deists in christendom; for so irretragably do they prove the truth of christianity, that I am sure a young man who had been regularly instructed in their meaning could never doubt afterwards of the truth of any of its principles. If any obscurity appears in these principles, it is only (to use the words of the poet) because *they are dark, with excessive bright.*

I know there is an objection among many people to teach children doctrines of any kind, because they are likely to be controverted. But where will this objection lead us?—the being of a God, and the obligations of morality, have both been controverted; and yet who has objected to our teaching these doctrines to our children?

The curiosity and capacities of young people for the mysteries of religion, awaken much sooner than is generally supposed. Of that we have two remarkable proofs in the Old Testament. The first is mentioned in the twelfth chapter of Exodus. "And it shall come when your *children* shall say unto you, *What mean you by this service?*" that ye shall say, "It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.— And the children of Israel went away, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron." A second proof of the desire of children to be instructed in the mysteries of religion, is to be found in the sixth chapter of Deuteronomy. "And when thy son *asketh* thee in the time to come saying, "What mean the testimonies—and the statutes—and the judgments which the Lord our God hath commanded you?" Then thou shalt say unto thy son, "We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt, and the Lord our God brought us out with a mighty hand."— These inquiries from the mouths of children are quite natural; for where is the parent who has not had similar questions proposed to him by his children upon their being first conducted to a place of worship, or upon their beholding, for the first time, either of the sacraments of our religion?

Let us not be wiser than our Maker.— If moral precepts alone could have reformed mankind, the mission of the Son of God into our world, would have been unnecessary. He came to promulgate a system of *doctrines*, as well as a system of morals. The perfect morality of the gospel rests upon a *doctrine*, which though often controverted, has never been refuted, I mean the vicarious life and death of the Son of God. This sublime and ineffable doctrine delivers us from the absurd hypotheses of modern philosophers, concerning the foundation of moral obligation, and fixes it upon the *eternal* and *self moving* principle of LOVE. It concentrates a whole system of ethics in a single text of scripture. "*A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.*" By withholding the knowledge of this doctrine from children, we deprive ourselves of the best means of awakening moral sensibility in their minds. We do more, we furnish an argument, for withholding from them a knowledge of the morality of the gospel likewise; for this, in many instances, is as supernatural, and therefore as liable to be controverted, as any of the doctrines or miracles which are mentioned in the New Testament. The miraculous conception of the Saviour of the world by a virgin, is not more opposed to the ordinary course of natural events, nor is the doctrine of the atonement more above human reason, than those moral precepts, which command us to love our enemies, or to die for our friends.

III. It has been said, that the division of the Bible into chapters and verses, renders it more difficult to read, by children, than many other books.

By a little care in a master, this difficulty may be obviated, and even an advantage derived from it. It may serve to transfer the attention of the scholar to the *sense* of the subject; and no person will ever read well, who is guided by anything else, in his stops, emphasis, or accents.— The division of the Bible into chapters and verses, is not a greater obstacle to its being read with ease, than the bad punctuation in most other books. I deliver this stricture upon other books, from the authority of Mr. Rice, the celebrated author of the art of speaking, whom I heard declare in a large company in London, that he had never seen a book properly pointed in the English Language. He exemplified, notwithstanding, by reading to the same company a passage from Milton, his perfect knowledge of the art of reading.

Some people, I know, have proposed to introduce extracts from the Bible into our schools, instead of the Bible itself. Many excellent works of this kind, are in print, but if we admit any one of them, we shall have the same inundation of them that we have had of grammars, spelling books, and lessons for children, many of which are published for the benefit of the author only, and all of them have tended greatly to increase the expense of education.— Besides, these extracts or abridgements of the Bible, often contain the tenets of particular sects or persons, and therefore, may be improper for schools composed of the children of the different sects of christians. The Bible is a cheap book, and is to be had in every bookstore. It is, moreover, esteemed and preferred by all sects; because each finds its peculiar doctrine in it. It should therefore be used in preference to any abridgement of it, or histories extracted from it.

I have heard it proposed that a portion of the Bible should be read every day by the master, as a means of instructing chil-

dren in it: But this is a poor substitute for obliging children to read it as a school book; for by this means we conceals upon their *grace*, as it were, its contents upon their minds; and it has been remarked that children, instructed in this way in the scriptures, seldom forget any part of them. They have the same advantage over those persons, who have only heard the scriptures read by a master, that a man who has worked with the tools of a mechanical employment for several years, has over the man who has only stood a few hours in a work shop and seen the same business carried on by other people.

In this defence of the use of the Bible as a school book, I beg you would not think that I suppose the Bible to contain the only revelation which God has made to man. I believe it an internal revelation, or a moral principle, which God has implanted in the heart of every man, as the precursor of his final dominion over the whole human race. How much this internal revelation accords with the external, remains yet to be explored by philosophers. I am disposed to believe, that most of the doctrines of christianity revealed in the Bible might be discovered by close examination of all the principles of the actions in man: But who is equal to such an enquiry? It certainly does not suit the natural indolence, or laborious employments of a great majority of mankind. The internal revelation of the gospel may be compared to the straight line which is made through a wilderness by the assistance of a compass to a distant country, which few are able to discover, while the Bible resembles a public road to the same country, which is wide, plain, and easily found. "And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness. The way faring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

Neither let me in this place exclude the Revelation which God hath made of himself to man in the works of creation. I am far from wishing to lessen the influence of this species of Revelation upon mankind. But the knowledge of God obtained from this source, is obscure and feeble in its operation, compared with that which is derived from the Bible. The visible creation speaks of Deity in hieroglyphics, while the Bible describes all his attributes and perfections in such plain, and familiar language, that "he who runs may read."

How kindly has our maker delt with his creatures, in providing three different cords to draw them to himself! But how weakly do some men act, who suspend their faith and hopes, upon only one of them! By laying hold of them all they would approach more speedily and certainly to the centre of all happiness.

To the arguments I have mentioned in favor of the use of the Bible as a school book, I shall add a few reflections.

The present fashionable practice of rejecting the Bible from our schools, I suspect has originated with the deists. They discover great ingenuity in this new mode of attacking christianity. If they proceed in it, they will do more in half a century, in extirpating our religion, than Bolingbroke or Voltaire could have effected in a thousand years. I am not writing to this classs of people. I despair of changing the opinion of any of them. I wish only to alter the opinions of those lukewarm, and superstitious christians, who have been mislead by deists upon this subject. On the ground of the good old custom, of using the Bible as a school book, it becomes us to entrench our religion. It is the last bulwark the deists have left it; for they have rendered instruction in the principles of christianity by the pulpit and the press so unfashionable, that little good for many years seems to have been done by either of them.

The effects of the disuse of the Bible, as a school book, have appeared of late in the neglect and even contempt with which scripture names are treated by many people. It is because parents have not been early taught to know or respect the characters and exploits of the Old and New Testament worthies, that their names are exchanged for those of the modern kings of Europe, or of the principal characters in novels and romances. I conceive there may be some advantage in bearing scripture names. It may lead the persons who bear them, to study that part of the scriptures, in which their names are mentioned, with uncommon attention, and perhaps it may excite a desire in them to possess the talents or virtues of their ancient namesakes. This remark first occurred to me, upon hearing a pious woman whose name was Mary, say, that the first passage of the Bible, which made a serious impression on her mind, were those interesting chapters and verses in which the name of Mary is mentioned in the New Testament.

It is a singular fact, that while the names of the kings and emperors of Rome, are now given chiefly to *horses* and *dogs*, scripture names have hitherto been confined to the human species. Let enemies and contemners of those names take care, lest the names of more modern kings be given hereafter only to the same animals of an inferior species.

It is with great pleasure, that I have observed the Bible to be the only book read in the Sunday schools in England.— We have adopted the same practice in the Sunday schools, lately established in this city. This will give our religion (humanly speaking) the chance of a longer life in our country. We hear much of the persons educated in free schools in England, turning out well in the various walks of life. I have inquired into the cause of it, and have satisfied myself, that it is wholly to be ascribed to the general use of the

Bible in those schools, for it seems the children of poor people are of too little consequence to be guarded from the supposed evils of reading the scriptures in early life, or in an unconsecrated school house.

However great the benefits of reading the scripture in schools have been, I cannot help remarking, that these benefits might be much greater, did schoolmasters take more pains to explain them to their scholars. Did they demonstrate the divine original of the Bible from the purity, consistency, and benevolence of its doctrines and precepts—did they explain the meaning of the levitical institutions, and show their application to the numerous and successive gospel dispensations—did they inform their pupils that the gross and abominable vices of the Jews were recorded *only* as proofs of the depravity of human nature, and of the insufficiency of the law, to produce moral virtue and thereby to establish the necessity and perfection of the gospel system—and above all, did they often enforce the discourses of our Saviour, as the best rule of life, and the surest guide to happiness, how great would be the influence of our schools upon the order and prosperity of our country! Such a mode of instructing children in the christian religion, would convey knowledge into their *understandings*, and would therefore be preferable to teaching them creeds, and catechisms, which too often convey, not knowledge, but *words* only, into their *memories*. I think I am not too sanguine in believing, that education, conducted in this manner, would in the course of two generations, eradicate infidelity from among us, and render civil government scarcely necessary in our country.

In contemplating the polotitical institutions of the United States, I lament, that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes, and take so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of christianity, by means of the Bible; for this divine book, above all others, favours that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and all those sober and frugal virtues which constitute the soul of republicanism.

I have now only to apologize for having addressed this letter to you, after having been assured by you, that your opinion, respecting the use of the Bible as a school book coincided with mine. My excuse for what I have done is, that I knew you were qualified by your knowledge, and disposed by your zeal in the cause of truth, to correct all the errors you would discover in my letter. Perhaps a further apology may be necessary for my having presumed to write upon a subject so much above my ordinary studies. My excuse for it is, that I thought a single mite from a member of a profession, which has been frequently charged with scepticism in religion, might attract the notice of persons who had overlooked the more ample contributions upon this subject, of gentlemen of other professions. With great respect, I am, dear sir, you sincere friend.

BENJAMIN RUSH.
Philadelphia, March 10, 1791.

Mexico---Texan Prisoners.

The New Orleans Tropic of the 5th inst. says—

Letters were received in this city from Mexico, yesterday, conveying very late and melancholy intelligence. The report of the escape and recapture of the Mier prisoners is fully confirmed.

We learn with the deepest feelings of regret that Doctor Richard F. Brenham was well known in this city and was much beloved. His death will be most sincerely regretted.

At the time of the escape, Col. Fisher, Col. Green, and three other officers were ahead of the main body. Capt. Reese, and nine others refused to join in the rescue. The main body of the prisoners made their way towards Texas by the route known as Col. Jordan's; they were pursued and surrounded by the Mexicans and forced to surrender. Cols. Fisher and Green's party had arrived at Tacubaya, a small village four or 5 miles from Mexico. Gen. Bravo immediately issued an order directing that the party that escaped at Salado, should be decimated and shot.

The commander of the guard refused to execute the order. Santa Anna then ordered *the whole party to be shot!* Through the intercession, probably, of General Thompson, and others, this order was countermanded, and the original order for decimation was renewed. Strong hopes were entertained in Mexico that this last order had also been revoked.

Messrs. G. B. Crittenden, Judge Hutchinson, Maverick, and W. E. Jones have been released by Santa Anna as a personal favor to Gen. Thompson. Van Ness was at Tacubaya.

HOW TO FIGURE UP A WHIG VICTORY. —By the following chain of reasoning, the Jonesborough Whig makes out a Whig victory in Monroe county, Tenn: "A Mr. Swan, of the Democratic party, has been convicted of murder in the first degree, in Monroe county, in this State, and sentenced to be hung by Judge Scott. And a Mr. Burton has been elected to the Penitentiary for 1 year for hog stealing, from the same county. The Loco Focos of that county only had about *four* of a majority over the Whigs, and *five* of them have now been sent to the Penitentiary, and *one* is to be hung, so that the county is Whig."

The Decision of the Mackenzie Court Martial.

The Madisonian, of Thursday evening, publishes officially the finding of the Court Martial in the case of Commander Mackenzie. The decision is the same as we have heretofore published—that is, that none of the specifications of the charges were proven. The verdict reads as follows:

The Court do therefore acquit Commander Alexander S. Mackenzie of all the charges and specifications preferred against him by the Secretary of the Navy.

The decision of the President is thus officially announced, by which it will be seen, that the verdict of the Court Martial was "simply confirmed"—not approved—but the result is the same, Commander Mackenzie is relieved from all censure in the premises.

As these charges involved the life of the accused, and as the finding, is in his favor, he is entitled to the benefit of it, as in the analogous case of a verdict of not guilty before a civil court, and there is no power which can constitutionally deprive him of that benefit. The finding, therefore, is simply *confirmed*, and carried into effect, without any expression of approbation on the part of the President; no such expression being necessary.

We find the following paragraph in the N. Y. Journal of Commerce:

Case of Capt. Mackenzie.—We learn from an undoubted source, that although the decision of the Court Martial in Capt. Mackenzie's case was technically in favor of acquittal, as before announced, a majority of the members, viz. seven out of twelve were of opinion that the charges, or some of them, had been proved. In order to a conviction the voice of two-thirds of the members was necessary— One more vote in favor of conviction would have changed the result.

[From the Pittsburg Manufacturer.]

A Tough Story.

The Cincinnati Sun gives, what it calls the "Full Particulars of the Wonderful Sights seen by the Pilot of the Wm. Penn in the Sky, on Tuesday night, March 21." We do not know what to make of it upon the whole; for we cannot think that the editor would attempt to hoax the public with such a story, if he did not think it true.

About 11 or 12 o'clock, P. M., it being a starlight night, Mr. Francis, the Pilot, saw a light burst forth which appeared to light up the whole face of the earth. The Captain, who was sitting in the cabin at the time, also saw the light and ran to the guard to discover the cause.

Mr. Francis now being very anxious to discover whence this strange light came, looked diligently out at the side of the pilot house, in rather a south-west course, but nearly over head, when he saw the outlines of a *Serpent* in the sky, in a crooked position, except the tail which was straight, the head toward the east. It turned to a livid bright red, deep and awful, and remained stationary in the stars. Mr. Francis watched it for two or three minutes when the tail part disappeared nearly to the middle, and the remainder in a gradual manner formed into a distinct Roman

G

Mr. F. had time now to mind the channel of the river, and deliberate upon the beauty and grandeur of a letter in the sky! It was remarkably interesting to him, as may well be supposed, from the accuracy of its formation. After about one minute and a half, he watched it and the boat alternately, it changed, turning into a distinct

O

as perfect as ever was seen, in which position it remained as before. Mr. F. stated that he was surprised greatly at this, but not scared or frightened in the least, and immediately tapped the bell for the Captain to witness the scene. The Captain did not come immediately, but after a moment or two appeared, but ere this the figure in the heavens had changed into a distinct letter

D

The Captain said to Mr. F. 'What's wanting?'

'Come here quick,' said Mr. F. 'and look up yonder, did you ever see the like?' The Captain answered, 'I see it!' and looked at it till it disappeared.

Mr. F. states that when the O turned to a D it formed a kind of oblong shape and then came straight on one side as a D should be. When it disappeared, it turned into the same oblong shape as before, and gradually the sky returned to its original appearance.

Mr. Francis states that he did not leave the wheel of the boat, but steered it to this city. He declares that let others think or say as they will, what he has related is strictly true. He is no Millerite, neither is he crazy or frightened, and if ladies or gentlemen will call upon him he will convince them that what he has told is truth. Captain Pratzman remarked at the time that it was something quite inexplicable, and was sorry he did not come to the deck sooner, so as to have had a full view of this grand, wonderful and unaccountable phenomenon.

AS DEAD AS A HERRING.--The herring is a delicate fish, which is killed by a very small degree of violence. Whenever it is taken out of the water, even though it seems to have received no hurt, it gives a squeak and instantly expires; and though it be thrown instantly back into the water it never recovers; hence arose the proverb —*as dead* as a herring."

"FRIENDSHIP'S OFFERING."—Whoever borrowed this "Annual" for the year 1836, from a person in this Borough, is requested to return it to the owner, or to this office, if the owner is unknown.

Huntingdon, April 12, 1843.—tf.

Last week, on motion of J. M. Bell, Esq., JAMES SEWELL STEWART was admitted as an Attorney to practice law in the several Courts of this county.

Adjourned Court.

An Adjourned Court of Common Pleas for this county, will be held in June next. It will commence on the third Monday *(and 19th day)* of the month, and continue two weeks. The causes on the list for the April Term, remaining undisposed of, will constitute the trial list for the Adjourned Court.

EDITORIAL CHANGE.—Judge THOMAS H. BAIRD has purchased the Pittsburg Advocate establishment, and announced himself as the Editor of that paper.

We tender our thanks to Messrs. BLAIR and M'WILLIAMS, of the House of Representatives, and to MR. MATHERS, of the Senate, for their kind attentions to us during the session of the Legislature just terminated.

HENRY MEHAFFEY, charged with fraudulent insolvency, escaped from the Jail of Lancaster county, on the 9th inst. A reward of $100 is offered for his apprehension. He came off with more *honor* than if he had got a Previous Pardon.

JACOB FOREMAN.—We are pleased to see that this fellow, who turned traitor to his constituents and voted to sustain the veto of the Canal Commissioners Bill, is universally discarded by his party. He must associate with Tyler and Porter.

Counterfeits.

Counterfeit 5, 10, 20 and 50 dollar notes of the *Lancaster County Bank* (Pa.) have lately made their appearance. They are altered from broken Southwark Savings Institution. Signed F. Roberts, cashier; Benkert, president. The genuine notes are signed Robert D. Carson, cashier; John Landes, president.

Resumption.

The Bank of Pennsylvania has resumed specie payments, not only of its notes, but of all its liabilities.

It is said that the Lewistown Bank has also resumed specie payments.

Ejectment Case.

The case of William Foster's Executors against William M'Divitt occupied the attention of the Court the whole of last week. On Saturday, about noon, the jury went out, and at the meeting of the Court in the afternoon returned with a verdict for the defendant.

The Reform Bill.

The Bill to reduce the Expenses of the Government, usually called the "Reform Bill," which passed both branches of the Legislature, has become a law *without the Governor's signature.* Being opposed to retrenchment in the expenses of the Government, the Governor refused to sign the bill; and knowing that it would be passed by the constitutional vote of two thirds, he dared not veto it. Having held it ten days without action of any kind thereon, it became a law *ipso facto*, or *per se*, as a very contemptible personage at Washington would say. For this bill, which saves to the Commonwealth about THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS annually, the people are indebted solely to the Whigs and a small but patriotic band of Anti-Porter men.— The Governor and his faction were opposed to it throughout.

The following synopsis of the bill we take from the Harrisburg Telegraph of the 5th instant.

SECTION 1. Fixes the Governor's salary, from the commencement of the next term, January, 1844 at $3,000.

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court who may be hereafter appointed, to receive respectively $1,800 and $1,600 per an-

The name of the guilty demon is Adam Horn, and that of the victim, Melinda Horn, his wife, residing about 22 miles from Baltimore, on the Hanover turnpike road, near the Blue Bell tavern. The unfortunate victim, it appears, had mysteriously disappeared from her home about four weeks, since, and no intelligence could be had of her. The anxiety and suspicion of the neighbors becoming excited, they determined to institute search for her, and succeeded in finding the body enveloped in a coffee bag, in a ditch of a field fronting the house, where it had been thrown. The legs and arms had been severed from it, and were subsequently found wrapped up in a coarse cloth, in the upper part of the back building of the house in which the husband resided. The head had been cut entirely off, and has not yet been discovered. The deceased was about eighteen years of age, and had been married some twelve or fifteen months.— Her delicate situation at the time of the terrible event, was such as to render the murder a double one. An inquest was held over the body by Justice Bushey, and a verdict rendered of death by the hands of some one unknown to the jury. Circumstances, we are informed, tended strongly to fasten suspicion upon the husband. He is said to have so ill-treated his wife as to cause her to leave him some time last fall, but she again returned, and was subject to frequent misusages on subsequent occasions. Apprehending, possibly, that the body might be discovered, he left his home, and was last seen about five miles from Baltimore, on his way to the city, carrying a small bundle. The neighbors are now in pursuit of him. He is about 45 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, somewhat pock-marked, is a tailor by trade, and was, when he left, dressed in a blue frock coat, gray pantaloons, and a black hat. He had pursued his trade, and kept, in addition, a small grocery store.

On Thursday last, John Horn alias Adam Horn was arrested in Philadelphia, and committed on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the horrid murder above detailed. The next day he had another hearing, which resulted in his commitment to await the requisition of the Governor of Maryland.

Arrest of a supposed Murderer.

We copy the following from the Philadelphia United States Gazette of the 22nd inst.

There is every probability for the belief that the perpetrator of the inhuman murder of the aged Mr. and Mrs. Parthemore, near Harrisburg, has been brought within the reach of justice. It will be remembered that the day after the murder was committed two men were arrested in an adjoining county, one of whom was permitted, on examination, to go at large, and the other was detained. The one who was freed went to Reading, and there commenced an acquaintance with Mr. Robert McWhorter, one of the hands employed about the rail road depot at that place; and to him he stated that he was the wood chopper who had been arrested and discharged. His manner was somewhat wild, and he appeared to have a dread of being alone in the dark, and was apparently desirous of telling him a secret which he had. He finally confessed to McWhorter that it was he who committed the murder, giving as his object the desire to obtain money to get back to Ireland, of which he was a native. McWhorter saw him leave Reading the next morning in the train of cars for this city, and shortly after communicated the facts made known to him, to Justice Betz at Reading, who immediately took his affidavit and forwarded it to Recorder Vaux of this city. Mr. Vaux on its reception bestirred himself actively to ferret out the fellow, but his arrest was consummated in another way.

On Thursday afternoon the mate of the ship Monongahela, lying at Cope's wharf, lodged information at the Mayor's Office, concerning a man who had offered an additional rate for a steerage passage to Liverpool, on condition that he might be immediately taken on board and secreted. He was put into a safe place until the officers arrived, when he was conveyed before the Recorder, by whom he was fully committed.

Mason is small in size, and is between 30 and 40 years of age. His clothes were strained in a manner which looks very like blood, and his manner of answering questions is confused and contradictory. There can be but little doubt but that he is the guilty person.

The Lycoming Gazette, Berwick Sentinel, and Columbia Spy, have read this paper out of the party—not by any means out of the democratic party—but out of the present Canal Commissioner's party —of which their presumed owners are such *disinterested* supporters. The owners of the first being a collector of tolls at *two dollars* a day—the second being a collector of tolls at *two dollars* a day—the third being a collector of tolls at *two dollars and a half* a day, and two clerks— they are very patriotic party men indeed and who can doubt their disinterestedness? No democrat surely.—*Reporter.*