

PUBLIC LEGER.

COMMUNICATED FOR THE LEGER.

FRIEND JONAH—Thou hast complied

with my request in some degree, in the Leger, I find, No. 2 and 3, what I expected to receive by private communication, but it gives me a degree, of happiness, to find, you do not wish your light to be put under a bushel, the question which I proposed to you, (or doctrines of the gospel) viz: Baptism, the Lord's Supper, resurrection of the body, the call and duties of a gospel minister. I find some to be answered in the negative, and others not at all:

and first, yours on the qualifications of a gospel minister; it was never controverted

by us as branches of the christian church, that an internal work, (or the spirit bearing witness with our spirit,) was altogether necessary for a professing christian, much less for that of a man called to fill the sacerdotal office, but that the active mind must be chained down, in the reception, or prosecution, of the commands of God, (except by the preventing grace of God,) is a doctrine which I cannot receive, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made. The active mind, which distinguisheth man from the beasts of the field, and that capacity manifesteth our accountability to God; and further, we discover the means which God hath ordained; the major one is, the preaching of the gospel, implies activity, for faith cometh by hearing, (not a chained or dead faith) and hearing by the word of God, but how can we hear, without a preacher, and how can he preach except he be sent, and such can and do teach vocally, baptise externally, with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, according to the commands; representing by the subject, their belief of the christian dispensation, and the effects of the merits of Christ which teaching and proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand, hath a different effect to sitting still and saying nothing; nor can I agree with that good mistaken man Job Scott who said he, "was called of God to warn sinners," then visit congregations where they were, nine times sit still, say nothing, and say it was all of God;—we learn of no such thing practised by our Lord, or his apostles, but they were to teach and baptise, in order to its perpetuation, they were to observe their mission, Math. 28, 19, 20, Mark, 16, 15, 16, and all thing he commanded them, and it was continued by Peter, Acts 2, 41, when three thousand were added to the church and he hath left us an example, that we should follow his steps, John 3, 22, and at other periods, if he did not baptise himself he sanctioned it in his disciples, John 4, 1, 2, and I beg leave to dissent, from you and Clarkson, who has written the "Portraiture of Quakerism" in vol. 2d, says all water baptism were but ordinances of the ceremonial law; methinks if so, the Jews need not to have hesitated to answer our Lord on the baptism of John, because they were quite tenacious of their rites as having come from God, and I believe all that properly understand the divine call, in their function, will discharge that which God in his commands has laid upon them.—

The apostles who understood their mission initiated all who embraced the gospel of Christ, by baptism, Acts 2, 38, 8, 12, and 38 as likewise 10, 47, and from these quotations there was two baptisms, which you cannot with success deny, but if the apostles were endowed with the power, as you have intimated, of baptising with fire in the name of Father Son and Holy Ghost, hence the forgiving of sins, which prerogative, God hath reserved to himself, or popery must be true; but Peter informs us, even now the like figure baptism doth save us (from infidelity, from paganism) not the putting away the filth of the flesh but the answering of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ; which doctrine the faith of the gospel is predicated on Cor. 15, 14, &c. Balaam informs us, book 1, chap. 4, in his day it was still continued according to the apostolic plan, and further says, the subjects made a profession of renouncing the world and the Devil and after they were baptised a white garment was given them and they were admitted to the Lord's Supper (or Eucharist).

Now JONAH, that covenant comprehends two things, the one on God's part, and the other on our's: on God's, the benefits of the gospel, which benefits are excellently represented by washing of water; but on our's, a public declaration of our faith and obedience to the gospel. And it is obvious that the apostles baptised, whole families; and according to Cyprian and others, was received by the universal church; and they are culpable who oppose it.—Let us not put asunder that which God hath put together, lest we be found to take away from the words of the book of his prophecy; and friend I defy thee or any

other man to prove an abrogating act, doing away baptism, and the Eucharist, more than you can the christian Sabbath, or any other part of the moral law, all which is obligatory on man. I have been the more prolix on these points as they were the only ones you touched on, I shall close with barely observing that if JONAH or me should have a mission to the Ninevites of our days, we will proclaim to them all that God commandeth us. Pardon the freedom with which I have animadverted on some of your ideas, and believe me to be your brother, though unworthy, in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ—farewell.

C—M—

PRESIDENTIAL.—SLAVERY.

(From the Genius of Universal Emancipation.)

I cannot indulge the idea which is entertained by some, to wit, that *individual exertions*, alone, will effect the abolition of slavery among us, sooner than it could otherwise be done.—It is true that this has mostly been the means of setting the work of political, as well as religious reformation on foot; and it has been found effectual in all cases, to a certain extent, in preparing the public mind for a change, and in paving the way for legislative interference. But there have ever been, in all ages of the world, and under every form of government, many whose hearts were so frozen by avarice, so callous to every feeling of humanity, and so completely centered in selfish considerations, that nothing but the strong arm of the law, or superior physical force, could induce them, to listen to the voice of justice. Men of this description are, perhaps, as numerous at this day as ever they were. With them, individual exertion is as nothing.—The ballot box must be brought to bear upon them, and if this will not have the desired effect, legislative enactment must be called to its aid. The latter, in most cases, follows as a necessary consequence of the former, though in the instance of choosing executive officers, its moral effect would be powerful—and, as I have heretofore shewn, could not fail to make a favourable impression on the minds of the people generally.

Many are of the opinion that our government *has no right* to interfere in matters relating to personal slavery. This idea was first suggested by avarice; it is founded in error; and has not the shadow of support either in justice or sound policy.

It is an axiom in politics, that what ever tends to create tumult and disorder, or to produce any thing by which the happiness of society may be jeopardized, should be restrained by law. In a republic, all power not delegated, is withheld, I admit, but the people of the United States have expressly given the constituted authorities a right to act as the conservators of public peace, and to preserve, as far as may be in their power, the tranquility of the nation; and it is well known that slavery has a direct tendency to frustrate every thing of the kind; of course, they must possess the right to do it away, if they see proper.—But the right which I claim for the government, in the case under consideration, does not rest on so vague and indefinite a principle as this. It has been established by the positive consent of the people, & sanctioned by usage.

By a law of Congress, passed a number of years since, and which has been ratified by common consent, hundreds, perhaps, of our citizens have been divested of their slaves, which they had purchased with their money, and held by virtue of as fair and legitimate contracts as any man in the Union holds a slave at this moment. There is not, in fact, an individual upon earth that has a more well founded claim to human beings, as property, than many of our citizens had who made their purchase in Africa prior to the enactment of that law.—Yet the government had the right to interfere, inasmuch as it was found to be detrimental to the weal of the nation to permit them to hold such property by such a tenure. It exercised this right, and it has been clearly justified in so doing. Several of the state governments have also shewn by their acts, that they possess the same right. The only question, therefore, that remains for us to decide, is this:—Would it be politic at the present time, for either of the general or state governments to exercise the right of abolishing slavery within the bounds of their jurisdiction?—My answer is, that for some of them it would be politic to abolish it immediately, but for others it would not:—though all might, with perfect safety, commence the work, and I consider it their bounden duty to do so. The government of the U. States ought to take measures, promptly and speedily, for checking the internal slave trade; for the gradual abolition of the system of slavery in the District of Columbia; and also to assist all those who are willing to emancipate their slaves on condition of their consenting to leave the country, in transporting them to some suitable place.—Many thousands would embrace such an offer; and a few

liberal appropriations, annually, for this purpose, would shew that we have some idea of acting on the principle of justice, and, perhaps, ultimately lead to the extinction of that foul blot which now, above all others, casts a shade over, and tends to diminish the brilliancy of our national escutcheon. In another place, I have shewn that the President could, were he so disposed, do much towards encouraging some thing of this kind; and hence, I repeat that it would be politic in us now to advance to that station, a man who would take an interest in the matter.

It is a settled maxim with us, that the majority of the citizens should bear rule. And as there can be no question as to the majority of the people of the U. S. being decidedly opposed to the system of slavery, it is time that the general government should commence the abolition of it where it may have the rightful power to do so.—The period has, indeed, arrived when something of this kind is looked for from that quarter. It cannot be expected that a legislative body would be willing to go far in anticipation of the people's wishes, in such a case, when it is aware of its responsibility to them for the manner in which its authority is exercised; yet it should not, on the other hand, exhibit too much tardiness in the adoption of measures that would be consistent with the known will of a majority of them. But in acting upon a subject of such general importance as the one under consideration, it is necessary that some person of enlarged views and persevering disposition should take the lead. Some one who holds an elevated rank, as it relates to character and extent of influence, must advocate it, and also be prepared to furnish evidence of its propriety. And what person in either of the various departments of the government, would be more suitable to perform such a task, than the chief executive officer, whose duty it is to communicate to the legislature from time to time his views with respect to the state of the nation?—In my humble opinion no one could enter upon the undertaking with a greater degree of propriety, or more certainty of success.

Apart from every other consideration, the honour of the nation demands that we should rid ourselves of the stigma which the toleration of individual slavery reflects on us. Our deeds are promiscuously recorded on the imperishable rolls of fame, as they transpire. An hundred pens, that are uninfluenced by either bribe or friendly bias, save what the anticipated applause of posterity produces, are employed in delineating both our virtues and our vices.—Therefore, if we cannot come fairly up to the standard of consistency, let us, at least, shew the disposition to approach it as near as possible. Let it not henceforth be said that a majority of the enlightened citizens of the North American republic are so inattentive to the precepts of universal justice, and the tenets of political virtue, as to elevate to the Presidential chair, a man whose hands are stained with the blood of oppressed humanity.

I will add nothing further upon this subject at present; but in my next, I shall give a few extracts from the late writings of sundry other persons, who have advanced arguments based upon a principle similar to that which I have here feebly endeavoured to support. The subject may seem to be rather novel to some, but it is deserving of the most weighty consideration; and it is to be hoped that it will attract the attention of our citizens, generally.

From Niles' Weekly Register.

VOICE OF CONNECTICUT.

A meeting of the republican members of both branches of the legislature of this state was held, on the 20th instant, in the hall of the house of representatives—David Hill, of the senate, presided, Mr. Russ, of the house, secretary. It was agreed that a ballot should be had to shew the wishes of those present as to the presidency, and the following result appeared—for John Q. Adams 124; A. Jackson 14; W. H. Crawford 7; H. Clay 2.

The following resolutions were then adopted.

Whereas, our fellow-citizens, in different parts of the country, have expressed their opinion on the merits of the several candidates, for the office of president of the United States, and feeling, as we do, a deep interest in the issue of the approaching election:

Resolved, That we have the fullest confidence in the talents, integrity and patriotism of John Quincy Adams, and do therefore, recommend him to our republican fellow-citizens, as the most suitable candidate for the office of president of the U. S.

Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the chairman and secretary.

DAVID HILL, Chairman.

John Russ, Secretary.

It is asserted in the Albany Daily Advertiser, that the Governor of New-York

intends to convene the legislature at an earlier period, than the regular time, meeting. His object in thus calling the members together, is said to be to pass a bill to give to the people the right of choosing presidential electors. How different this, from the language of his excellency in his message, at the opening of the last session of the N. Y. legislature.—*Vil. Reg.*

FOREIGN.

[Selected from various Eastern Papers.]

HATH—It appears from one of the papers, that in case of an attack, it is intended that all except the soldiers shall flee to the interior, where it is recommended that every man should make previous arrangements for the abode of his family.

The government seem to lose no courage at the prospect of a war with France, but on the contrary, to feel a double stimulus to active exertion. The whole country was placed in a threatening military posture several months ago, when the first reports were circulated concerning the French fleet preparing at Brest. At the opening of the Chamber of Deputies on the 1st of April, the President stated, in an extemporeaneous address, that the state of the country was very flattering, both with regard to commerce, finances, agriculture, and the arts of life. With regard to its present military situation, it will be forgotten that all the coast was placed in the strongest posture of resistance several months ago. In this state of things, if France should venture to undertake again the subjugation of the Island, she will find the garrisons doubly fortified, the stores well supplied with provisions, and a different description of enemies from those she has lately met in Spain.

The people seem to keep it constantly in their mind that they fight for liberty.

"Our condition," remarks a paper, enabled us to be victorious in the last war, and gave us the honor of being the first to conquer the troops of Napoleon, in the most brilliant period of his glory, and that, too, when we had no arms but despair."

MEXICO.—To preserve the tranquility of the country by giving energy to the government, a project has been adopted by the Mexican congress to appoint a "supreme dictator of the republic," who shall command the whole military—obtain money on the credit of the nation—solicit foreign aid if necessary—expel foreigners—and even annul any of the acts of the congress itself, if he pleases! The power granted is hardly less extensive in its range, than that possessed by the emperor of Russia.

GREECE AND TURKEY.

Letters from Missolonghi state, that the advanced guard of the Greek army for the attack of Lepanto had marched, and had been immediately followed by the division of Lord Byron, with that Nobleman at their head. The plans of Mr. Parry, the engineer, for carrying Lepanto by storm, had been approved, and little doubt was entertained of their complete success. It was stated at Missolonghi that Lord Strangford had nearly broken terms with the Sultan, on account of the reproaches of the Grand Vizier, for the loan raised in England for the service of the Greeks.

It is said that no new Journal can be published in France without the permission of the Ministers. The Pilote is the only Evening liberal Paper at Paris, and a person claiming the property of it has sold it to the government.

The last letters from Paris, revive the rumour that a congress of sovereigns was to be held at Paris.

The Pacha of Egypt imported from England, near two years ago, upwards of 100,000 stand of arms, with large supplies of ammunition. He has a fine cannon foundry, and powder factories. It is said he has contemplated making himself independent. The Pacha pays great respect to the English, and encourages the commercial intercourse. Vessels make their passages from Liverpool to Egypt in from 25 to 40 days.

We have attentively examined the proceedings of congress, since the resolutions passed by the Ohio legislature, relative to the emancipation of slaves, to see whether the national legislature, or any member of it, thought proper to bring forward these resolutions. But we have looked in vain—like Capt. Symmes' polar expedition, or Mr. Benton's memorial on the "art and mystery" of flying, these resolutions are doomed to lie under the table, not even honored by a reading. This is certainly treating our honorable legislature in a very light manner.—*Vil. Reg.*

EXPEDITION.—A gentleman may take an early dinner in Philadelphia, and arrive at Washington next morning to breakfast, and comfortably sleep 5 or 7 hours of the time. The distance, by land, is 137 miles, but as travelled by the stages and steam boats, about 164—to wit, 110 by water and 54 by land. The passengers, (with the mail), who leave Philadelphia at 12 o'clock in the day, reach Washington at 9 o'clock the next morning.—*Niles*