

And be it further enacted, That the benefit of clergy shall not be used or allowed, upon conviction of any crime, for which, by any statute of the United States, the punishment is or shall be declared to be death.

And be it further enacted, That no person or persons shall be prosecuted, tried or punished for treason or other capital offence aforesaid, wilful murder or forgery excepted, unless the indictment for the same shall be found by a grand jury, within three years next after the treason or capital offence aforesaid shall be done or committed; nor shall any person be prosecuted, tried or punished for any offence not capital, nor for any fine or forfeiture under any penal statute, unless the indictment or information for the same shall be found or instituted within two years from the time of committing the offence, or incurring the fine or forfeiture aforesaid: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall extend to any person or persons fleeing from justice.

And be it further enacted, That the manner of inflicting the punishment of death, shall be by hanging the person convicted by the neck until dead.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, APRIL THE THIRTIETH 1790. GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

(TRUE COPY)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

THE TABLET.

No. CXIII.

"The advantage of study is often lost, by attending to too many points at once."

Mr. EDITOR,

I AM so well pleased with a letter lately sent me by an ingenious correspondent, that I wish it may be communicated to the public, as a number of the TABLET. It is on a subject of importance, and I hope the remarks of my friend will meet with approbation, as they appear to be founded in reason and propriety.

FOR THE TABLET.

"YOU probably know that I was admitted to the bar of our Courts in April 1781; and certainly know that for a considerable part of the time since, I have given my attention to philology, Belles Lettres and ancient history. Some part of the time has been spent in travelling, and this has been the most useful period of my life. You know from a multitude of observations, how many errors in opinion and deep-rooted prejudices grow up with the most vigorous genius, under the most advantageous system of book education; unless the person has an opportunity of travelling abroad. I frankly own this was my case; and I was two years abroad, before I could believe our States as wise, as prosperous, and as happy as my native State.

"I have finished my ramblings and set down in my profession, in a place as healthy as North America affords, on a public road, in a pleasant fertile country, where commerce is flourishing, manufactures begin to thrive, and the company is as good as I deserve. Here I have reflected upon the errors of my own education, and endeavored to devise a better plan; being myself confident that I might have gained all my present knowledge and learning in half the time, had my studies and travels been conducted by a man of experience and just ideas.

"I have found by experience what my tutors should have taught me, that the great error in our common method of instructing youth, is, that we permit them to read without an object; that is, without a specific particular object. We give them a book to read; and direct them generally to be masters of the subject. But the object, in this case, is so general, so indeterminate, as to make little or no impression upon the mind of the student. It is not particular enough to arrest his curiosity; or rather the indefinite view of the object renders it impossible for the attention to be fixed upon any particular point. The person who reads a volume of History, or Law, with this general view, loses three fourths of his labor.

"To read to advantage, the whole attention of a student should be called to one point at a time. Let him be directed for instance to enquire into the reformation in the sixteenth century, and at a future day, to inform his instructor, at what time this great event took place, and what were the particular political, commercial or other accidental circumstances which favored the progress of it; by what characters it was effected, and afterwards what were its consequences on the political state of Europe. Let him then be directed what authors to examine, and the more he consults, provided they are of reputation, the fairer chance he stands of finding and retaining the truth. The student then would fix his attention upon one object; the facts as they should arise to view would rest upon the mind and gradually form a connected story, and the prospect of reciting the facts to the instructor would impress them more deeply on the memory. Thus the student should take every important era, event or person by itself and enquire into the accounts which different writers have given of it; and not read a book in course, as is done for amusement, or by persons reviewing their studies.

"If I should ever open an office for students in Law, I could wish them to prepare for this liberal study, by a year or two year's preparation in the study of History. The common practice of keeping them two or three years writing on

parchment, I consider, as an imposition, unreasonable and useless. The forms of process may as well be learnt in six months, as in a longer time; and a student of law should be something more than a drudge. If students were previously acquainted with Greek and Latin, I should wish them to read Herodotus, Thucydides and Xenophon, in Greek, and Livy, Cæsar and Tacitus, in Latin. The best orators and poets among the ancients are read as classical books in our colleges and schools; but their historians, which I deem the most valuable, are mostly neglected. This is one of the modern errors of our public education. Indeed to imperfectly do most of our schools teach the ancient languages, that few of the students can read the Greek and Roman historians with ease and advantage. For this reason, I should direct them to take the best compilations of ancient history in English, and direct them to attend to such parts of it as illustrate the policy, manners, arts and literature of the wise and celebrated republics of antiquity; for as to wars, they are the dry bones of history, and a hungry man will hardly satisfy his appetite by picking them.

"In short I could wish that the studies of youth might be made to approach to practice. A student of history should read it, like the compiler; he should take a single point of history, and consult different authorities until he had made himself master of it. A student of Law should read it like an attorney; he should take one point and turn to his authorities for illustration, as if he were preparing a cause for trial. I have found this to be the only method in which I can read to advantage myself; and perhaps my experience may afford useful hints to others.

Your's sincerely, Z.

THE HUMANE HOWARD.

[The liberal and philanthropic are the denizens of all countries—and from all countries are intitled to the tribute of gratitude. The benevolent HOWARD—whose exertions in relieving the prisoner bound in the dungeon—ameliorating the condition of servitude—and pouring the wine and oil into the wounds made by disease, are as universally admired, as known—To his memory then are the following lines dedicated.]

ON HIS DEATH.

HOWARD, thy task is done, thy master calls, And summons thee from CHERSON'S distant walls. "Come, well-approved! My faithful servant come! No more a wand'ring, seek thy destin'd home. Long have I mark'd thee with o'er-ruled eye, And sent admiring angels from on high, To walk the paths of danger by thy side, From death to shield thee, and from snares to guide, My minister of good, I've sped thy way, And shot thro' dungeon-glooms a-leading ray, To loath, by thee, with kind unhop'd relief My creatures lost—and whelm'd in guilt and grief: I've led thee, ardent, on thro' wond'ring climes, To combat human woes, and human crimes, But 'tis enough—thy great commission's o'er, I prove thy faith, thy zeal, thy love no more. Nor droop, that far from country, kindred, friends, Thy life to duty long devoted, ends; What boots it where the high reward is giv'n. Or where the soul triumphant springs to Heav'n's" (Massachusetts Centinel.)

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

The proposition for assuming the State debts under consideration.

MR. BLAND, in reply to Mr. Moore, said—I am extremely sorry, Mr. Chairman, that another worthy colleague of mine has rendered it necessary for me to rise in this debate, as I had flattered myself that my sentiments had been clearly expressed and fully understood when I spoke on it the day before yesterday, and explained to another of my worthy colleagues yesterday; I hope, however, the house will indulge me for a few moments in a question of this importance, when I seem to be personally called upon to vindicate my own opinions, and in the peculiar predicament of differing from nine of my colleagues. I shall confine myself entirely to answering the objections of the gentleman who spoke last: he too has taken notice of what I said respecting the weight of wealth laying towards the sea coast of Virginia, and the weight of legislative influence to the westward; this he has not denied; but says that the articles of the treaty for the payment of British debts, contracted prior to the war, ought to have been complied with—that the honor of all America was concerned in the complying with that article—and that therefore the gentleman could not complain of the western influence in complying with the express desire of Congress, whose business it was to fulfil or see to the fulfilment of that treaty. Sir I agree with him so far—I do not complain that my country passed an act for the fulfilment of the treaty entered into by the general government; but, sir, I conceive that a treaty has two sides to it, and that the stipulations on both sides ought to be literally fulfilled. When a clause was introduced into that act to suspend the operation of it until the British government should fulfil it on their part, that the compliance might still go on when this was claimed as a justice due to them by the debtors to the British nation, who lay in the track of the armies, who inhabited that part of the country towards the sea coast, who had been deprived of their negroes contrary to treaty, and who were at the same time State creditors for supplies furnished the armies of the United States. I ask that gentleman whether this reasonable proposition for a suspension of the act, until Congress might have time to remonstrate with the British government for their relief, was not violently opposed by the western influence, who suffered none of these inconveniences, or but a very small degree or proportion of them? Sir, that gentleman was present, and his candor will, I am sure, answer this question in the affirmative.

The gentleman acknowledges that the greater part of the services of the war, and of the supplies, were drawn from the eastern division of that state; but that the western always held themselves in readiness when called on. In this I agree with him heartily. I know, sir, that there were no citizens in the United States better affected to the American cause than they were; but, sir, does this invalidate what I have said of the inequality of the burthens borne? I think not. The gentleman next mentions the certificate tax, which was laid for the purpose of redeeming the certificates for supplies, militia services, &c. and says, that as these certificates were to be paid in by the original holders, and those who were not original holders;

and as the state made in which the state could then pay the supplies, they were content to receive for them what they could get. Sir, I will give a short history of this business: I own I am sorry to mention it; as it affects, in some sort, the credit of the state to which I belong; but I believe it will not be found singular. These certificates were to be redeemed in the manner the worthy gentleman mentions, by calculation, in four, five or six years, I cannot exactly remember which; but having remained a long time previous to the act mentioned or unfolded, had fallen as low as 1/6 in the pound. This tax, in one or two years, appreciated them to three or four shillings. This appreciation was found too burdensome for those who were original holders; the tax was, as well as my memory serves, lessened; and when at last it was found that they were nearly extinguished or called in, they were made payable in the arrears of taxes due for several years back, and thus never rose, until the last arrears were paid in, to more than four shillings in the pound; and thus was the property of those who furnished the armies of the United States reimbursed them.

Sir, I speak feelingly on this subject: I was one of the sufferers, my constituents are almost all sufferers in this mode. Sir, what I say of myself, I wish not to be understood as influencing my conduct on this floor: I spurn the idea, if it should be entertained. On this floor I hope I always act on enlarged and general principles.

Sir, the gentleman has mentioned what I said of emigrations; and has asserted that, notwithstanding those emigrations, the number of inhabitants who were to pay taxes in Virginia, had increased since the war, which he says on a former occasion I admitted to be the case. I am sure, sir, I have seen no documents to confirm the gentleman's assertion, nor can I conceive that I ever assented to such an one (at the time the fixing on the seat of government was in contemplation, or at any other time) as it respected Virginia; but I verily believe the fact to be otherwise, unless the gentleman assures me of it from proper documents.

The gentleman says it is the interest of Kentucky and the Western Country to assume the debt: If this be the case, sir, I am much surprized that their representatives should be found arguing so strongly against what they assert to be the interest of their constituents. But, sir, it does not become me to point out to them their duty; I therefore leave them to act in the manner they think right, not doubting but they will in the end do the best for their constituents, as I think I am doing for mine, and for the union at large. I am so firmly persuaded of this, sir, that I am willing to risk what little reputation I may be possessed of as a politician on the event, and not knowing the sense of my constituents on so important a subject, I shall venture to support the opinions I have advanced, keeping my mind open to conviction, and yielding to clear and unequivocal arguments when they are produced, that will shew me that I am wrong.

I hope I have thus far exculpated myself from the charge which seemed to be aimed at me, of having advanced opinions unfounded and erroneous.

I shall only take notice of one observation, with which the gentleman concluded: That in all political questions he should be governed in his vote by the principles of justice. I hope he will charitably suppose I am under the same influence. But, sir, I will conclude that justice is due from Congress to the states, and to the citizens of the state: This can only be done by establishing credit on the broad and stable foundation of public faith to the creditors of the United States of every denomination.

Mr. SMITH (S. C.) The last gentleman (Mr. Moore) he said, had altogether mistaken the law of South-Carolina, he had noticed, and its operation: That law was intended to create a medium of circulation, by way of loan or mortgage; 100,000, were emitted for that purpose, all the specie of the country having been exported and the citizens greatly distressed for the want of a medium. Mr. Smith then read the preamble of the law and some of the clauses, to prove what he had said. Of the above sum not more than about 60,000, circulated in South-Carolina, the remainder having found its way into the neighbouring states.

The gentleman was equally misinformed, when he observed that the taxes levied in that state had not been applied to the discharge of its debts, but had been diverted into a different channel. Mr. Smith read a statement from the report of a committee of finance, to shew that taxes had been imposed from 1784 to 1789 to the amount of above 300,000 dollars, annually, for the express purpose of paying the interest on the debt contracted by the war; and that during that period upwards of a million and a half of dollars had been sunk of the principal of the debt, by sales of land &c. South-Carolina had therefore made as great exertions for the discharge of her debt, since the peace, as Virginia. With respect to the militia of Virginia having been paid in money greatly depreciated, had not the citizens of South-Carolina been likewise paid in the same manner? Had not some of the militia been also obliged to sell their indents at two shillings in the pound? How then could it be said, with any propriety, that the militia of Virginia were to be taxed to pay the debts of those of South-Carolina? Had not the latter been heavily taxed ever since the war? And would they not be crushed with further taxation, if the assumption was negatived? It has been said, by the gentleman from Georgia, that the southern states contributed more to the impost than the northern: Was not that a strong argument why the assumption would be favorable to those states? It was generally acknowledged that the continental debts were chiefly in the hands of persons dwelling to the northward of Potowmac; the greatest proportion of the state debts, on the contrary, was on the south of that river; if therefore the southern states paid the greatest part of the revenue, was it not for their advantage that the assumption should take place, by which means the state creditors would draw back, in payment of their interests, a proportion of that impost which otherwise would go altogether into the pockets of the continental creditors? It was undoubtedly an injury to the states which contributed most to the impost, to be drained of their resources to pay persons who resided in those states which contributed least. The objections to the various articles reported by the Secretary did not apply in this stage of the business: That report was calculated to satisfy the house that the state debts could be funded without resorting to direct taxation; it was in the power of the house, when the funds were under consideration, to reject those which should be found injurious, and to substitute others. He could not agree, however, in the remark that persons interested in a particular branch of trade or manufacture were to be believed in preference to the Secretary, who was disinterested; nor could he understand the inconsistency of the petition alluded to, which in one part set forth that the duty would be oppressive to them, and in another that it would produce nothing to the revenue. He believed that there was no possible object of revenue, against which the parties interested might not complain. As to the amendment from North-Carolina, the member from that state had himself declared that he would not undertake to say the convention meant to guard against the assumption, but that the words carried that meaning. This might be true, and yet the amendment could not apply, because the house had been told the assumption was never thought of in that state at the time the amendment was framed. It had been said, that as North-Carolina was against the assumption, it was a sufficient reason why it should not be agreed to: This was an extraordinary declaration, when it was remembered they had been told that South-Carolina being desirous of it was no reason why it should be adopted, and that the inclination of one state should not prevail with Congress. Surely, there was as much reason why it should be agreed to if one state was against it, as that it should be rejected because one state was against it. The Secretary, it had been said, seemed to think that a settlement was an event which would not certainly take place: The settlement with or without an assumption, would unquestionably be attended with difficulty; and the Secretary expressly remarks that there is no objection which can be made to a settlement after the assumption, which does not apply with equal force to any settlement prior to it.