

Gazette of the United States.

A NATIONAL PAPER, PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 60, HIGH-STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

[No. 31, of Vol. IV.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1792.

[Whole No. 353.]

Grand Family Bible.

PROPOSALS
FOR PRINTING BY SUBSCRIPTION,
An ELEGANT EDITION of the
SACRED SCRIPTURES
Of the OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS, with the
ATOCRYPHA,
On a very large and beautiful new Type, and superfine
Paper.

THE great importance of the Holy Scriptures, interesting to every individual; the divine excellence of its doctrines and precepts, and the beauty and sublimity of its passages, have for long made it a capital object of attention, as to preclude occasion or opportunity for eulogium.

The piety or enterprize of individuals has presented this invaluable book to the public in a variety of forms; in some editions it has been highly embellished with superb engravings, which have greatly enhanced its price; in others it has been accompanied with voluminous commentaries, which necessarily encreased the size; while a variety of plain cheap copies have generally diffused the knowledge of the Scripture, and made the purchase easy to every class.

Without wishing in the smallest degree to lessen the merits of the various editions, whether plain or ornamented, which the public are already in possession of, it is pertinent to remark, that very many readers of taste and judgment have expressed a wish for a Family Bible unencumbered with additions. There still appears room for another edition on a beautiful new type, superior in size and elegance to any bible that has yet been printed in the English language, and which, leaving the adventitious circumstances of ornament or comment, may exhibit the *Oracles of God* in their native simplicity.

SPECIMEN OF THE TYPE.

3 ¶ And God said,
Let there be light: and
there was light.

With respectful submission to the judgment and candour of the public, the following proposals are offered:

I. The work shall be printed with the greatest fidelity and attention to correctness both in the text and marginal references, on a superfine Paper made on purpose, with an elegant new Type cast for the work of the size of the above Specimen.

II. The work will be comprised in two elegant volumes in Folio; to be furnished to subscribers at one dollar each number. To prevent any complaints of want of punctuality, no part of the work will be delivered unless paid for.

III. The first number, containing sixty folio pages, elegantly printed, will be furnished on the first Saturday of July next, when subscribers are to pay the price of the first and second numbers, and the price of one number to be always in advance till the work is completed. The subsequent numbers to be published regularly on the first Saturday of each succeeding month, till the whole is finished.

Subscriptions will be received in Philadelphia by the Publishers, THOMAS DONSON, No. 41, South Second-street, and JOHN PARKER, No. 259, North Second-street; and by all the Bookfellers: in Charleston, by William P. Young; Richmond, by Archibald Currie; Baltimore, by James Rice; Wilmington, by Peter Brynberg; New-York, by Thomas Allen; New-Haven, by Isaac Beers; Providence, (R. I.) by William Wilkinson; Salem, by Thomas Cushing; Boston, by David West, Benjamin Guild, and Thomas & Andrews.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES

MUCH declamation has been indulged against certain characters, who are charged with advocating the pernicious doctrine that "public debts are public blessings," and with being friends to a perpetuation of the public debt of the country. Among these characters, if the Secretary of the Treasury has not been named, he has been pretty plainly alluded to. It is proper to examine what foundation there is for those charges.

That officer, it is very certain explicitly maintained, that the funding of the existing debt of the United States would render it a national blessing.—And a man has only to travel through the United States, with his eyes open, and to observe the invigoration of industry in every branch, to be convinced, that the position was well founded.—But whether right or wrong, it is quite a different thing from maintaining, as a general proposition, that a public debt is a public blessing.—Particular and casual exigencies of the country— or the contracting of an additional debt, by loans, to provide for those exigencies.

It is known, that prior to the revolution, a great part of the circulation of the country was carried on by paper money; that in consequence of the events of the revolution, that resource was, in a great measure, destroyed, by being discredited, and that the same events had destroyed a large proportion of the monied and mercantile capital of the country, and of personal property generally. It was natural to think, that the chasm created by these circumstances required to be supplied; and a just the-

ory was sufficient to demonstrate, that a funded debt would answer the end.

To infer, that it would have such an effect was no more to maintain the general doctrine of "public debts being public benefits," than the saying, that paper emissions, by the authority of government, were useful in the early periods of the country, was the maintaining, that they would be useful in all the future stages of its progress.

But to put the matter out of all doubt, and to shew how destitute of candor the insinuations against the Secretary of the Treasury, on this head, have been, I have extracted, and shall insert here some passages from three of his reports to the House of Representatives; by which it will be seen, that his conduct as well as his language have been in uniform opposition to the doctrine charged upon him. The length of these reports, it is probable have prevented many well disposed persons from being acquainted with their contents; and the presumption of which emboldens the calumniators of public characters and measures to make assertions, of the falshood of which, the mere perusal of official documents would convict them.

Extract from a report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject of a provision for the public debt, presented the 14th of Jan. 1790.

"Persuaded as the Secretary is, that the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing; yet he is so far from acceding to the position, in the latitude in which it is sometimes laid down, that 'public debts are public benefits,' a position inviting to prodigality, and liable to a dangerous abuse,—that he ardently wishes to see it incorporated, as a fundamental maxim, in the system of public credit of the United States, that the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment. This he regards as the true secret for rendering public credit immortal.—And he presumes that it is difficult to conceive a situation, in which there may not be an adherence to the maxim. At least he feels an unfeigned solicitude, that this may be attempted by the United States, and that they may commence their measures for the establishment of credit, with the observance of it."

Extract from a report of the Secretary of the Treasury on Manufactures, presented the 5th of December, 1791.

After using several arguments to illustrate the operation of a funded debt as capital, the Secretary concludes thus:—"There are respectable individuals, who, from a just aversion to an accumulation of public debt, are unwilling to concede to it any kind of utility, who can discern no good to alleviate the ill with which they suppose it pregnant; who cannot be persuaded, that it ought in any sense to be viewed as an increase of capital, lest it should be inferred, that the more debt the more capital, the greater the burthens the greater the blessings of the community."

"But it interests the public councils to estimate every object as it truly is, to appreciate how far the good in any measure is compensated by the ill, or the ill by the good, either of them is seldom unmixed."

"Neither will it follow, that an accumulation of debt is desirable, because a certain degree of it operates as capital. There may be a plethora in the political, as in the natural body; there may be a state of things in which any such artificial capital is unnecessary. The debt too may be swelled to such a size, as that the greatest part of it may cease to be useful as a capital, serving only to pamper the dissipation of idle and dissolute individuals; as that the sums required to pay the interest upon it may become oppressive, and beyond the means which a government can employ, consistently with its tranquility to raise them: as that the resources of taxation, to face the debt, may have been strained too far to admit of extensions adequate to exigencies, which regard the public safety."

"Where this critical point is, cannot be pronounced; but it is impossible to believe, that there is not such a point."

"And as the vicissitudes of nations beget a perpetual tendency to the accumulation of debt, there ought to be in every government a perpetual, anxious and unceasing effort to reduce that, which at any time exists, as fast as shall be practicable, consistently with integrity and good faith."

Extract from a report of the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to additional supplies for carrying on the Indian War, presented the 16th of March, 1792.

"The result of mature reflection is, in the mind of the Secretary, a strong conviction, that the last of the three expedients, which have been mentioned [that was the raising of the sum required by taxes] is to be preferred to either of the other two."

"Nothing can more interest the national credit and prosperity, than a constant and systematic attention to husband all the means previously possessed for extinguishing the present debt, and to avoid, as much as possible, the incurring of any new debt."

"Necessity alone therefore can justify the application of any of the public property, other than the annual revenues, to the current service, or the temporary and casual exigencies of the country— or the contracting of an additional debt, by loans, to provide for those exigencies."

"Great emergencies indeed might exist, in which loans would be indispensable. But the occasions which will justify them must be truly of that description."

"The present is not of such a nature; the sum to be provided is not of magnitude enough to furnish the plea of necessity."

"Taxes are never welcome to a community; they seldom fail to excite uneasy sensations more or less extensive.—Hence a too strong propensity, in the government of nations, to anticipate and mortgage the resources of posterity, rather than encounter the inconveniences of a present increase of taxes."

"But this policy, when not dictated by very peculiar circumstances, is of the worst kind—its obvious tendency is, by enhancing the permanent burthens of the people, to produce lasting distress, and its natural issue is in national bankruptcy."

"It will be happy, if the councils of this country, sanctioned by the voice of an enlightened community, shall be able to pursue a different course."

Here is example added to precept—in pursuit of a doctrine, the opposite of that which is charged upon him—the Secretary did not scruple to hazard the popularity of his administration with a class of citizens, who, as a class, have been among the firmest friends of the government, and the warmest approvers of the measures, which have restored public credit.—The circumstance indeed has been a weapon dexterously wielded against him by his enemies, who in consequence of the increase of duties proposed have represented him as the oppressor of trade. A certain description of men are for getting out of debt; yet are against all taxes for raising money to pay it off. They are amongst the foremost for carrying on war, and yet will have neither loans nor taxes.—They are alike opposed to what creates debt, and to what avoids it.

In the first case, their meaning is not difficult to be divined—in the last it would puzzle any man not endued with the gift of second sight to find it out—unless it be to quarrel with and pull down every man who will not consent to walk in their leading strings; or to throw all things into confusion. FACT.

Foreign Affairs.

P A R I S.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
June 18.

The President announced the following Letter from M. La Fayette to the National Assembly.

Entrenched Camp of Maubeuge, June 16, 1792, 4th Year of Liberty.

GENTLEMEN,

"AT the moment, too long delayed perhaps, at which I am going to call your attention to great public interests, and point out among our dangers the conduct of a ministry which my correspondence has long since accused, I am informed that unmasked by its divisions, it has sunk under its own intrigues; for, undoubtedly, it is not by sacrificing three colleagues, from their own insignificance the mere creatures of his power, that the least excusable, the most noted of these ministers, will have cemented in the King's council his equivocal and scandalous existence."

"It is not enough, however, that this branch of the government should be delivered from a baneful influence. The public weal is in danger: the fate of France depends chiefly on her representatives; of them the nation expects her salvation. But, when she gave herself a constitution, she prescribed to them the only course by which they can save her."

"Persuaded, gentlemen, that the Rights of Man are the law of every constituting assembly, a constitution once formed becomes the law of the legislators appointed under it, it is to yourselves that I am bound to denounce the too powerful efforts now making to carry you beyond the rule which you have promised to follow."

"Nothing shall hinder me from exercising this right of a freeman, from fulfilling this duty of a citizen; neither their momentary errors of opinion; for what are opinions when they deviate from principles? nor my respect for the representatives of the people; for I respect still more the people themselves, of whom the constitution is the will supreme; nor the favor you have constantly shewn to me; for that I wish to preserve as I obtained it, by an inflexible love of liberty."

"Your circumstances are difficult; France is menaced from without, and agitated within. While foreign courts announce the intolerable project of attacking our national sovereignty, and thus declare themselves the enemies of France, internal foes, intoxicated with fanaticism and pride, en-

tain chimerical hopes, and fatigue us still more with their insolent malignity.

"You ought, gentlemen, to suppress them, and you cannot have the power to do so, without being yourselves constitutional and just."

"You desire to be so without doubt, but cast your eyes on what passes in your own body, and all around you."

"Can you dissemble that a faction, and, to avoid vague denominations, that the Jacobine faction has occasioned all the disorders. It is that faction to which I loudly impute them. Organized like a separate empire in its metropolis and its affiliations, blindly directed by certain ambitious chiefs, this forms a distinct corporation in the midst of the French people, whose power it usurps by subjugating their representatives and their mandatories."

"It is there that, in public fittings, love of the laws is denominated aristocracy, and their infraction patriotism. There the assassins of Desfilles receive triumphs—the crimes of Jourdan find panegyrist—there also the recital of the assassination that stained the city of Metz, excited internal acclamations of joy."

"Can it be believed that they will escape reproaches by sheltering themselves under an Austrian manifesto, in which these sectaries are named? Are they become sacred because Leopold has pronounced their name? And because we have to fight with foreigners, who presume to meddle in our quarrels, are we released from the duty of delivering our country from domestic tyranny?"

"What import to this duty either the project of foreigners, or their connivance with counter revolutionists, or their influence on the lukewarm friends of liberty? It is I who denounce this sect; I who, without speaking of my past life, can answer to those who feign suspicions of me; 'approach in this critical moment, in which every man's character will soon be known, and let us see which of us, most inflexible in his principles, most firm in his resistance, will best brave the obstacles and the dangers which traitors wish to hide from their country, and which true citizens know how to calculate and encounter for her sake.'"

"And how should I longer delay to fulfil this duty, when every day weakens the constituted authorities, and substitutes the spirit of a party for the will of the people; when the audacity of agitators imposes silence on peaceable citizens, and supplants useful men; when devotion to a sect is made the substitute of all public and private virtues, what in a free country ought to be the austere and only means of arriving at the first functions of government?"

"It is after having opposed to all obstacles and all shares the courageous and persevering patriotism of an army, sacrificed perhaps to combinations against its leader, that I can now oppose to this faction, the correspondence of a ministry, the worthy production of its club—a correspondence of which all the calculations are false, the promises vain, the information fraudulent or frivolous, the councils perfidious or contradictory; where, after having pressed me to advance without precaution, and to attack without means, they began to tell me that resistance would soon be impossible, when my indignation repelled the dastardly assertion."

"What remarkable conformity of language, gentlemen, between those factious men who avow their aristocratic spirit, and those who usurp the name of patriots. Both wish to subvert our laws, rejoice in disorders, rise up against the authorities conferred by the people, detest the Na-