

Gazette of the United States.

A NATIONAL PAPER, PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 69, HIGH-STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

[No. 40, of Vol. IV.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1792.

[Whole No. 363.]

Grand Family Bible.

PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING BY SUBSCRIPTION, An ELEGANT EDITION of the SACRED SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS, with the APOCRYPHA, 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 so long made it a capital object of attention, as to preclude occasion or opportunity for eulogium.

The piety or enterprise 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 encroached 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 adventurous 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 twenty numbers, making 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 DOBSON, No. 41, South Second Street, and JOHN PARKER, No. 259, North Second Street; and by all the Booksellers; 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; Bolton, by David West, Benjamin Guild, and Thomas & Andrews.

The SUBSCRIBERS to the

Universal Fontine

Are informed, that a general meeting is to be held at the State-House in this city, on Saturday the 3d day of November next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. agreeably to the sixth article of their Association.

By order of the Agents,

EBENEZER HAZARD, Sec'y. Philadelphia, Sept. 15, 1792. (ept'3)

Universal Hymn Book.

To be Sold by THOMAS DOBSON, and other Booksellers in Philadelphia;

A Collection of PSALMS, HYMNS, and SPIRITUAL SONGS: selected from different Authors, and published by Order of the Convention holding the Doctrine of the Salvation of all Men, met in Philadelphia, May 25, 1791.

Price of a single book, bound, 9 8ths of a Dollar, with good allowance to those who take quantities. August 4, 1792. (ept.)

P L A N S

OF THE City of Washington,

Sold by the BOOKSELLERS,

DOBSON, CAREY, YOUNG, & CRUKSHANK.

The JOURNAL of the THIRD SESSION of the SENATE of the UNITED STATES, may be had of the Editor hereof.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

ATTEMPTS in different shapes have been made to repel the charges which have been brought against the Secretary of State. The defense of him however in the quarter in which he has been principally assailed, has hitherto gone no further than a mere shew of, defending him. I speak as to his improper connection with the Editor of the National Gazette. But a more serious and more plausible effort has been made to obviate the impression which arises from his having been originally an objector to the present constitution of the United States.

For this purpose several letters said to have been written by Mr. Jefferson, while in Europe, have been communicated. How far they are genuine letters, or mere fabrications, how far they may have been altered or mutilated is liable from the manner of their appearance to question and doubt. It is observable also, that the extract of a letter of the 6th July, contained in the American Daily Advertiser of the 10th inst. though it seems to be intended as part of the one which is mentioned in the debates of the Virginia convention, does not answer to the description given of it by Mr. Pendleton, who professes to have seen it. For Mr. Pendleton expressly states with regard to that letter, that Mr. Jefferson, after having declared his wish respecting the issue of the deliberations upon the constitution proceeds to *retract the amendments which he wishes to be secured*. The extract, which is published, speaks only of a bill of rights, as the essential amendment to be obtained by the rejection of four States—which by no means satisfies the latitude of Mr. Pendleton's expressions.

Such nevertheless, as it is, it affords an additional confirmation of that part of the American's statement, which represents Mr. Jefferson as having advised the people of Virginia to adopt or not upon a contingency.

It happens likewise that the letters which have been communicated tend to confirm the only parts of the American's statement of the sentiments and conduct of Mr. Jefferson, in relation to the constitution which remained to be supported; namely, that he was opposed to it in some of its most important features, and at first went so far as to discontinue its adoption. By this I understand without previous amendments.

From the first of those letters, dated "Paris the 20th December, 1787," it appears that Mr. Jefferson among other topics of objection, "disliked, and greatly disliked the abandonment of the principle of rotation in office, and most particularly in the case of President;" from which the inference is clear, that he would have withheld the principle of rotation to have extended not only to the executive, but to the other branches of the government, to the Senate at least, as is explained by a subsequent letter.—This objection goes to the structure of the government in a very important article; and while it justifies the assertion, that Mr. Jefferson was opposed to the constitution, in some of its most important features, it is a specimen of the visionary system of politics of its author. Had it been confined to the office of chief magistracy, it might have pretended not only to plausibility, but to a degree of weight and respectability. By being extended to other branches of the government, it assumes a different character, and evinces a mind prone to projects, which are incompatible with the principles of stable and systematic government; disposed to multiply the outworks, and leave the citadel weak and tottering.

But the fact not the merit of the objection is the material point. In this particular, it comes fully up to the suggestion which has been made.

It now only remains to see how far it is proved, that Mr. Jefferson at first discontinued the adoption of the constitution in its primitive form.

Of this a person acquainted with the manner of that gentleman, and with the force of terms, will find sufficient evidence in the following passage: "I do not pretend to decide, what would be the best method of procuring the establishment of the manifold good things in the constitution, and of getting rid of the bad: whether by adopting it in hopes of future amendment; or after it has been duly weighed and canvassed by the people; after seeing the parts they generally dislike, and those they generally approve to say to them; 'we see now what you wish—end together your deputies again—let them frame a constitution for you; omitting what you have condemned, and establishing the powers you approve.'"

Mr. Jefferson did not explicitly decide which of these two modes was best; and while it is clear, that he had not determined in favor of an adoption without previous amendments, it is not difficult to infer from the terms of expression employed, that he preferred the last of the two modes; a recurrence to a second convention. The faintness of the phrase "in hopes of future amendment," and the emphatical method of displaying the alternative are sufficient indications of the preference he entertained.

The pains which he takes in the same letter to remove the alarm naturally inspired by the insurrection which had happened in Massachu-

setts, are an additional illustration of the same bias.—It is not easy to understand what other object his comments on that circumstance could have, but to obviate the anxiety which it was calculated to inspire, for an adoption of the constitution, without a previous experiment to amend it.

It is not possible to avoid remarking by the way, that these comments afford a curious, and characteristic sample of logic and calculation.—One rebellion in thirteen States, in the course of eleven years is but one for each State in a century and a half: while France, it seems had had three insurrections in three years. In the latter instance the subdivisions of the entire nation are confounded in one mass; in the former they are the ground of calculation.—And thus a miserable sophism is gravely made a basis of political consolation and conduct. For according to the data stated, it was as true that the United States had had one rebellion in eleven years, endangering their common safety and welfare, as that France had had three insurrections in three years.

Thus it appears from the very documents produced in explanation of Mr. Jefferson's, that he in fact discontinued in the first instance the adoption of the constitution, favoring the idea of an attempt at previous amendments by a second convention; which is the only part of the allegations of the American that remained to be established.

As to those letters of Mr. Jefferson, which are subsequent to his knowledge of the ratification of the constitution by the requisite number of States—they prove nothing, but that Mr. Jefferson was willing to play the politician.

They can at best only be received as acts of submission to the opinion of the majority, which he professes to believe infallible—resigning to it with all possible humility, not only his conduct, but his judgment.

It will be remarked, that there appears to have been no want of versatility in his opinions. They kept pace tolerably well with the progress of the business, and were quite as accommodating as circumstances seemed to require.—On the 31st July, 1788, when the adoption of the constitution was known, the various and weighty objections of March, 1787, had resolved themselves into the simple want of a bill of rights; in November following, on the strength of the authority of three States (over-ruled in that instance, the maxim of implicit deference for the opinion of a majority) that lately solitary defect acquires a companion, in a revival of the objection to the perpetual re-eligibility of the President. And another convention, which appeared no very alarming expedient, while the entire constitution was in jeopardy became an object to be deprecated, when partial amendments to an already established constitution were alone in question.

From the fluctuations of sentiment which appear in the letters that have been published, it is natural to infer, that had the whole of Mr. Jefferson's correspondence on the subject been given to the public, much greater diversities would have been discovered.

In the preface to the publication of the letters under consideration, the question is put, "wherein was the merit or offence of a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the constitution, and to whom rendered?"

It is a sufficient answer to this question, as it relates to the present discussion, to say, that the intimation which was given of Mr. Jefferson's dislike of the constitution, in the first instance, was evidently not intended as the imputation of a positive crime, but as one link in a chain of evidence tending to prove that the National Gazette was conducted under his auspices, and in conformity to his views.

After shewing that the Editor of that paper was in his pay, and had been taken into it some short time previous to the commencement of the publication, the inference resulting from the circumstance, of that paper being a political engine, in his hands, is endeavored to be corroborated, first by the suggestion that Mr. Jefferson had originally serious objections to the constitution; secondly by the further suggestion, that he has disapproved of most of the important measures adopted in the course of the administration of the government.

In this light, and with this special reference were those suggestions made; and certainly, as far as they are founded in fact, the argument they afford is fair and forcible. A correspondence of the principles and opinions of Mr. Jefferson, with the complexion of a paper, the conductor of which is in the regular pay of his department, is surely a strong confirmation of the conclusion—that the paper is conducted under his influence, and as easily to his views.

Nothing but a known opposition of sentiment on the part of Mr. Jefferson to the doctrines inculcated in the National Gazette, could obviate the inference deducible from his ascertained and very extraordinary connection with it. A coincidence of sentiments is a direct and irresistible confirmation of that inference.

An effort scarcely plausible has been made by another Aristides* to explain away the turpi-

* The total dissimilarity of style and manner, leaves no doubt that the writer of the first piece, signed "Aristides," is a different person from the writer of the last. The forces are well marshalled.

tude of the advice, which was given respecting the French debt. It is represented that a company of adventuring speculators had offered to purchase the debt at a discount, foreseeing the delay of payment, calculating the probable loss, and willing to encounter the hazard. The terms employed by Mr. Jefferson refute this species of apology. His words are, "If there is a danger of the public payments not being punctual, I submit whether it may not be better, that the discounts which would then arise, should be transferred from a *chart*, of whose good will we have so much need, to the *treasury of a private company*."

He plainly takes it for granted that discounts would arise, from the want of an adequate provision, and proposes that they should be transferred to the heads of individuals. This he could not have taken for granted, if in his conception, the purchasers had calculated on delay and loss.

The true construction then is, that the company expected to purchase at an under value, from the probability, that the court of France might be willing to raise a sum of money on this fund, at a sacrifice—supposing that the United States could contribute on their friendly influence might be less inclined to press the reimbursement; not that they calculated on material delay, or neglect, when the transfer should be made to them. They probably made a very different calculation, (to wit) that as it would be ruinous to the credit of the United States abroad, to neglect any part of its debt which was contracted there with individuals, from the impossibility of one part being distinguishable from another in the public apprehension; this consideration would stimulate to exertions to provide for it. And so it is evident from his own words that Mr. Jefferson understood it.

But the persons who offered to purchase, were *speculators*; the cry of speculation as usual is raised; and this with some people is the *panacea*, the universal cure for fraud and breach of faith.

It is true, as alleged, that Mr. Jefferson mentioned an alternative, the obtaining of money by new loans to reimburse the court of France; but this is not mentioned in any way that derogates from, or waxes the advice given in the first instance. He merely presents an alternative, in case the first idea should be disapproved.

It may be added that the advice respecting the transfer of the debt was little more honorable to the United States, as it regarded the court of France, than as it respected the Dutch company. What a blemish on our national character that a debt of so sacred a nature should have been transferred at so considerable a loss to so meritorious a creditor!

A still less plausible effort has been made to vindicate the National Gazette from the charge of being a paper devoted to the calumniating and depreciating the government of the United States. No original performance in defence of the government, or its measures, has, it is said, been refused by the Editor of that paper. A few publications of that tendency have appeared in it; principally if not wholly since the public detection of the situation of its conductor.

What a wretched apology! Because the partiality has not been so daring and unprecedented, as to extend to a refusal of original publications in defence of the government, a paper which industriously copies every inflammatory publication against it that appears in any part of the United States, and carefully avoids every answer which is given to them, even when specially handed to the Editor for the purpose, is not to be accounted a malicious and pernicious engine of detraction and calumny towards the government!!!

But happily here no proof nor argument is necessary. The true character and tendency of the paper may be left to the evidence of every reader's senses and feelings. And Aristides, as often as he looks over that paper, must blush, if he can blush, at the assertion, "that it has abounded since its commencement with publications in favor of the measures of the government."

Deception, however artfully veiled, seldom fails to betray some unsound part. Aristides assures us, that Mr. Jefferson "has actually refused in any instance to mark a single paragraph, which appeared in the foreign prints for republication in the National Gazette. On what ground was such an application to Mr. Jefferson made, if he was not considered as the patron of the paper? What printer would make a similar application to the head of any other department? I verily believe none.—And I consider the circumstance stated as a confirmation of the relation of PATRON and CLIENT, between the Secretary of State, and the Editor of the National Gazette.

The refusal, if it happened, is one of those little under plots, with which the most intriguing man in the United States is at no loss, to keep out of sight the main design of the drama. CATULLUS.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, OCTOBER 12, 1792. THE Medical Lectures will begin on Thursday, the first of November.