hoped, this latter mass will be sufficient to push with vigour our conquests in French Flanders and Picardie, and, at length, to give the last blow to the anarchy, which, at this moment, desolates one of the finest kingdoms in the world.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Sitting of March 6.

Goupilleau announced that Catalinieres, the intimate friend of Charette, had been seized at Nantes.

Proclamation of Tureau, General in Chief of the Army of the West.

Nantes, 28 Pluviose.

"CITIZENS,

"The time of deceiving is past. I promise you the naked truth, and it is as follows:

"The march of the columns ordered to traverse the Vendee country, has been the means of destroying 6000 rebels, who were scattered about, the retaking of a very important post in the interior of the country, and the capture of an immense quantity of baggage. The banditti who had the audacity to enter Chollett, by striking terror into the garrison, have bit the dust. They have been slain by a division detached from the army of the north, commanded by General Cordelier, whom I sent in pursuit of them.

"Another division, under General Duquenois, has put to flight the main body of Charatte's army, in the thicket, and killed eight or 900 of them. On the 26th Pluviose, General Cordelier put 15 or 1600 banditti to the bayonet, near Beaupreau, which has very much weakened La Roche Jaquelin's army.

Three hundred of the rebels have just been shot in the forest of Pince; and many other advantages have been gained by General Haxo.

"The trifling ill successes we have experienced, and which have been so much exaggerated, do not deserve notice.—There are still some numerous parties in Vendee, who are so much more dangerous, as they alone occupy the right bank of the Loire. My predecessor has allowed them too long a time to repose. We must yet make very strong efforts to terminate this war; but if the soldiers will only fight courageously, and the principal officers second my orders, if all the constituted authorities will join me, and if the patriots are not misled, I swear that all shall be well."

March 4.

Barrere proposed, that from the 10th instant, and during the war, every shoemaker shall be obliged, under a severe penalty, to furnish every day two pair of shoes, for defenders of the Republic, who, during the winter, had saved 50,000 pair of shoes by going bare-foot.

March 5.

A numerous deputation from the section of Marat entered the Hall, with drums beating, bringing with them large lumps of salt-petre on platters. Being come to the Bar, Monmorra said, that it was an offering from the section to the nation. After expressing very ardent wishes for the welfare of the Republic, and the overthrow of tyrants, he observed that the section of Marat possessed a salt-petre kind of morality, the source of which was inexhaustible, and whose expressions had very frequently served the cause of Liberty and tranquility. This remark was very loudly applauded, and the address was ordered to be inserted in the minutes.

LONDON, March 13.

From Paris, under date of the 7th inst. we learn, that the Brest fleet was to be ready to put to sea with the first fair wind after the 5th inst. On Saturday last, for the first time for two or three weeks past, the wind came to the eastward—the probability is, that the enemy would avail themselves of the opportunity, and are now at sea. The precise number of ships of the line composing the French fleet, we believe, is not at present clearly ascertained.

The manifesto of the king of Prussia has given the lie direct to all the insinuations, all the declarations, and all the assertions of the party writers, who have again and again positively affirmed, that the king of Prussia's concurrence in the general cause was not to be relied on, and that he would take the first opportunity of retiring from the confederation against France, when he could promote his private views of ambition and interest.

A Paris paper of the 6th inst. states, that the Brest fleet had hoisted signals for sailing on the 23d ult. and that one hundred vessels had arrived safe in Brest water. The Sans Culotte, the Geneveaux and Languedoc, three ships of the line, are fitting out, besides a number of frigates, all of which will be ready to put to sea before April.

The duke of Richmond intends immediately to make the Tower impregnable, as the rats have undermined that celebrated fortification, and rendered it in rather a tottering situation. His grace deserves much praise for his skill in fortifying it last winter, and having those breaches repaired, which were made by such mischievous vermin.

### COLONEL MACK.

The following short account of this Austrian officer, who is just arrived in London, will, we hope, be acceptable to our readers.

Col. Mack is a native of Wurzburg, and son of a tradesman of that place.—He began his military career as a common hussar in an Austrian regiment, but his uncommon talents for military drawing, his unwearied application to this art, and his extraordinary skill in laying down plans soon raised him from obscurity, and introduced him to the notice of Marshal Laudohn. His distinguished conduct at

the affair of Lissa still more ingratiated him with that great commander.

Field Marshal Laudohn had made all his disposition for crossing the Danube, and attacking that place. Mr. Mack, who had formed the plan of passing the river, as well as that attack, went the night before to the Marshal to receive his last orders; when this General informed him, that he had just received intelligence of the Turks having been reinforced at Lissa by a corps of 30,000 men, and that of course he had given up his project of an attack, as, after having passed the river, in case of meeting with any disaster, he should be at a loss how to effect his retreat. Mr. Mack did not credit the report of the reinforcement, but could not prevail on the Marshal to execute his intended attack. Mr. Mack left the General, crossed the Danube in a boat, accompanied by a single Hulan, and stole into the place, got certain information of the supposed reinforcement not having arrived, took a Turkish officer prisoner in the suburb, re-passed the Danube, and at 4 o'clock in the morning informed the Marshal of his expedition. On this report the Austrian army passed the river, and took Lissa, the whole garrison of which place, consisting of 6000 men, were made prisoners of war.

In the present war, Col. Mack, still attached to the Staff, has much contributed to the successes obtained at the beginning of the campaign, especially at the attack and capture of the camp of Farmars, for which he made all the necessary dispositions. In this affair he received a wound, the cure of which obliged him to repair to Brussels. He expected to be made Quarter-Master General of Prince Cobourg's army, but this place having fallen to the share of Prince Hohenlohe, his wound afforded him a pretext to retire to Vienna. Called there to the conferences held with respect to the plan of operations for the ensuing campaign, he has caused a system to be adopted totally different from that which has been pursued in the preceding campaigns. This he has laid at Brussels before the commanding Generals of the confederate troops, and he is to communicate the same to our government. We learn that every where it has met with the fullest approbation.

## PHILADELPHIA,

MAY 5.

A letter from a gentleman of respectability and information in Liverpool, dated March 3d, to his friend in this city, says—"That in his opinion, PEACE is an event which is not very remote.—The writer of this letter had been in Scotland and Ireland, and in the principal towns in England, and collected from all quarters that the current of the general sentiment would very shortly set irresistibly in favor of peace.

Says a Correspondent,

It is recommended to a certain assembly to establish some rule, if they have none already, and if they have to enforce it, for the suppression of impure and coarse allusions in public debate. Obscenity is not wit in private company; it is inexcusable in a great assembly.

If such instances have occurred in the hurry of speaking, the delicacy of sentiment which characterises the members, will suggest every reflection to prevent the repetition.

Extract of a letter from England, dated Feb. 17th, 1794, and received by the William Penn.

"The business of Congress is very important: I hope they will have wisdom given them from above, equal to the matters that may come before them. The President's conduct and speech are universally admired: you will meet with Fox's panegyric upon him in the debates in the house of Commons: he might have been called to order, had it not been for that saving exception, *his present Majesty*, or something similar—Genet's folly, though highly censurable, has done much good:—the dignity of the American government, and the cool, prudent firmness of the President, will give the United States a degree of importance in the eyes of Europe.—The prosecutions that have been carried on in Scotland against the friends of reform, and the severe sentences that have been passed upon several persons will only create uneasiness instead of causing them to subside: the measures of government will probably only add fuel to the fire, and occasion its bursting out with greater violence. I have no expectation of the war's ending while ministers can find money for carrying it on; but should the allies be no more successful than they have been hitherto, the dissatisfaction and difficulties will in all likelihood be so great that in two years more necessarily any force those at present at the helm to quit,