

From the BOSTON CHRONICLE.
"For mades of faith, let fiery zealous fight,
He can't be wrong, whose conduct's in the
right."

THE various means used to effect such purposes, as would assist the British Faction in their designs to involve this country in a war with France, are too numerous to be particularly recited at this period. Their aim was not confined merely to this object, but every measure was taken to raise a jealousy against certain republican characters, who opposed their conduct. For this purpose the public mind was constantly alarmed upon the idea of an invasion from France—Conspiracies were daily announced: Taylor Plots, Tub Plots, and even Lady Plots, followed in rapid succession. Mr. Harper went so far as to pledge himself on the discovery of some terrific plan, which had nearly arrived to a completion; he said in Congress that he had the "clues" and promised soon to disclose all the mysteries of a treasonable combination. The party went on from one species of alarm to another, till at length the cry of danger became so familiar, that the people considered them as the mere chimeras of a disordered brain. Finding these projects would not answer their purposes, recourse was at length had to the all powerful weapon of religion. This sacred cause was brought into operation; the people were told, that all honor, honesty, and morality were to be annihilated; the deism, atheism and impiety of every thing were to predominate; and to favor the deception, a few Clergymen conjured up the exploded publication of Robinson and Barruel, to forward their system of fanaticism. The Illuminati was the watch-word of the party; but the principal light arising from the subject, served only to make a certain Reverend doctor appear more conspicuously ridiculous. Sermons were published on this occasion and marginal notes introduced with the horrid story of a desperate combination in Europe and America, to overturn all that is called godly.

The Illuminati influenza lasted about 18 months, and at length expired with a few struggles, under the injudicious management of this clerical operator.— Thus have this party run through the several parts of their political drama and now is brought to their *ne plus ultra* which, is, that the President is an Infidel and does not believe in the Christian Religion.

This is the only ground on which the party now stand, and while they think the people believe them, they take the greater liberty in their calumny and detraction: they alternately call him deist, infidel, and atheist; they represent him as having a design upon the Religious establishments of our country, and some are even so foolish as to believe, that the meeting-houses will soon be raised, the ministers discarded, and carnage and murder become the "order of the day."

At this enlightened age, it is almost an affront upon the good sense of the citizens of the United States, to reply to the many absurdities written against the president on this subject. If Mr. Jefferson is destitute of those virtues which constitute a Christian, or a citizen, where is the man who is possessed of them? If honesty, integrity, forbearance, humanity, benevolence and patriotism are the prominent features which designate a Christian, certainly no man within the United States stands more conspicuously eminent. So far from having no religion he is a friend to ALL, and instead of contracting its influence he is desirous of granting every citizen a right to worship GOD in his own way: he is not a persecutor of any sect; he is not a defamer of any particular mode of worship; he is not a fanatic to scourge those who do not believe in his tenets; he leaves every conscience to its own bias, and instead of controlling men as the arbiter of revelation he is anxious to face the adoration of the Supreme Being and his attributes on that basis of the human mind, on which alone it can or ought to be erected.

If this is the character of the President, why is he attacked with such ferocity and indecency? Why is he held up as the perverter of Religion, when he gives such ample scope to every principle connected with the establishment? If he injures no one in his religion, why should others injure him in his reputation; if he is an immoral man, point

out his immoralities; if he is destitute of the Christian virtues, let them be specified in such a manner as the people may judge of his criminality: if he has destroyed any house of worship, or disturbed any pious assembly, let the circumstances be related; if he is profane let the instances appear. This mode of procedure would be candid: but to defame the Chief Magistrate under the vague appellations of deist, atheist and infidel, is unbecoming the character either of a Christian, gentleman or citizen.

If some of the Clergy are opposed to him, it would be honorable to state their charges. If he has violated the laws of society, why do they not come forward in an explicit manner, and give the public a narrative of the whole transaction. This line of conduct would appear more manly than to attempt to weaken the confidence of the citizens in his administration, by invidious surmises.

The conduct of Mr. Jefferson through life has been peculiarly amiable: his writings are fraught with benevolence, and solely intended to ameliorate the condition of mankind, and to lead them to an improvement of all those faculties with which Heaven has blessed the human species. His character in Europe stands in the most elevated position, and it is degrading to our country to find men who assume the reputation of the "learned," demean themselves by such gross reflections as are daily published in the Palladium, Centinel and other papers.

If the clergy are alarmed at the decay of religion, can it have any salutary effect to represent Mr. Jefferson as the opposer of the christian system? Will it persuade people to embrace the gospel, by telling them that Mr. Jefferson rejects it? It rather appears to me, that it has a contrary tendency—no man will believe merely because Mr. Jefferson disbelieves. His character as a scholar, philosopher, and reasoner, gives him a reputation too high to be made the negative of a principle, either of religion or any other subject.—If the people are told, that the President does not believe the christian religion, it may lead many to conclude, that he knows more than they, and that he has good reasons for disbelief. This kind of argument may be satisfactory to some, and the, instead of helping the cause of religion, it may have a very unsalutary effect. The clergy in this particular, are doing an injury to the cause they are attempting to support, and it is the height of folly to expect to gain proselytes by propagating with so much avidity the infidelity of Mr. Jefferson.

As President of the U. S. he is not called on to make a declaration of his religious creed; if he was, I am persuaded the most orthodox would not condemn it. Gen. Washington was peculiarly careful in this particular; among the variety of his publications, we find but little to lead us to a conclusion of his religious tenets: & as the constitution does not even suggest any TEST in this kind, it is proper that the President should not bring himself forward in any point of view on this ground. He is not called on to administer any religious ordinances, and while he intermeddles with no particular sect, and promotes the rights of all, neither the clergy or other individuals have a right to censure him for his own sentiments.

Suppose the President should make a declaration of his firm persuasion of the truth of the gospel, still a difficulty would remain among his opposers as to the particular tenets he maintained; some would say, that he was a Roman catholic, others that he was an Armenian; some a valentinist: in short Socinians, Quakers, Baptists, Universalists, Swedenburgians, and even Sandameans, would be clamorous to know to what doctrine he adhered. His declaration, therefore, as to his belief in the scripture, would not remedy the evil, for points of faith are as often contended for as the avowal of a general principle: If religion is to be brought forward in this controversy, the President is perfectly right in keeping his creed to himself.

But why is this apprehension excited that Mr. Jefferson is opposed to the christian system? no part of his administration has had the most distant tendency to injure it; since his election, "all things remain as they were," as it relates to the church; we go to meeting with as much order as usual, and

home without the least molestation; our Sabbaths are equally hallowed; the first and second bells ring with as much solemnity and regularity as formally; the clergy are as much respected, as well paid, dine out as frequently, and in most instances frolic as often as under the late administration; Ordinations are announced in our papers with their usual reverence, and there is as much good cheer on such occasions, as in days of old. Where then is the mischief? where is the danger, where nothing has taken place to discompose the most devout in their religious exercises? If we are disposed to religious duties, Mr. Jefferson will not disturb us; only let the clergy mind their business, and I doubt not he will mind his. If some of them do not choose to pray for him, it would be decent not to pray at him; or if they totally omit the Vice-President, it is hoped that Heaven will not be the less careful to preserve him. The blessings of Providence are not partial, and though the enemies of the President and Vice-President may not think proper to remember them at the Throne of Grace, yet we trust they are not dependent on their clemency (though clothed in sacerdotal) but on the benevolence of the Supreme Being. To Him we commit them, and it does not require the benediction of their adversaries to secure them a continuance in his Holy keeping.

While speaking of the clergy, I do not mean to include the whole order, as being thus opposed to the President; a large proportion of them, I am persuaded reprobate the indecent publications which have appeared against him. As an order in society I shall ever respect them; but there are a few who have acted a part which upon serious reflection they cannot justify to God, nor their own consciences. If such men would be more circumspect in their own conduct, and attend more to the duties of their own profession, the cause of religion would be more effectually supported, than by their calumny against the President. When he is as inattentive to his duty as President, as they are as clergymen, it will be time for the people to find fault. Mr. Jefferson never gave such a strong evidence of his disbelief in Scripture as they have of the negligence of their Parish, and if they are serious to propagate the gospel, it is incumbent on them to act more consistent with its principles. The Geography of this world is not the "one thing needful," neither are the "graces" of Chestfield, an appropriate study for a clergyman; less attention, therefore, to subsidiary concerns, and more to heavenly, are highly becoming a christian teacher. While such men are charging the President with infidelity, they should examine their own conduct, and possibly upon reflection, they would find the remainder of their lives could not be better spent than in correcting their former imprudencies.

OLD SOUTH.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.
Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Mr. Nicholson offered a resolution to the following effect—That the Secretary of the Treasury should lay before the House an account of monies received by Timothy Pickering, as a public officer, and Mr. Pickering's account of disbursements. Mr. Nicholson observed that the public mind had been much agitated on the subject of delinquencies in public officers, and he considered it a duty to give them complete satisfaction. A committee was appointed last session to examine the accounts of the Secretary of the Treasury, and that committee made a report, but they were not authorized to examine any other than the accounts of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the general mode of doing business in the department, nor was it possible for them to attend particularly to the accounts of all those who had received public monies.— He hoped therefore that the resolution which he offered would be adopted.

Mr. Griswold said he also was a member of the committee last session, and differed much from the gentlemen last up relative to the powers of that committee. He conceived the committee were authorized to examine all the accounts of the Treasury; and a general investigation was made. The accounts of Mr. Pickering in particular were examined at that time.

Mr. Griswold thought the present clamor by no means a sufficient ground for

adopting the resolution, clamor had existed previous to the investigation of the committee last year, & was the occasion of that committee's being appointed.— If the house should order a new investigation upon every fresh clamour their whole time would be occupied. Mr. Griswold conceived that it did not belong to that house to settle the accounts of Mr. Pickering. If the house should erect themselves into a board of account they must continue to sit during the whole year, and then the business would not be done. He concluded by saying that he could not but object to the resolution offered, until the gentleman who offered it should point out the particular object he had in view.

Mr. Nicholson in reply. The gentleman and himself differed as to the power of the committee that had attended to the investigation of the Treasury accounts; he believed they were not authorized to enter into an enquiry whether all the monies received by Col. Pickering were properly appropriated: this was his object; he had been informed, of late, that Mr. Pickering had in some instances appropriated more money than he was allowed, and had sometimes appropriated money to purposes, of public purposes, otherwise than ordered: it was his wish that the house should adopt some regulations in these matters, not leaving appropriations discretionary with officers, and the better to enable the Comptroller to settle his accounts. He was sensible of the impossibility of their making a thorough investigation and that they must trust to the Treasury for information; but that when the attention of the people was called to particular characters in this manner, it was their duty to satisfy them; he did not wish to single out Mr. Pickering alone; he wished equal reference to others.— The proposed resolution was not on account of any doubt in his mind; he did not entertain the least suspicion that Mr. Pickering had ever appropriated to his own use or defrauded the public of a single dollar; he believed him to be a man of irreproachable honesty and integrity; but the report of the former committee did not say enough.

Mr. Griswold. He presumed it very probable that there had been occasionally excess of appropriations; every man acquainted with public business knew that the public service would have often suffered had not this been the case; most members knew how often this had happened, and how often Congress had justified and granted afterwards, this excess of appropriation: laws cannot always touch contingencies: it had often been the case in the office of Secretary at War; Congress afterwards made up the expenditure, the excess appeared fairly and necessarily applied: so may it have been in the office of the Secretary of State.

NOW LANDING

From on board the Schooner Dispatch,
Captain Swaine, from New-York, and
for Sale on very low terms.

25 Crates Queen's Ware,
230 Boxes China,
12 Kegs Malaga Raisins, Fresh,
1 Kegs Fig,
1 Case Paper 4to Post,
1 ditto Playing Cards,
2 Boxes Tea,
100 dozen Glass Tumblers,
2 Trunks dark and light Prints.

Haacks & Bishop,

If he have for Sale,

BILES ON BOSTON.

December 1.

CLAY PEASE.

THE subscriber will contract to give for any quantity, the market price of corn at the time of delivery.

A. LAZARUS.

Wilmington, Dec. 3.—6w

A Cotton Mill

WHICH the builder has warranted shall clean at least one thousand weight from the seed per day, so as to injure the staple as little as any other Savv Gin in the state, erected for or before the Crop of last year, and to be completed at Orion Mills in a few days, will in a short time thereafter pick or clean out Cotton for the customary Toll.

BENJA. SMITH.

November 12.