

[—481—]  
**Gazette of the United States.**

PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 41, BROAD-STREET, NEAR THE EXCHANGE, NEW-YORK.

[No. 17, of Vol. II.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1790.

[WHOLE No. 121.]

THE TABLET.—No. CXXI.

*"Nature and truth are the same every where, and reason shows them every where alike."*

(Continuation of the arguments in support of the position, that the universal diffusion of literature will precede and prepare the way for the universal prevalence of religion.)

**B**UT when an object of such novelty and importance as the Christian religion was presented to minds enlarged by study, and habituated to an investigation of knowledge, the power even of a Roman Emperor, in repressing the enquiries of curiosity, in checking subsequent conviction, and restraining the progress of truth, proved as trifling and impotent, as the ridiculous attempts of Xerxes to chain the furies of the Hellespont.—Accordingly we find that early after the publication of christianity, it was embraced by all the civilized nations under the Roman dominions, which were principally inhabitants of Italy, Turkey in Europe, and some cities of ancient Greece in Asia. The nations in the Northern and Eastern parts of Europe, for ages after this lay buried in ignorance and idolatry. But in those civilized countries, religion was diffused with great rapidity and continued to flourish, as little corrupted as was possible in this imperfect state of human nature, till a division of empire took place, and Byzantium became the residence of the Emperors. The virulent disputes and animosities that rose from this division, as is ever the case, corrupted the purity of religion; and almost at the same instant, the Northern nations, rolling like a torrent upon the Western empire, spread the veil of ignorance over learning and civilization.

Here then we may observe that no sooner had literature vanished, than religion was forgotten, or corrupted with all the idolatrous ceremonies of pagan superstition. This points us to the obvious reason, why religion was sooner corrupted in the West than in East. Constantinople, like a veteran oak, had weathered the rude strokes of the Northern barbarians and of the Saracens, for several ages after the Western empire had been overwhelmed with their desolations. During this period, that city continued the seat of literature and religion; while in the West, both were lost in chaotic darkness, or blended with errors and absurdities. Thus corrupted and degenerated, religion was converted into an engine of state, and was propagated wherever it became the interest or inclination of Emperors and Bishops to extend their jurisdiction.

To pursue this mode of reasoning, and to corroborate it by facts, it may not be amiss to mention, that in the fifth century christianity was received in Germany and Ireland, in the sixth century it was introduced into France, and into the kingdom of the Heptarchy in England; Russia and Poland were converted about the end of the eighth century; and Hungary in the first year of the eleventh. Sweden was converted in the ninth century; relapsed again into idolatry, and its conversion was not completed till the close of the tenth. But what was this religion which was denominated christian? A system fraught with every species of absurdity, calculated to astonish the gazing croud, rather than to enlighten their understandings; to fetter the conscience and drain the purse, rather than to check the vices and reform the lives of its stupid votaries. A religion, in almost every instance, propagated by the sword, by marriage or consanguinity; confined at first to the courts of the great, who embraced it from motives of policy, and whose example was imitated by their devoted vassals, either through a veneration for their persons, or a dread of their vengeance. And mankind must forever have continued in this situation, groaning beneath the enormous load of ecclesiastical oppressions, had not learning and civilization first paved the way for their deliverance. When the mind begins to investigate the principles of a religion, those ceremonies that have no foundation in reason, and those doctrines that are not consonant to truth, will gradually lose their adherents. In this general ferment of examination, men may run into extremes, and disown the rational and obligatory parts of religion, because they find them blended with creeds that are capricious and useless. But as truth and nature are immutable, it may be presumed that the intrinsic excellence of the christian religion, will eventually be recognized and celebrated, by men who call themselves philosophers.

(To be continued.)

In No. 120 of the Tablet, 2d. par. 2d. line, for "duty" read *Deity*.

RATIFICATION.

PROVIDENCE, MAY 31, 1790.

**S**ATURDAY Night, at Eleven o'clock, an express arrived in Town from Newport, with the important Intelligence, that the CONVENTION OF THIS STATE had ratified the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The question, "Shall the Constitution be adopted, or not?" was taken on Saturday, about five o'clock, P. M.—when the affirmative was carried by a Majority of Two, thirty-four members voting for, and thirty-two against it.

This pleasing and most interesting Event was immediately announced here by the ringing of bells, and firing two federal salutes—one from the Artillery on federal hill—and another from the ship Warren Capt. Sheldon, lately arrived from India.

RATIFICATION of the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES, by the CONVENTION of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

**W**HE the Delegates of the people of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, duly elected and met in Convention, having maturely considered the Constitution for the United States of America, agreed to on the 17th day of September, in the year 1787, by the Convention then assembled at Philadelphia, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania (a copy whereof precedes these presents) and having also seriously and deliberately considered the present situation of this State, do declare and make known—

(Here is inserted the Bill of Rights, as proposed by the Convention at their Session at South-Kingstown.)

UNDER these impressions, and declaring that the rights aforesaid cannot be abridged or violated, and that the explanations aforesaid are consistent with the said Constitution, and in confidence that the amendments hereafter mentioned will receive an early and mature consideration, and speedily become a part thereof: We, the said Delegates, in the name and behalf of the People of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, do, by these presents, ASSENT TO and RATIFY the said Constitution. In full confidence, nevertheless, that until the said amendments shall be ratified, pursuant to the fifth article of the aforesaid Constitution, the militia of this State will not be continued in service out of this State for a longer term than six weeks, without the consent of the Legislature thereof; that the Congress will not make or alter any regulation in this State, respecting the times, places and manner, of holding elections for Senators or Representatives, unless the Legislature of this State shall neglect or refuse to make Laws or regulations for the purpose, or from any circumstance be incapable of making the same; and that in those cases such power will only be exercised until the Legislature of this State shall make provision in the premises; that the Congress will not lay direct taxes within this State, but when the monies arising from the impost, tonnage and excise, shall be insufficient for the public exigencies, nor until Congress shall first have made a requisition upon this State to assess, levy and pay, the amount of such requisition, made agreeably to the census fixed in the said Constitution, in such way and manner as the Legislature of this State shall judge best; and that Congress will not lay any capitation or poll tax.

DONE in Convention, at Newport, in the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

By order of the Convention,  
DANIEL OWEN, President.

Attest. DANIEL UPDIKE, Secretary.

**A**ND the Convention do, in the name and on behalf of the people of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, enjoin upon the Senators and Representative or Representatives, which may be elected to represent this State in Congress, to exert all their influence and use all reasonable means to obtain a ratification of the following amendments to the said Constitution, in the manner prescribed therein; and that Congress, in all laws to be passed in the mean time, will conform to the spirit of the said amendments as far as the Constitution will admit.

(Here are inserted the amendments recommended at the session, published in the Providence Gazette of March 13—also the following additional amendments, viz.)

1. That the several State-Legislatures shall have power to recall their federal Senators, and to appoint others in their stead.
2. That Congress shall not erect any Company of Merchants with exclusive advantages of commerce.
3. That Congress shall have the power of establishing an uniform rule of inhabitation, or settlement of the poor, throughout the United States.
4. That whenever two members of either House shall on any question call for the yeas and nays, the same shall be entered on the journals of the respective Houses.

The Convention likewise passed the following RESOLVES, *namine contradicente*.

1. That the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, agreed to by Congress in March, 1789, except the second of said amendments, be recommended to the Legislature of this State for their ratification, pursuant to the fifth article of said Constitution.
2. That the thanks of the Convention be presented to the President, for the candor and impartiality with which he hath discharged the office of President.
3. That the thanks of the Convention be presented to the Reverend Clergy who have officiated at this Convention.

DONE in Convention, at Newport, in the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

By order of Convention,  
DANIEL OWEN, President.

Attest. DANIEL UPDIKE, Secretary.

Yesterday Evening the Delegates for this Town arrived from Newport, and on their landing were welcomed by a Discharge of Thirteen Cannon.—Some further Demonstrations of Joy are expected to take place.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1790.

DEBATE ON TONNAGE CONTINUED.

Mr. MADISON's motion for a discrimination, in the following words under consideration, viz.

"**T**HAT from and after the day of next the tonnage of all such vessels be raised to \_\_\_\_\_, and from and after the day of next, no such vessels be permitted to export from the United States any manufactured article the growth or produce thereof."

Mr. Fitzsimons said he very much doubted the policy of adopting this proposition; he thought it an experiment of two bold a complexion, considering the recent establishment of the govern-

ment and the present situation of the commerce of this country; he thought we were not prepared to hazard the consequences which may result from the operation of a system which would grow out of so great a change in our commercial affairs.—Its present operation would only be to raise the price of imports.

Mr. Lawrence said that he was apprehensive that the articles of produce would lay upon our hands, if this measure should be adopted, which would be an injury to us. The calculations upon the effect of its being a beneficial proceeding may be mistaken calculations. The manufactures of Great-Britain, and their manners are in some degree congenial to our own, and although we have not all the privileges that could be desired, yet we find our connections increasing with that country. He was of opinion, therefore, that the motion might prove disadvantageous; neither could he see any immediate necessity for its adoption.

Mr. Hartley observed that if the question was now put, he should vote for the discrimination. It may be doubtful whether the first rate of tonnage, as reported by the select committee, is not too high; but this may be corrected in the house. In private life, said he, the man who shews himself my friend, I should affectionately regard. The man who treats me with esteem, I would wish to make a proper return to; but the man who is vindictive, and strives to ruin my interest and my property, I would endeavor to counteract or oppose by measures which might defeat his purpose. The same principles or conduct may, perhaps, be fairly applied to nations. I can say for myself, I feel no enmity toward Great Britain, so long as she treats this country with the justice and respect due to a nation; but she seems indirectly, nay, I might almost say directly by her policy and regulations, to attack our ship-building, navigation and commerce, and wishes to injure our interests and our property.

We have a right to oppose her by counter regulations, or by a system which may induce her to examine the subject, to correct her errors and do us justice.

Past injuries may be forgiven; I will agree that those of the war shall be in dust. But when I agree that the injuries of one nation shall be in dust, I must also observe, that our friendship for another nation, who served and relieved us in distress, should be in marble.

At the last session it was said that Britain was disposed to do us justice, and relax from some of the policy she had practiced. We were desirous to wait, and all should be well; We waited, but at this session we cannot learn from any authentic documents that she has flinched in the smallest degree.

Since the adoption of the New Constitution and formation of this government, Great-Britain has experienced many advantages; she has gained much by the sweets of commerce. This government has shewn the fullest disposition to comply with the spirit of the treaty. We have established tribunals of justice, in which British subjects may recover satisfaction for any demands they may have against the individuals of these States; without the smallest danger of partiality or injustice. What has she done in return? She has been civil in some instances, for which we give her credit: for her friendship or justice, we cannot say so much.

The attack upon our commerce has been spoken of before. Why has she not given up those posts? She still retains the posts which by solemn treaty she was bound to deliver up; and to the want of those posts may we in a great measure impute the deprivations and murders of the savages upon the inhabitants of the western frontiers. I do not say that the British countenance or support those invaders; but, were the posts in our hands, a great check might be given to such enormities.

It has been observed that we risk much by adopting the resolution; a commercial warfare might turn out ruinous to America. If our risk is great, that of Great-Britain will be greater; she has immense capitals in this trade; we import many of her luxuries; we are chiefly clothed in her manufactures, and I think it will be difficult, if not almost impossible, for her merchants to change those capitals into other channels, which would be equally productive. I say, as at present informed, I shall vote for the resolution.

Mr. Sedgwick said he was induced to believe this a measure of very great impropriety, and one that would prove injurious to the interest of the United States. He could not tell for what purpose, or what was the object of this discrimination. Who are concerned in the carrying trade? We are declaring against one country, in favor of another: for what purpose? Do gentlemen expect that France will aid our carrying trade? He believed not. It is a useless declaration, an impotent measure of passion, said Mr. Sedgwick, not dictated by the understanding; and supposing the effect intended should not be produced, the consequence would probably be advantageous to Massachusetts, but very injurious to Georgia.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) thought it highly impolitic to enter into a commercial warfare with Great-Britain. We ought not to condemn her for following her usual policy in her navigation laws; they are not particularly aimed at us; her navigation act was originally aimed at the Dutch. We have not heard of any alteration particularly against this country, and therefore we have no room for being displeas'd. Whenever she finds her advantage, she will propose a commercial treaty, perhaps now, at the present time, it may be contemplating. The parliament rose in August last; a new parliament may act differently, and it will be more becoming in us to wait for some little time, than precipitate this measure. This country has been so disjointed since the peace, that we could not form any treaty with advantage; and even now this government is but little more than a year old.

With respect to the advantage Great-Britain reaps from her trade with this country, which advantages she will lose by the adoption of this measure, we shall also be injured. The effect may be more alarming than is now apprehended, and may bring about a revolution in one year.

Great-Britain is a more compact country, and has a more stable and permanent administration; but we change our administration every two or three years: this gives them a decided advantage, and they might cripple our commerce exceedingly from one Congress to another.

The gentleman from Virginia has said that we have it in our power to starve the West-Indies; but he thought this an idea altogether repugnant to the feelings of Americans; they would prefer a surreptitious trade to such a principle.

Some articles from America pay no duty in England, which pay duty from other countries; we have, therefore, some indulgences there which are not allowed us in France.

Mr. Smith concluded by observing that we should not resent the policy of Great-Britain's supporting her own navigation laws, from which he read some passages, and then declared his opinion, that if the proposition under consideration should be carried in the house, it would prove very injurious to the interests of this country.

Mr. Madison replied to the several arguments against his motion. A gentleman said he (Mr. Sedgwick) had called it "a measure of passion." He observed that it had neither been dictated by pas-