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*A Statement made necessary by the DEFENCE
 in the MERCURY, N^o. 52, and CITIZEN
 N^o. 57.*

The strictures on the divorce bill, as an effect of deistic French principles, was in the printer's hands before I knew any thing of the defence.

In the reprobated pages of my Discourse it is written that "some friends of revelation voted for the Bill." The defender might have classed himself among these had he chosen so to do, and let both my Discourse and his Defence alone, or written generally as he may yet do, on the merits of the Bill. He was no more attacked than any other voter, who, with himself, might have been inadvertently wrong.

The reprobate sentence that votes be not given to those "who advocate the doctrines of deism, or cavil at the Bible," is not dictating to the people. It is perfectly consonant with the oath of our legislators to take, for their law, our state constitution, which expressly excludes from legislation all who deny the divine authority of the Scriptures. The sentence has not therefore merited the reprobation it has received in the face of the public.

The number of applications for divorces at Raleigh in the year '97-8 is a circumstance foreign to the intrinsic merits of the Bill. But the facts, on a second and rigid enquiry, are, that neither party, in senate, had counted with arithmetic exactness; but that 30 was the number computed, and expressed by both parties in senate, and out of it.

For the CITIZEN, a few truths and facts.

It is not true that Prof. Robison's facts are incredible to one who has perused with attention any accredited history of the French revolution. But the reverse is true.

It is not true that the purity or antiquity of an institution will always preserve it from moral or political perversion. But the reverse is true. Free Masons, as Christians are doubly bound to oppose principles which have certainly destroyed christianity, and perverted masonry in Europe; and will ruin every thing that is valuable in any institution whatever.

It is not fact that Robison's Proofs come only through one channel to the Public.—But it is fact that they have come thro' 30 times that number. By the favour of a friend I have this moment in my possession an abridgment of the reputable Abbe Bareuil's Memoirs, written in France early in the year '97, several months before Robison's Proofs appeared. The abridgment and Proofs I have carefully compared, and I assert that they perfectly agree. Including books, pamphlets, and other documents they contain about 30 printed authorities which have been published in Germany, and in France in a series of above 20 years. Is the public such a dunderhead as to believe that all this is fiction? Surely No.

It is certainly fact that the leaders of the French revolution are properly called deists; and that they, with our American deists, deny a governing providence, assert that God has left this world to govern itself, and deny the obligation of prayer as a duty of natural religion. Where then shall the Citizen's true deists be found, especially as he declares, with Dr. Clerke, that there is no consistent or true system of deism! Inconsistency will not prove non existence of opinion. It may prove, as the Dr. says, that deists can't be reasoned with. All the Doctor's classes of deists are inconsistent; and in the Citizen's sense there is not a true or consistent deist on earth.

For myself, my reputation in any view cannot change the facts alledged, and among deists it can never expire.

TO MR. SPECTATOR.

When I consider the immensity of mischief occasioned by ignorant selfish men since the beginning of the world, making vulgar and illiberal deductions from premises entirely out of the reach of their comprehension, the horrible butchering of half formed ideas and the impertinence of offering them to the public, not only by the antideluvian world, but more so by the present, since the begin-

ning of the Mercury—The millions of unconnected nonsenss forced by inexpressive and unipudable torments from the clogged brains of leather-headed citizens, demanding vengeance, at the throne of erudition for being ushered still-born into the world in these our degenerated days—it creates an awful presence of mind!

To me however it is one consolation, that N. C. is the least guilty of any othe state in the Union of offering ideas in any form whatsoever to the public. (a few only excepted the principal of which are the wizardical discoveries of R. Centinel, which inevitably is an attempt at the destruction of all moral, civil and religious compact) and as he appears uneasy about the regulation of our days of rest, to give him comfort, which I thus do: Know all men by these presents that hence forward R. Centinel, may rest from the rising until the setting of the Sun, all and every day of his natural life, and that his said quietus remain unstacked and unfringed, and that no days of labour be forced upon him contrary to this ordinance.

But I cannot (sometimes) help—to think, how this wizard came by the book, for it appears he read it in a book, tho' by the bye to read it without a book would be the more wizardical mode of reading it, wherein the scheme of the Illuminati is discovered, and where it is asserted the Illuminati are a species of the higher order of Free Masons.—But know thou ignoramus that 'tis impossible the smallest item of masonry could ever transpire to the vulgar—and the criterion by which you judge them, is as unfounded, as the work wherein you discovered your secret.—Free Masons are the guardians of the christian religion, the Bible is the ground work of the craft—is the corner stone on which the building rests, and to be a good Mason, it is absolutely necessary to be a good christian—Masons (as such) are all on an equality. There is no higher order among them.

I never heard Free Masons called a religious sect, or masonry a religion.—What did you hear them called? Nothing but Masons. I am sure you never heard a Mason call them otherwise; and these conjectures of you and other ignorant men are not at all to the point.—Your uneasiness at their being no constitutional objection to incorporating lodges, puts me in mind of the observation of a learned divine on the divorce Bill, he says, it is the more dangerous, for against the cases therein mentioned lie no scriptural objection; a noble reason!

I would not wish to insinuate that I understand R. Centinel, or pretend to know what he makes or intended to make the principal burthen of his letter. Whether it be the bad policy of incorporating Mason-lodges arising from the consideration of the general evil characters and designs of the members of them, or of the masonic society, or from the dangers of all incorporations whatsoever, abstractedly and indiscriminately taken? You profess to understand him and have adopted his thinking. You therefore can explain.—I am weary of conjecture.—How, or why, that however high thou mightest and doubtless dost soar, in your pavilion of Spectatorship, thou shouldst not, when thou intendest any of thy communications for the benefit of poor mortals, approach within the sphere, and use the means of, common intellect.

PARODY.

SALISBURY,

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1799.

The Gentlemen of Salisbury and its vicinity, are requested to meet at the Court-House, at 12 o'clock on Saturday the 29th instant, to adopt some plan for the celebration of the 4th of July next.

We learn that the merchants of Lloyd's Coffee House, London, have subscribed 500 guineas to purchase a sword to be presented to Captain Truxton.

LONDON, April 10.

Antonelle, a celebrated leader of the Jacobin Party, has been chosen an elector in one of the southern departments.

Forty five thousand Russians are said to have been taken into the pay of Britain.

It appears by intercepted letters of Buonaparte, that the French force, on its arrival at Alexandria, consisted of 33,600 infantry, and 3000 cavalry. Other accounts make the troops to amount to 42,000,—which with 11,000 sea forces, 4948 men on board the ships at Alexandria, 1,520 in the flotilla of the Nile, and 3,017 on boards the transports, amounts to 62,475 men.

The Prince of peace has been named Grand Admiral of Spain—a new title. The Spanish ambassador at the Porte has been ordered to depart, in consequence of importunately requiring the release of the French Charge d'Affairs.

An article from Rastadt, dated March 25, says, the Prussian Minister insists on the French evacuating the Right bank of the Rhine; that the troops of Wurtzburg, Bamberg, and Hesse Darmstadt, in pay of the Emperor, had joined the Austrian army; and that, though the Austrian and other ministers were about to depart, those of France, Hanover and Saxony had intimidated that they would continue.

Cortu is 31 miles long, 10 broad, and, from its strength and situation in the entrance of the Adriatic, is of considerable consequence.

Accounts from Italy, March 15, say, 7,000 British troops had been sent to Sicily, and numerous Austrians from Venice to the army near Legnago and Verona.

Varietated Selection.

A slave trade limitation bill has passed in a committee of the whole of the British house of commons; and the bill for the time has been filed with Jan. 1, 1801. The Irish militia have tendered their services to defend the kingdom of Great Britain, or any part of his Majesty's dominions in case of invasion or insurrection.—& have received his Majesty's thanks—been accepted and enrolled accordingly, and provision made by parliament for their expenses in case of being called upon.

The Irish parliament have voted a sum for the relief of the loyalists who have suffered in their property.—And provision has been made for compensating the British regulars and militia who have served in Ireland.

The English East India Company have sent an extraordinary number of Cadets to India this year—and have directed that no more ladies should be received as passengers the present season.

A general embargo was ordered in France, April 4, in order to prevent the sailors escaping from the impressment which was making to mau the navy.

The Dutch fleet was in the Texel April 9—No troops on board, nor in the vicinity to be shipped.

Gen. Stuart is gone from Minorca against Malta.

700 Lascars brought from India in a late fleet have set out on their return.

H. Duane has been executed in Ireland.

One Cohen, an American by birth, charged with an improper correspondence with the French, was taken up in England; but was discharged on promising to keep out of the country during the war.

A surgeon and a master of a man of war, have been sentenced to death in England, as the principal and second in a duel in which a person was killed. The quarrel respected English and American politics. The surgeon is an American. The deceased an Englishman, and gave the challenge. The parties are respited till the king's pleasure is known.

Capt. Hood, with a British Squadron in the Mediterranean, has captured two ships of the line and two frigates, which attempted to escape from Alexandria. The French had previously taken these ships of the line from the Venetians.

French papers say, the British have failed in a bombardment of Alexandria; that a body of Russian and Turks landed at Aboukire, had been defeated; that Buonaparte had conquered Syria; destroyed Mourat Bey; strengthened himself in Egypt, &c.

The French conceive the Grison country quite secured, and have issued precepts for the people to choose representatives to the Helvetic legislature. This is a dose of treacle to sweeten their slavery.

Berne (in Switzerland) was illuminated on account of some recent French successes—but many of the windows in which the lights were placed, were broken.

French papers lament, that the patriots are cruelly persecuted at the Isle of France. Robaud is gone with 600 soldiers to join Tipoo.