

From Peter Porcupine's Political Censor; Or, Monthly Review, for May.

The Christian Religion teaches men to forego their private interests for the sake of doing good, it is not therefore surprising, that deists and atheists should forego their private interests for the sake of doing mischief. Things opposite in their nature must be expected to be opposite in their effects.

The Editor of the *Aurora* of Philadelphia, (Mr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BACHE) has advertised for sale a second part of Paine's *Age of Reason* at a low price. It is said he has received fifteen thousand copies of this from Paris, and it is very certain that he sells them at a price which will hardly pay first cost and expenses. When I went to school, I remember we had for a copy: "Zeal in a good cause deserves applause." If this old maxim be a true one, I would ask what zeal in a bad cause deserves.

A person to whom the parties were well known, has assured me, that poor Paine imbibed his first principles of deism of Doctor Franklin; if so, it is possible that the Editor of the *Aurora* may look upon the distribution of *The Age of Reason* as a means of propagating his Grand Father's principles, and so far some persons will defend it, as an act of filial piety, or rather filial gratitude; for as to piety, I think we may venture to leave it out of the question.

This grateful young man should, however, recollect that a venter of poison will not be excused merely because the compound was kneaded up, or the receipt for it given, by his ancestor. Deism cannot be well said to run in the blood, or I should really be afraid, that the descendant of the illustrious old deist was contaminated. Charity bids me to hope the contrary, and to ascribe the excess of his zeal to the amiable motive abovementioned.

It is going too far, perhaps, to say that any loss on these blasphemous pamphlets is to fall on Mr. Bache. The French Republic has ever shown a sincere desire of regenerating us, and as she finds us obstinate in politics, she may be willing to try her hand in another way. The papers have told us lately, that Mad Tom takes up his lodgings at the house of the American Ambassador; if this second part of *The Age of Reason* should have come to us under his auspices, it is a fact of a curious nature indeed.

As to the work itself, it cannot be better described than by saying that it is as stupid and despicable as its author. The wretch has all his life been employed in leading fools astray from their duty, and, as nothing is more easy, he has often succeeded. His religion is exactly of a peace with his politics; one inculcates the right of revolting against government, and the other that of revolting against God. Having succeeded against the Lord's anointed, (I mean his and our co-eternal friend the most Christian king) he turned his impious arms against the Lord himself. This process is perfectly natural, as has been exemplified in the conduct of others, as well as that of Tom Paine.

How Tom came to think of exercising his clumsy battered pen upon the Christian Religion is what has excited a good deal of curiosity, without ever being well accounted for in this country; notwithstanding the circumstances under which a man writes ought to be attended to in forming a judgment of his opinions, particularly if those opinions are new and extraordinary. For this reason, I shall endeavor to trace this raggamuffin deist from America to his Paris dungeon, and to account for his having laid down the dagger of infurrection in order to take up the chalice of irreligion.

Thomas, after having retailed out a good deal of very Common Sense, commonly called Non Sense, found himself rather richer than when he began. This gave him a smack for revolutions; but finding himself sinking fast into his native mud, and pretty universally despised and neglected by the people of this country; finding, in short, that the Americans were returning to order, and feeling that his element was confusion, he crossed the Atlantic to bask in the rays of the French revolution.

The Propagande at Paris, that is, the society instituted for the propagation of the vile and detestable principles of the Rights of Man, as laid down in the famous French Constitution, fixed their Jacobinical eyes on Tom, as an excellent missionary for Great Britain and Ireland. Off goes Tom with his Rights of Man, which he had the abominable impudence to dedicate to George Washington. The English Jacobins stared at him at first: he went a step further than they had ever dreamed of—his doctrines, however, grew familiar to their ears; they took him under their wing, and he made sure of another revolution. This security was his misfortune, and had nearly cost him a voyage to the South Sea.

From the thief catchers in England Tom fled, and took his seat among the thieves of Paris. After having distinguished himself in execrating the Constitution he had written in defence of, he, and two or three others, set to work and made a new one; quite brand new, without a single ounce of old stuff. This covered Tom with glory soon after, when it was unanimously accepted by the rich, free, generous and humane French nation.

This may be looked upon as the happiest part of Tom's life. He had enjoyed partial revolts before, had seen doors and windows broken in, and had probably partaken of the pillage of some aristocratic stores and dwelling houses; but, to live in a continual state of infurrection, "sacred, holy, organized infurrection;" to sit seven days in the

week issuing decrees for plunder, proscription and massacre, was a luxurious life indeed! It was, however, a short life and a merry one: it lasted but five months. The tender-hearted philanthropic murderer, Brissot, and his faction, fell from the pinnacle of their glory: poor Tom's wares got out of vogue and his carcass got into a dungeon.

This was a dreadful reverse for old Common Sense. To be hurled, all in a moment, from the tip top of the mountain of the Grande Convention Nationale down to the very bottom of a stinking dungeon, was enough to give a shock to his poor unsteady brain. But this was not all; he well knew that the national razor was at work, and had every reason to suppose that his days were numbered. He laid extended on the dirt like a sheep or a calf in a slaughter house, expecting every moment that the butcher would come for him.

How Thomas came to escape is something that will probably remain a mystery. It was said, that Danton (the new chief tyrant) spared his life at the request of certain Americans; but this is improbable, not that some Americans might not be found silly enough to petition for it, but because, when his enlargement was afterwards demanded upon the score of his being an American, the ruling tyrants answered, that he was a sacré Anglais, a damned Englishman. The fact is, I believe, Danton and his party despised Tom too much to run any risk of disoblighing their friends in Great Britain and America by taking away his worthless life. Be the motive what it might, he was kept in his cage, and there he wrote the first part of his *Age of Reason*.

Now to the motive that led him to the composition of this blasphemous work; which was no other than that of saving his ugly uncombed head from the guillotine.

The reader will recollect, that it was under the reign of Danton that the Christian Religion was abolished by a decree. A few days before Tom's imprisonment the famous festival of Reason was held. A common strumpet was dressed up as the Goddess Reason, seated on a throne of turf, and while incense was burnt before her altar at some little distance, the idolatrous populace, with the Convention at their head, prostrated themselves before her. Not many days before this, the constitutional Bishop of Paris, with his vicars and three rectors, came to the Convention and abdicated their religion, declaring themselves to have been cheats; and that in future they would profess no other worship than that of Reason. In short, Danton, and Robespierre (then second in command) were incessantly occupied in extirpating the small remains of Christianity from the minds of the poor brutified and enslaved French. It was a necessary preparation to the bloody work they intended they should execute.

Citizen Common Sense knew this, and therefore it was not wonderful that he should attempt to soften his lot, and prolong, perhaps, his miserable days, by something from his pen, calculated at once to flatter their vanity and further their execrable views. Thomas had long railed against the balenels of courtiers, but when the moment of trial came he was found as base as the basest. The high-minded republican Paine, who had set Lords and Kings at defiance, was obliged to bend the knee before a vile low-bred French pettifogger. He defended to make use of the very phrases that the new tyrants had introduced. The Goddess was called Reason, the church which was profaned by her worship was called the Temple of Reason, and the inscription on the banners carried at the festival was "The Age of Reason" (Le siecle de la Raison) the very title of Tom's book. Base adulation! adulation not to be excused even by the situation in which he was. The old French clergy, with the dagger at their breasts, scorned to purchase life at such a price.

I would by no means be understood as believing that Paine's book was a desertion of his principles; for, as I before observed, he had been corrupted years before. It is the disgraceful motive for publishing his creed that I am exposing. That it was done to make his court to the tyrants of the day cannot be doubted; for, in all his former works, if he has occasion to speak of the Christian religion, he does it in decent if not respectful language. In his Rights of Man, for instance, he extols toleration, and observes, that all religions are good; but as soon as he got into his new fashioned study, a dungeon, he discovered that they were all bad, or at least the Christian Religion, and it was of the divers denominations of that religion that he before pretended to speak. When he said, that all religions were good, he was an abominable hypocrite, or he is one now, when he tells us that the Christian Religion is a very bad one. Either he disguised his sentiments to deceive the English, or he has since done so to deceive Danton and Robespierre. Tom knows the value of a character for consistency too well to run the risk of losing it unless upon a pressing emergency; but, the guillotine was yet red with the blood of his comrades, and he well knew that there was but this one way of keeping his own corrupted dreams within his veins.

It will be said, by Tom's deslial friends, that the Second Part of the *Age of Reason* was written after his release, and at a time when he was in no danger. Very true; but the die was cast; the First Part was out, and there was no recalling it. He had openly attacked both heaven and earth; he could do no more. One essay at blasphemy was as good as a thousand for establishing his new pretensions to infamy; but Thomas had now something else to attend to besides his reputation; I mean his belly. The usual means of subsistence had failed: he was no longer a great Representative of a great and free people. The laudful of assigns he received daily were gone to some more staunch patriot, and the old Rights of Man was left to dine where he could. As to political drugs Thomas's were grown out of vogue in France as much as they now are in this country. His constitution was declared to be the most stupid performance that ever issued from a sick brain, and its author

* She was guillotined soon after.

† The constitutional clergy means the new clergy, the clergy of the revolution, the apostates.

fell into discredit as rapidly as he had risen to fame. Among thousands of others, he experienced the sudden change in the opinions of the volatile Parisians—from being a sort of demi-god he was become the most degraded thing in nature, a poor, half starved despised pretender to renown. Besides, the constitution that was now coming into play, with a council of youngers and a council of elders and five kings, elected by people of some property, or, at least, some qualification, was what Tom never could defend with his right of universal suffrage and continual infurrection, and, for once, he had the prudence to hold his tongue.

Tom's fate in France was nearly what it had been in America; when it was no longer necessary to employ him he sunk into neglect. Happy if he could have ceased eating when his infurrection talents became useless; but as he could not, he must continue to write, and as he was in a country where he could revile none but the almighty, the almighty he reviled. The present of poison he has sent to his "fellow-citizens" of America, is not therefore, so much the work of choice as of necessity. The Second Part of the *Age of Reason* he wrote for a living and the First Part he wrote for his life.

Those who prefer a few years of life to every thing else, may possibly find an excuse for this degraded man: it is impossible for any of us to say how we should act at the foot of the guillotine. But, what shall be said to those, who, pressed by neither danger nor want, make uncommon exertions to spread his infamous performance among the ignorant part of their countrymen, and thereby sow in their minds the seeds of vice, inquietude, and despair? Again, deists may find some apology for doing this; but who will dare to become the apologist of those book sellers, who, professors of the Christian faith, throw out this bait of blasphemy to catch unwary comers, and, smiling at their simplicity, pocket the dirty pence. Such men, (and they are but too numerous) are like the Hollander on the coast of Japan, who, to outstrip others in trade with the natives, tramples on the cross of his Saviour.

Infurrection, revolution, constitution, a knowledge in all these seems to be a necessary qualification in a professor of the Rights of Man. Tom Paine understood the first perfectly well, he had a smattering of the second, but as to the third he was and, if alive is, totally ignorant.

Philadelphia, June 7.

MARRIED.]—Last Evening by the right Rev. Bishop WHITE, MR. WALTER W. HYER, Printer of this city, to Miss MARGARET STUBER daughter of the late Dr. STUBER, of Lancaster.

It appears that the Portuguese Indiaman, mentioned in our paper of the 4th inst. to have been captured by the French frigate Cybele, was not taken by that ship, but by the *Convention* of 44 guns.

The Letter-Bag of the Danish brigantine *Den Nye Prove*, capt. Hansen, for Hamburg, will be taken from the Post-Office to-morrow evening, at 6 o'clock.

Capt. Newhall who left Cadiz the 4th April, informs that admiral Richery's Squadron was then in that harbor.

A Whale, lately carried into Nantucket, made 35 barrels of head, and 50 of body oil, and sold for 2689 dollars.

BY THIS DAY'S MAIL.

NEW-YORK, June 6.

From Geneva we learn that M. Salicetti has arrived there, and uses all his efforts to defeat the projects of the Coalition.

The Austrian and English ministers have declared to the government of Genoa, that any aids afforded to the French will be considered as acts of hostility.

An article from Vienna mentions, that the intrigue which has deprived Clairfait of the command of the Imperial troops, is ascribed to gen. Macek.

Arrived at this Port.

Ship Sampson, Sword,	India
Brig Orange, Walth,	Dublin
Prince Edward, Falleston,	Halifax.

POLITICAL NEWS,

Translated for the *Argus*, from *PARLEY'S Journal*, from April 7, to 10, inclusive.

PARIS, April 7.

The Executive Directory has resolved as follows:

1. All turbulent and noisy theatres shall be shut.
2. Only plays or songs which have been announced by handbills, shall be represented or sung.
3. The theatre of Feydeau licet is allowed to open again.
4. The seats fixed on the place lately rented out by citizen Cardinaux to the Pantheon Society, shall be broken, and citizen Cardinaux is ordered not to let that place to any society whose object is political discussions, until further orders.

(Signed) LETOURNEUR, President. In consequence of this resolution, the theatre of Feydeau licet opened again yesterday.

The conqueror of Holland, the vanquisher of the greatest Generals of Europe, the illustrious Pichegru, occupies a very modest apartment in Paris, Vanban's Hotel, Law-street. He is a General no more; no function has been appointed for him. He appears in public without uniform, without apparatus, without ostentation. He shows no regrets, nor does he complain against any body; he wishes for peace; he confesses the necessity of it. He wishes that his courage and genius be no more necessary at the head of our armies; he speaks of his rivals but in praise, and is much reserved with respect to those who may have wronged him. He wishes for nothing but rest after so much glory. Deeming himself happy in enjoying the gratitude of the good citizens, and the admiration of Europe, and even of those he has vanquished, he disdains the calumnies with which jacobins and their gazettes honour him almost every day.

He shares their hatred with General Hoche, who answers their attacks by taking Charette, and putting thus an end to the horrid Vendean war. They cannot forgive Hoche having shut up their clubs at Nantes, any more than Pichegru having vanquished on the 12th Germinal, the terrorists who were willing to save Billaud, Collot, and Barrere.

COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED.

Sitting of the 13th Germinal.

The discussion is opened on Duchatel's project of re-establishing the national lottery.

Audouin claimed the introductory question; his chief argument was the immorality of that measure, which would prove the utter ruin of several families.

Philip Delville observed, that at the epocha of the States General, the representatives of all the provinces unanimously agreed in requesting the suppression of lotteries. He claimed also the introductory question.

Fermont required that the commissior should be informed of a more simple mean which could attain the same end, he did not know of any which attacked properties in so a direct manner.

The discussion closed, and the first trial was dubious.

At the second, the council declared that there was sufficient cause to deliberate, and adjourned the project for three days.

Letters from Vienna state, that Clairfayt is to repair to Peterbourg, in consequence of an invitation from the Empress. It is believed that the object of the voyage is relative to a war which Russia seems to mediate against the Turks, as being the creation of the threefold alliance.

The Marquis Del Campo, the Spanish Ambassador, was at the opera on Decadi last. He was loaded with Spanish decorations. The public has, in a very lively manner, applauded the Ambassador of an allied nation. Some terrorists have been so daring as to murmur; but they have not been countenanced, and were obliged to keep their peace.

COLOGNE, March 27.

We are informed from Vezel, that we must not doubt any more of a Prussian army composed of 35,000 men marching towards Westphalia, under the apparent pretext, to protect against the belligerent powers, the line of neutrality, violated in the last campaign by the French in the passage of the Rhine, and afterwards by General Clairfayt. It has been remarked, that for some time past, the gazettes which are printed with the approbation of the Prussian government, have entirely altered their language; they say, that, should the Directory mistake so far the interest of France, as to refuse peace as proposed by the court of Berlin, the principal conditions of which is a reciprocal restitution of all conquests, then measures shall be entered into, which it is not time yet to discover, that the threatening language is tolerated and even approved by the Prussian court, since ministerial papers profess it, which they would not dare to do, were they not tacitly approved.

BALTIMORE, June 4.

Arrived yesterday, the ship *Carlisle*, Porter, in 8 weeks from Liverpool.

April 16, in lat. 49, 28, was boarded by a F. privateer brig, of 12 guns; which detained them about two hours, put on board three English prisoners, and dismissed them.

18, lat. 46, 10, was boarded by an English ship of 44 guns, from St. Domingo, bound to Portsmouth, which took on board the three men left with them by the French privateer.

The latter ship used capt. Porter with some incivility. She sent on board of him two officers, to demand the Carlisle's papers.

It was not without difficulty that he got them back. The Frenchmen affirmed that they were false. He was then obliged to go on board the privateer, the captain of which filled a boat with English prisoners, and insisted on captain Porter taking them along with him. He demanded a suitable supply of provisions, having not enough to spare for so many men. At last he was forced to take the three above mentioned.

May 17th, lat. 38, 51, spoke the brig *Freedom* of Boston, out 13 days bound to Falmouth. In the night spoke a ship from Baltimore. Blowing hard could not learn her name, or destination. May 37, spoke a sloop from Charleston bound to New-London.

On Monday last, in the Chesapeake, capt. Porter met with a very heavy squall, which carried away his fore and mizen top masts.

NORFOLK, May 30.

Yesterday arrived in Hampton roads bound to Richmond, the schooner *Violet*, capt. Downing Lee, 21 days from the Bay of Honduras. Came passengers Mr. Jeremiah Barton and Mr. Thomas Rymington. By this vessel we have intelligence of the following American vessels which have loaded at that settlement since the ratification of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

Ship Gen. Lincoln, Lawrence, from and to New-York.

Brig Flora, Williams, from and to do.

Schooner Hampton, Hodge, do. do.

Sloop Hiram, McDonald, do. do.

Brig Elizabeth, Howlet, from Philadelphia.

Schooner *Violet*, Lee, from Norfolk to Richmond.

Ship Speedwell, Tatem, from and to Charleston.

Schooner Nancy, Birch, do. do.

The *Violet* left at Honduras the snow *Aurora*, Capt. Brown of Charleston; and on the 6th of May spoke a brig belonging to Washington, N. C. from Jamaica, going into the bay, then under Turness, with a fair wind.

FREDERICKSBURG, June 3.

Reynolds and Gookeley, the two persons who were apprehended last fall, upon suspicion of having robbed the public mail, were tried last week, at Richmond, before the District Court of the United States, and acquitted.

WANTED,

Several Apprentices to the Printing-Business. Apply at the Office of the Gazette of the United States, No. 119, Chestnut-street.