

as creator and governor of the world. A Turk, or Indian, believing this, may be a witness, and a Christian renouncing the belief of it, or through ignorance unacquainted with it, is utterly incapable of being sworn in our courts of justice. The ties of religion can have no effect upon a mind, in which no idea of religion can be found, and there can be no religion if you take away a belief in the existence of a God, because it is the foundation of all religion. Upon this ground, Lord Kenyon, the present Chief Justice of England, rejected a person as incompetent to give evidence, who knew nothing of the obligations of an oath, of a future state of rewards and punishments, had never learned his catechism, and had only heard there was a God, and that those who told lies would go to the gallows. A person discovering a disbelief of these principles, stands in the same predicament with one who is entirely ignorant of them, and consequently cannot be a witness.

If the obligation of an oath depend wholly upon the sense and belief of a Deity; that he abhors falsehood, and will punish perjury; and if oaths are necessary for the maintenance of peace and justice among men; it clearly follows that a belief in the existence of God, is necessary for the support of civil society. Every thing therefore that tends to unhinge our belief in this important principle, must be reprobated by all good men; because it tends to weaken the security of an oath. Lord Mansfield has asserted, what no person will venture to deny, "that no country can subsist a twelve-month in which an oath is not thought binding; for the want of it; he adds, must necessarily dissolve society." Whatever therefore relaxes the religious sentiment upon which an oath is founded, is injurious to society; because it lessens the restraint which the belief of that salutary principle imposes upon the human mind.

It is with perjury as with all other crimes, there are certain paths that lead to it; and tho' there are some persons who may never arrive at the commission of this horrid crime, yet there is reason to fear, by their practices and example, they may be the means of others falling into it. One deviation from moral rectitude necessarily leads to another. He who has robbed his neighbour, will not hesitate to deny it with a lie or an oath, if such denial may be the means of his acquittal. Drunkenness is often the foundation of quarrels, which not unfrequently end in murder or manslaughter.

The two vices that more immediately lead to perjury, are the infamous habits of lying, and swearing in common conversation. With respect to the person who has been accustomed to disregard truth in the ordinary occurrences of life, besides the pernicious example he sets to others, it is much more likely he should fall into the crime of perjury, than the man who is distinguished for strict veracity in his conversation. As to the impious vice of common swearing; to say the least of it—it is so absurd in itself, that nothing can possibly exceed the guilt, unless it be the folly of it. And were it not that it becomes criminal when viewed in its consequences upon civil society, would deserve to be mentioned only to be despised. It is indeed to be lamented that so many persons of rank, and good sense, among us are addicted to it.—They little think while they are invoking the vengeance of heaven upon themselves and others, and confirming the most trivial assertions with the awful name of the deity, that they are scattering firebrands, arrows, and death all around them. Man is an imitative animal; and the lower ranks are eternally copying the manners, and even the expressions of those they have been taught to look upon as their superiors in education and file of living. Tho' we are ready to admit, that persons of rank and sense who are guilty of this vice, if called upon to swear in a court, would scrupulously adhere to the truth, yet are they by the force of their example, doing infinite mischief by inducing others to treat with contempt the name of the deity, who perhaps may not be restrained from perjury by the advantages of a good education, and better reflection, which their superiors may have enjoyed. It is indeed a self evident proposition, that an habitual profanation of the name of God, by the familiar use of oaths and curses in common conversation, must very much tend to lessen that awe and reverence of the supreme being, which is one of the strongest guards against perjury; and consequently be in a high degree injurious to society. It is for this reason our laws have endeavoured to restrain common swearing, and have made it an offence punishable by a magistrate. Such however is the unfortunate predominance of custom, that the laws is seldom put in execution; and this in fact will be always the case, while men of influence in elevated stations, lead the way in the violation of the laws. Their example like a torrent, sweeps away all before it, and the law seems to be silently repealed, by the rank, the character and the number of the offenders.

Let the pretensions of a person to virtue be what they may, if he conducts himself in any manner injurious to his country, and forbidden by the laws, he is at best but a pretender to the character of a good citizen. His actions speak louder than his words, and mark him the decided enemy of social order and public happiness. "By their fruit you shall know them"—is not less true, when applied to detect the pretender in patriotism, than the hypocrite in religion. The man who by his immoral practices is constantly infringing the laws of order, and spreading confusion thro' the moral world, contributes his utmost efforts to involve every thing in anarchy and ruin; and whatever may be the language of his lips, with his vices he is stabbing his country to the heart.

I observed gentlemen, that some oaths are called promissory oaths; such are all oaths of office, and some others. This mode of exacting the performance of a trust, by the additional security of an oath, is universally practised by civilized nations; and tho' by our law the punishment of perjury cannot be inflicted for the violation of such engagement, yet may it be prosecuted as a *malfeasance*; and in the sight of God the guilt is equal to the case of perjury, where facts are misrepresented or concealed. In the eye of reason there can be no difference, between a person's swearing to a fact that never existed, and swearing that he will perform a particular act, and *willfully* omitting it; or swearing that he will not perform a particular act; and afterwards *deliberately* doing it. There are doubtless different degrees of malignity attending the crime of perjury, as well as all other crimes. Yet I cannot avoid remarking that perjury in the case of *sworn*

and detestable crime than even swearing to a direct falsehood, because it is accompanied with a perfidious breach of trust. In the case of marriage, for example, which is generally understood to be a contract, fortified with the solemnities of an oath, scarcely any guilt can exceed the violation of it. It is a cruel breach of trust, coupled with perjury; and tends directly to destroy the peace of families, and to tear up the very foundation of society. Contracts and oaths must have some meaning. But if the *inconvenience* of executing them, or mere *whim and pleasure*, be admitted as an excuse for the breach of them; then farewell gentlemen to all honour and honesty. If one of the parties be discharged, the other cannot remain bound. The consequence of both parties being released from obligations, whenever either party shall feel, or fancy he feels, an inconvenience from adhering to his contract, must be this—that every person will be at liberty to rescind his solemn compact whenever he pleases. A doctrine pregnant with the most horrid confusion, and the entire subversion of society.

The true criterion or standard of any action whatever is this—what would be the result to society, if every other person did the same thing. In this scale, man may weigh his actions, with the utmost nicety—by this rule he may measure the innocence or criminality of every step he takes in life. Suppose for example, all persons to abandon themselves to adulterous courses—or suppose an *universal and unrestrained* intercourse to take place between the sexes; in either of these cases, such an universal depravity of morals would ensue, as must utterly destroy society.

Every single act therefore, comprized in either of these supposed cases, must be unlawful. If one man has a right to be his own avenger, every other person must have the same right. But if all men were to execute their own revenge, deloliation, rapine and murder would quickly overpread the land. Every single act of revenge therefore, is utterly repugnant to social obligation.

From the consequences of any action being injurious to the public welfare, if *universally practised*, we infer, that every single action of the same kind or description is criminal. The rule will hold good when applied to lying, stealing, drunkenness, and every other vice. For if one man has a right to steal, to tell a lie, to get drunk, or to violate his solemn promises as often as he pleases, so has every other man. But if all men were to give into these practices, society must be annihilated; for it could not possibly exist, if it were entirely composed of such infamous wretches. In the one case there would be no such thing as property—in the other no truth, or dependence of one man upon the words of another, and in the third, viz. a society consisting of drunkards; universal wretchedness must be the inevitable consequence.

From these observations gent emen, we cannot but perceive the destructive tendency of vice, in its very nature; and how utterly incompatible it is, with the interests of society. It is at the same time agreeable to remark, the coincidence, the perfect harmony, between the precepts of heaven, and the necessary consequences of human actions.

The laws of God forbid the indulgence of our passions only in such cases, where their gratification would be injurious to ourselves, or our neighbours, and enjoin the performance of all those duties, that are calculated to improve the heart, or promote the welfare of others. The christian religion is in fact the *surest basis* of morality, and consequently of order and good government.

Of this heaven born religion it is the peculiar characteristic, that while obedience to its commands constitutes the highest felicity of the individual, the practice of its benevolent precepts, is at the same time, the firmest foundation of social happiness, and public prosperity. In the elegant language of holy writ, "her ways, are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace," even in this world. "Righteousness exalts a nation; (that is, makes it flourish,) but sin is a reproach to a people;" and by slow, but sure steps, under any form of government, inevitably leads to national misery and destruction.

PHILADELPHIA,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1796.

A letter dated yesterday at New-York, says, "A vessel just come up, reports an action off the Capes, and a ship was seen to sink—this is report only."

To the Citizens of Philadelphia and the Districts of the Northern and Southern Liberties.

FELLOW CITIZENS,
THE Inspectors of the Health-Office for the Port of Philadelphia, ever solicitous for the health of their Fellow-Citizens, as well as to quiet their apprehensions of danger from unfounded reports, conceive it their duty to lay before you their enquiries and information, relative to the state of health of the city of Charleston, South Carolina. While we regret the late calamities they have experienced by fire, we rejoice in a belief that no contagious disease exists there at this time. Trusting in Divine Providence to ward off impending evils, we submit the following communications to you, for your information thereon.

By directions of the board of Health,
LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH, Chairman.

Aug. 30th, 1796. Health-Office, Aug. 25th, 1796.

SIR,
THE Inspectors of the Health Office have reason to apprehend that a dangerous Fever now rages at the Port of Charleston, in S. Carolina; they therefore recommend that strict attention be paid to the examination of all vessels coming from that Port, and if any grounds of suspicion should arise in your mind of Infection on board, that they be detained under quarantine until the consulting Physician attend, or other investigation be had on the subject.

With great esteem, I remain
Your Humble Servant,
LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH,
Chairman.

Doct. James Mease, Resident Physician, Health Office, State Island.

State Island, Aug. 30th, 1796.
GENTLEMEN,
I enclose you the certificate of a number of medical men of Charleston of the first respectability, respecting the non-existence of any contagious fever in that port; it was given to me by Mr. Neufville, who obtained it from an apprehension that the Certificate of a similar nature published by

Philadelphia. I am of opinion with them that the disease said to prevail is not contagious, but it is nevertheless a fact that the sailors are more than commonly indisposed: this Mr. Neufville has assured me of as well as Captain Strong, but they both affirm, that those who are intemperate and expose themselves to the night air, or to the rain, are the chief victims to disease. As it therefore may happen that some may arrive sick, I think the order to visit the vessels highly proper, until the season commences when we may no longer dread the arrival of any sick persons.

I remain with great esteem,
Your humble servant,
JAMES MEASE,
Resident Physician.
Inspectors of the Health-Office Philadelphia.

Charleston, August 16th, 1796.
IN consequence of an application from Edward Neufville, Esq. who intends being a passenger on board the brig Packet, Captain Strong, bound to Philadelphia, now ready to sail, we certify that in our opinions (being members of the medical society) the disease usual in the present season of the year are neither more common or more mortal, than they have been for several of the preceding years; that in our opinion there does not exist in Charleston any contagious malignant fever known to us, in proof of which we observe that no medical person or other attendant on the sick, has caught any disease on the discharge of their respective functions; nor do we know of any case on which there is ground to believe or even to suspect that a fever has been communicated from one person to another.

(Signed)
TUCKER HARRIS, President,
DANIEL RAMSAY, Vice-President.
SAMUEL WILSON,
JAMES MOULTREY, Port-Physician.
ISAAC CHANDLER,
E. POSETT.

Charleston, August 8, 1796.
SIR,
YOUR favors of the 8th and 29th of July last I received yesterday, enclosing draughts on the bank of deposit and discount of this city to the amount of five thousand dollars, and immediately communicated their contents to the City Council; I am directed (and it is with pleasure I undertake it) to return their thanks to you and their fellow-citizens of Philadelphia, for their generous subscription in behalf of the sufferers by the late dreadful fire among us. We shall endeavour to dispose of the monies received as may best answer the benevolent designs of the donors—And we pray the Almighty to avert such direful calamities from your city.

I have the honor to be,
Respectfully, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JOHN EDWARDS,
Intendant of the City of Charleston.
JOHN BARCLAY, Esq. Philadelphia.

GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE LIST.

PHILADELPHIA, September 3.
ARRIVED.
Port-au-Prince
CLEARED.
Sloop Harriot, Randolph, St. Johns, (N. B.)
Phoenix, Lincoln, Bolton
Betley, Pope, Hispaniola
do.
Brig Delaware, Dunphy,
The ship India, Ahead, of this port, to Calcutta, was spoken on the 30th June, lat. 30, N. long. 32, W. out 26 days, all well.
Yesterday arrived the ship Little Mary, in 52 days from St. Ubes. Saw three ships of war near the capes, on Friday last.
Aug. 18. lat. 30, 37, long. 72, Capt. Benners, of the ship Little Mary, spoke the Snow Sally, Webb, 4 months from Batavia to Salem. Capt. B. supplied Capt. Webb with provisions, being short of necessaries. Aug. 39, lat. 32, 7, long. 73, saw three sail of men of war—two of which were ships of the line, steering E. by S. Left at St. Ubes, the brig Sally, Wilkey, of Philadelphia.
The ship Ontario is arrived at Liverpool from New-York.

Arrived at the Fort, the brig Peggy, Kilby, 15 days from St. Thomas; left there the brig Georgia Packet, M'Keever, Philadelphia; schrs. Little Will, Stevenson; Hetty, Mason, Dauphine, Morse Philadelphia; brig William and George, Benton, Connecticut; ship Butler, Jones, Portland; schr. Sea flower, Hilly, Portland, Sloop Ceres, Turner, Warren, to sail for Baltimore in 6 days.—Also the Schooner Mellona, Burnett, Philadelphia.

On Saturday last, captain Kilby, of the brig Peggy, in lat. 36, 10 long. 74, 35, at 6 A. M. saw three sail of large men of war, one of which gave him chase 10 hours, but could not come up with him. Next morning at day light fame day three ships appeared to the Westward, and one capt. Kilby supposed to be a frigate to the East North East, which altered her course several times, but at last bore away, about north east, at 6 P. M. Sunday evening, he heard a number of single gun shots to the Eastward, and at length repeated broadsides, which continued 15 or 20 minutes—the reports ended with single guns. The whole continuance of firing was about 20 or 30 minutes.

NEW-YORK, September 2.
The following Remarks were handed by Capt. Atkinson, of the ship Charlotte, arrived here yesterday in 70 days from Amsterdam.
June 28, Captain Atkinson was boarded by the English frigate Andromache, from Norway to the North of England, with a fleet of 50 sail of merchantmen under her convoy, and a sloop of war, in lat. 47, 3, long. 2, 15.
July 6, lat. 48, 26, long. 2, 31, spoke the ship Cumberland, Bartlett, of Bolton, from Copenhagen, to Bolton, Andrew Scott, master, 9 days out, all well.
July 7, was boarded by the Asp, an English cruising frigate, of 38 guns; the officer broke up the ships lower deck hatches, could find nothing, overhauled the papers, and permitted capt. A. to proceed on.
Aug. 28, spoke the brig Geo. Washington

phia, bound to Bourdeaux, 4 days out, in a leaky condition.

The brig Revival, Hudson, of New-York, parted her cables in the Texel road, in a severe gale of wind, and was stranded on the Texel Island.

The brig Eliza, Foster, belonging to Boston, from Helveotflays, past captain Atkinson in the Texel, going up to Amsterdam.

A List of the Ships left at Amsterdam and Texel, when Capt. Atkinson sailed.

Ships—New-York, Clark, New-York; Diana, Rossiter, do. Grace, Armour, do. Orlando, Lawton, do. Rising Sun, Davidson, do. Betsey, Moore, do. Bethia, Jones, Georgetown; Adolpho, Gates, Philadelphia; Alknouack, Derby, Portland; Elizabeth, Thurston, Providence, R. I. Indian Chief, Shaw, Newport; Linnæ and Jacob, Clapp, Boston; Brigs—Enterprise, Fitzpatrick, New-York; Rebecca, Brown, do. Pennsylvania, Moody, Philadelphia; Amsterdam, Scott, Charleston; Snow Pattern, Bool, do.

The Ship Fame, Capt. Havens, of New-York, arrived at Petersburg, just before Capt. Macey, of the Mary, sailed.

A number of vessels, for different ports in America sailed from Petersburg in company with Capt. Macey, names not recollected.

The MAIL for the British Packet will close on Wednesday evening next, the 7th inst. at 6 o'clock.
Thomas Mackenness, Agent.

Sept. 2.
Arrived at this Port.
Ship Charlotte, Atkinson, Amsterdam
Eliza, —, Isle of May
Brig Aurora, Coffin, Portsmouth N. H.

*BITE THE BITER:
This is the distempered ship Eliza, mentioned to have arrived at the hook; she was a prize to the Thetis British frigate, taken on her passage from the Isle of May, commanded by capt. Husley; an American ship (built at Charleston) cargo belonging wholly to the captain of Nantucket. She was taken off Virginia by the British frigate Thetis, Capt. COCHRAN, and sent for Halifax, to be adjudicated agreeably to Treaties, with a prize master and crew from on board the Prevoyante, capt. Husley, remaining on board but having been dismasted in a gale, put into the hook to rest—AND, under the influence of some fatality or other, she sailed up to town last evening! It is said, the captain having been obliged to come on shore, went down yesterday morning, in company with about a dozen TANKERS, and took possession of her, AS HIS OWN PROPERTY.—There is a millipman (Lord Cochran, nephew to capt Cochran) on board and the trick at the whig clubs, is called BITE THE BITER!
[New-York Argus.]

BALTIMORE, September 1.
Yesterday arrived at the Fort, the Sch'r. Polly, capt. Fisher, in 12 days from Fort Dauphin.
On Monday, the 24th ult. capt. Fisher fell in with three French frigates, which he says, were commanded by capt. Barney; that he failed in company with them (but did not speak them) till Friday evening last, when he lost sight of them, in latitude 23 longitude 73, bearing E. by S. from Cape Henry—That the next morning (Saturday) Captain Fisher saw seven sail of British vessels, viz. one 74, one 64, one sloop of war, one corvette, and three frigates, which had just come out of the Capes, and steered E. by S. that he supposed Capt. Barney, to be about 10 leagues ahead of them—capt. F. says, the British vessels had a tender a considerable distance before them, which he saw tack about and give a signal that he had discovered something ahead—Capt. Barney was in 13 fathom water.

PORT of BALTIMORE, Arrived, August 31.
Ship Dauphin, Rich, St. Croix
Hope, Coward, Port-au-Prince
Brig Two Sisters, Hubbert, Berbice

RAYNER TAYLOR, MUSIC PROFESSOR,

No. 96, NORTH-SIXTH STREET.
RESPECTFULLY informs his Scholars, that he has re-commenced his attendance after the summer vacation; and as usual, teaches Ladies Singing, and the Piano Forte.
Sept. 3. '96.

For Sale,
A new Printing Press,
PRICE NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS, CASH.—Enquire of the Printer.
Sept. 3. edgt.

No. 142.
District of Pennsylvania to wit

BE it remembered that on the nineteenth day of July in the twenty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America Thomas Dobson of the said district hath deposited in this office the title of a Book the right whereof he claims as proprietor in the words following to wit
"Considerations on the doctrine of Phlogiston and the decomposition of Water—By Joseph Priestley, L. L. D. F. R. S. &c. &c."
"Qualem commendat etiam aequè etiam affice."
"Horace."

in conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States intitled "An Act for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of Maps Charts and Books to the authors and proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned."
Samuel Caldwell, Clk. Dist. Pennsylv.

Mr. FRANCIS, (Of the New Theatre)

TAKES this opportunity of returning thanks to his scholars and to the public. Mr. Francis intends, on his return from Maryland, to open a public academy for dancing, upon a plan entirely new. He flatters himself that his attention to his pupils hitherto renders any promises of conducting his future schemes on the most liberal and strict terms, of propriety, totally unnecessary.
N. B. Private tuition as usual.
June 3 JAW

LANDING,
From on board the ship STAR, Capt. Vanneman,
About 150,000 bottles,
From Bristol—For Sale by