TO THE PUBLIC.

Every exercise of authority of one man over another, *without absolute necessity*, is tyrannical.

BECCARIA, ON CRIMES.

AS every man, in proportion to his sensibility, puts a value on his character; and as the Bishop who presides over the Church of England in the state of Maryland, and the standing committee of that church, have lately thought proper to pay me so much respect, retired and obscure as I am, as to order my name to be published in their churches throughout the state, and to request its publication throughout the United States, in a manner calculated to injure my *moral* character; I beg leave to offer to the public a short statement of the facts relating to this case.

Eighteen years ago, I was ordained a minister of the church of England, and continued to officiate in the ordinary duties of that character about *one year only*. At the end of that time, a very ill state of health rendered a continuance in that pursuit impracticable; and other causes had occurred to render it in some respects disagreeable.

It is not here necessary to enumerate all those causes; but, I am sorry to mention among the principal, that a more extensive acquaintance with the clergy of that church convinced me, that I had mistaken their general character, at the time when I applied for admission to their order; for, instead of those truly religious men, which I conceived them to be, the greater number of those with whom I became acquainted, especially those in the most conspicuous situations, *appeared to me* to be men possessing more policy and party zeal, than valuable *benificent* religion; and in a surprising degree destitute of that liberality and candor which are essential to good morality.

It will not, I hope, be ascribed to vanity, when I mention the circumstance, that, after I had declined officiating, or immediately before, I received an application which I considered sufficiently respectful and earnest, from the parish I had served, to continue to serve them; and an invitation equally obliging from an adjoining parish. This fact is mentioned, to obviate the inference from the above observation, respecting causes of dissatisfaction, that I had rendered myself unacceptable, as a minister.

I am well aware, that the expressions of censure which I have here employed, can only be justified by the necessity I have been laid under to attempt a vindication of my character, combined with the *truth* of the matters alledged.—— Conscious as I am, that my own life is chargeable with many imperfections and faults, I feel no disposition, either publicly or privately, to censure officiously, and without necessity, the lives of other men. But, as the act of laying aside the clerical character, and the disuse of the communion in the church, have been exhibited as crimes of the most aggravated nature, and such as to justify the severest sentence which any church, where the civil authority is supreme, has a power of executing; I trust the obvious necessity imposed on me to state some of the principal reasons for the course of life I have pursued, will be a sufficient apology with the public for the liberty I have taken in doing it.

Shortly after my retiring from the clerical charge, I prosecuted a course of medical study—commenced the practice of physic fourteen years ago—was by my own consent enrolled in the militia, nine or ten years ago,—and believing the ordinances of the church to be too generally substituted in the place of GOOD WORKS, and falsely relied on; I have not for about seventeen years claimed any privilege even as a *member* of the church;—tho' I have during the whole time occasionably attended its public worship, in common with that of most other societies.—

In addition to the above evidences of having finally withdrawn from the ministry in the year 1805, I resigned my *Letters of Orders* to Bishop *White*, of Philadelphia (by whom I had been ordained) and obtained from him a certificate of that resignation. Bishop White offered no objection to the mode I had persued; and, having never read or heard of an instance, such as my own case has now furnished, I was led to consider myself in all respects a *Layman*. The Bishop of Maryland, it appears, thought otherwise, and has made the act of resignation the first of *three* particulars which constitute a charge, on which, a few months past, he directed me to be tried, with a great deal of formality, by a court of four or five members.

His charges are expressed in the following words. "*In consequence of your sending in your Letters of Orders*, and of information that I have received, *that you have declined all clerical duty, and even attendance on the ordinances*, I have summoned a meeting of the standing committee, &c." Parturient montes,—nascitur ridiculus mus.

The charge being composed of such facts as clearly showed the intention of resigning the clerical character, I would appeal to the candor of every liberal mind (for candor is no attribute of *bigots*) whether every rational purpose would not have been as effectually obtained, by inserting among the proceedings of the state convention, after having ascertained the facts alledged, in any *private* way, that I had resigned that character, and was therefore no longer to be accepted as such. Indeed, it would appear difficult to assign any reason why even this was necessary, as they alledge no fact, and there certainly exists none, to authorize a suspicion, that I should resume those functions, after having voluntarily divested myself of the necessary commission, as I had done. In the whole time between my declining to officiate generally and my resignation, I indeed married six or seven poor couples, not able to pay fees; each of which instances took place in the absence of a parish minister, and under circumstances where a refusal would have been in a degree cruel;—but since my resignation, and for some years before, to the best of my recollection, I have attempted no clerical act whatever.

From the expressions employed in the preamble to the sentence it would be naturally supposed, and was apparently so intended by the Bishop, that I had acknowledged the authority of the standing committee to try me on the charges, and had very submissively attended the *tribunal*, as he terms it, in person. He well knows the fact to be directly the reverse, that I neither attended their meeting, nor saw any one of them. If I may be allowed to judge from the uniform feelings of my past life, I am not destined to became the *tame vassal*, though I possibly may the *victim*, of any despotism, either in church or state.—My mind was very decided from the time I was served with the process, that I was not bound by any tie whatever to attend their meeting, nor to notice it in any manner;—but, inferring from the canon which had been sent me on the occasion, that my *avowal* of the facts charged would save them the trouble of another meeting, and bring the matter to a shorter issue, I wrote at some length to a neighboring clergyman (through whom I had received the charges) expressing my surprize, that those zealous gentlemen should give themselves the trouble to travel so far from their homes to *do over again* what had been done so effectually to their hand by myself. Indeed those proceedings appeared so evidently fertile—so devoid of reason, that I could not forbear telling them, through that indirect channel, that I considered it a business farcical, ridiculous, absurd; and that an adventure against one of our neighboring wind mills would be equally rational and useful with the one they were pursuing.

In justification of the above observations I beg leave to quote a sentence from *Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History*; a work of as high and general authority among the reformed churches, as perhaps any other. After a chain of arguments leading to that conclusion, the author advances the position, "*For the man who voluntarily withdraws himself from any society, cannot with any appearance of reason or common sense, be afterwards forcibly and authoritatively excluded from it*"—Vol. 4. p. 53.

Here is a decision directly in point, on the matter in issue between us.—If the Bishop and his assistants can justify their process by any authority as respectable as that by which it is here exposed and condemned, it is an object deserving their attention to do it.—If they cannot, an unprejudiced public will determine for themselves, whether those formal and laborious proceedings were dictated by good sense and a regard to utility, on one hand; or by speen, superstition, or folly, on the other. Quem Deus vult perdere, prius demental.

I presume not to dictate to the public, what inference should be drawn from the phraseology used by the Bishop in the *sentence* itself: but, as I apprehend it, it betrays no small degree of arrogance.—His words are, "He is henceforth degraded from the *Christian* ministry." The good Bishop will hardly go so far as to declare *directly*, though he appears to have done it by implication, that the church of England is the *only christian church*. Suppose I had, during the long interval between my laying aside the character of a *church minister*, and the acting of that solemn farce called my *trial*, obtained a standing with some other society as a minister. Has Bishop Claggett borrowed from *ancient Popes* (for the modern have it not to bestow,) a dictatorial power over all churches, co-extensive with christendom?—I have been told, he is willing to allow that the Catholic Bishops have equally with himself, a power of conferring a valid ordination: though he denies it to the ministers of all the reformed churches, except his own. Suppose then I could produce Ecclesiastical orders from a Catholic Bishop.—On his own principles, he would be forced to acknowledge that I was a *christian minister* still, his own declaration to the contrary notwithstanding.

Perhaps I may be thought unjust, in imputing blame to the Bishop and the standing committee; whereas it may be supposed, that this prosecution was a task imposed on them by a canon of the general convention, some clauses of which are recited in their preamble.—But the reader will please to observe, that the expression used in that part of the canon recited as aforesaid, is not *imperative*, making it an absolute duty on the part of the Bishop; but referring it to his discretion, to prosecute those coming within the provisions of the canon, if he should think it expedient; to wit, they "shall be *liable to be* degraded from the ministry." And as no mention is made in that canon of persons who had *formerly resigned* their letters of orders, it is by no means apparent that the provisions of it could apply to my case. But, however that may be, I hope the reader will perceive the importance of the observation, when I state, that no such canon existed at the time I was ordained, nor for several years afterwards, so that it cannot be objected to me, that I was aware of that part of the discipline of the church, at the time of my ordinaiton, and ought therefore to have acted in obedience to it,—it being of a date many years later.

The public are here made acquainted with such facts and circumstances, as appeared to me to be necessary to place the subject in a just light before them.

I have formerly had some acquaintance in several parts of the country, distant from my present residence; and am by no means indifferent, as to the approbation or censure of such persons as may have been so indulgent to my faults, as to have believed, that my life was not remarkably distinguished by a departure from the dictates of common sense, and common honesty. Should I again have the pleasure of a personal intercourse with them—a real pleasure it would be, as to many of them; I flatter myself they would not find me so greatly changed for the worse, as they may have been led to apprehend, from those memorable proceedings, which have compelled me to appeal from the decision of men of narrow policy, to the more enlightened and more liberal judgement of the public.

MARTIN LUTHER HAYNIE.

Princess-Ann, October 8, 1807. 2

As the Bishop and committee have determined to have their sentence published in all their churches, throughout the United States, I hope some other Printers, in different parts of the country, will so far respect the feelings of an injured individual, as to give the above a place in their Papers.

From the Aurora.

An article appeared in Relf's Gazette of Saturday evening, which from the nature of the circumstances to which it relates, we think proper to copy and to notice.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE.

"An act marked with singular presumption and arrogance occurred in this city yesterday afternoon. A Delaware pilot who had been boarded off the Capes by a British cruizer from Halifax, and entrusted with a packet directed to the British minister, Mr. Erskine, and endorsed by admiral Berkeley, yesterday reached town; on his way to deposit the packet in the post office, he fell into conversation with a person opposite the Aurora office, to whom he shewed the packet. This person, upon hearing the circumstances, took possession of the packet, and delivered it to the editor of the Aurora, who has since refused to deliver it up, alledging that he had forwarded it to the president of the United States! The pilot has made oath to the circumstances of the case. Mr. Erskine is now in this city".

"Mark how a plain tale will set them down"—a person whom the editor never saw before nor since, presented a packet, concerning which the explanation agrees generally with the above account of its receipt, but differing in some *particulars*—it was stated to have been put on board an American vessel, accompanied by abuse and menaces if it was not delivered, with many opprobrious epithets of Yankee rascal, and the like, by a British armed ship.

Why or wherefore this paper should have been brought to the editor, sitting quietly in the bosom of his family, was not to be accounted for. But it was put into the editor's hands, and there remained no other consideration for the editor how to act, but that he should at once defeat artifice if there was any meditated—and take care that if it was really no imposture "*the man should have his mare.*"

The thing looked very suspicious on its outside; it appeared to be, and perhaps may turn out to be, what the editor suspects, a pamphlet, or a couple of English newspapers; for there was not even a seal upon it—it was superscribed "in his Britannic majesty's service," and addressed to the ambassador of G. Britain.

For Mr. Erskine as a private gentleman, and as the son of the late chancellor of England, there can be no motive for disrespect or even the want of respect. But the editor of this paper has neither the *motive* nor the *means*, of information which, Mr. *Relf* has to know where the British ambassador holds his occasional residence.

But if the editor did know, and he did not know until three hours after he had dispatched the packet to the seat of the general government, the usual and the proper residence of all ambassadors, yet he should not have acted otherwise than he has done, and which he would do to-morrow with the knowledge of Mr. Erskine's presence, if he should be presented with a packet in the same way.

That there should be no mistake in the motives, they shall be very fully, explicitly, and unreservedly explained.

It is well known both from the conduct of the *agents* and the *corrupt* adherents of the British government, that the AURORA is particularly obnoxious to them. One of their emissaries, who from his *feeling* in the affair is a competent evidence, has publicly declared, that the *Aurora* under the direction of its present editor, has *cost* the *British government* upwards of a *million sterling*. This million must have been laid out in *some way* in the United States, for it is pretty evident that it has not been laid out in promoting the AURORA—other printers must know.

The destruction of the editor, it cannot be doubted would gratify that government—and whether it is by the means which Cobbet *pointed at*: "*there is no doing any thing with such a man unless you take his life*"—or by destroying his character, and standing in society, is not so material to that government as that it should be done; they view him as a *mere Irishman*, and would give more than *forty marks* to *remove* the stumbling block.

With this knowlege, the editor would have been indeed a greater fool than they suppose him to be, if he had, for an instant, hesitated on the mode of disposing of the packet.

It was delivered by a person whom he never saw *before—nor since*—never but the once.

It was delivered in a very questionable manner—for it was not the person who said he received it that delivered it, but a person who had received it from another.

Aware of the stratagems of the British, and strengthened by the exterior appearance of the packet—without even a seal, and to appearance containing either a couple of newspapers or a small pamphlet, the editor could not forget the use that had been made of a similar occurrence in relation to his predecessor—he conceived it to be a *trick*, intended to entrap him—and these reflections arose—

Suppose this packet to be a political contrivance *here*—

Suppose it to contain something personally insulting to Mr. Erskine.

If it was, and we do still believe it to be a trick invented here, the object must be too obvious.

If it was any thing personally insulting to Mr. Erskine, then the very circumstance of its passing, *no matter by what means*, through the hands of the editor of the Aurora, no dohbt the intention would be or was to fix the act or authorship on the object so obnoxious to the British.

There could be no choice of conduct left in such a situation. The man was questioned if he had any illegal intercourse, contrary to the president's proclamation, with the British armed ship? The reply he made was, that *he was not the person but a relation of his.*

The reply made by the editor was, the only course for *you* and for *me* is to send it to the executive.

Accordingly, it was put under a cover along with a short open note to the secretary of state noticing how it was received, and intimating the editor's ignorance of Mr. Erskine's actual residence.

A gentleman, not an agent of Mr. Bond as has been said—in about three hours afterwards, called and enquired about it, but the packet had been dispatched, and of course was out of the power of the editor; but had it been in the power of the editor he would not have acted otherwise? because he found it incumbent on him to place the *government of the country* between him and the *pestilence of British connexion.*

As to Mr. Erskine's being in this city, the editor did not know it, until informed so three hours after the transaction; if he had known it under the circumstances in which it reached him, he would not have trusted to any equivocal course.

The *adherents* of the *British government* have now the whole advantage of their trick, for such we must still believe it to be. *But the trap did not catch*—they must try another trick or give it *another turn*; and they had best request a copy or the original note of the editor to the secretary of state.

FROM A LIVERPOOL PAPER OF SEPT. 5.

Denmark—The awful circumstances in which this kingdom is placed, and the impenetrable darkness which veils the operation of our expedition lately sent against it, induces us to hope that the following brief account of that monarchy may not be unacceptable to our readers:—

Denmark consist of several islands in the Baltic; and of Jutland, Sleswick, Iceland and the Ferror isles in the North sea. The following is the present state of its naval and military force:—

Line of battle ships,	27
Frigates,	14
Flat bottomed boats, mounting 2 cannons,	300
Seamen,	20,000
Men in the dock-yards,	3,100

The land force of Denmark is as follows:—

In Denmark & Holstein		*In Norway.*	
Infantry,	24,000	Infantry,	14,000
Cavalry,	6,000	Cavalry,	3,000
Militia,	17,000	Militia,	13,000
Fencibles,	11,000	Fencibles,	5,000
Grand total,		95,000.	

The entire population of the kingdom of Denmark may be estimated at upwards of 3,300,000. Its revenue exceeds 2,000,000 sterling, and the whole kingdom contains 163,041 square miles. Her troops are brave and her seamen well skilled in nautical affairs.

Copenhagen, which is the capital, is situated in a Bay or Haven in the island of Zealand, and contains about 100,000 inhabitants, and more than 180 streets, with remarkably well built houses. Its distance from Elsineur or the sound, is about 21 English miles.—The city was founded in the 12th century, and, was originally a place of resort for fishermen only. The harbor is circular, and the entrance into it from the sea is a channel or gut, the middle of which is only navigable.—The water on each side is shallow, and defended by a peculiar kind of military work, called naval horns, the nature and strength of which merit a more detailed explanation.—They are made of large beams, from 16 to 30 feet long, shod with iron and put together like chevaux de frize. They are then put on flat bottomed vessels, and sunk, three, four, and five feet below the surface of the water. In the Belts, and other passages, particularly in the narrow channels, where the water has neither tide nor current, they are easily laid down and taken up. The Sweedes were the first who made use of these works, and they have subsequently been adopted at Cronstadt and Copenhagen.

Elsineur was a small village till 1446, when it was made a staple town by Eric of Pomerania, who conferred several immunities upon it. From that period it has gradually increased in size and wealth; and is now the most commercial town in Denmark except Copenhagen, from which it is distant two miles. It contains about 6000 inhabitants.

The passage of the Sound is guarded by the fortress of Cronberg, which is situated on the edge of a peninsular promontory, the nearest point of land to Sweeden distant about three miles. It is strongly fortified towards the land by ditches, bastions, and entrenchments, and towards the sea by several batteries, mounted with 60 pieces of cannon, the largest 41 pounder. Every vessel that passes lowers her top-sails, and pays a toll at Elsineur. It is generally asserted that this fort guards the Sound, and that all vessels must, on account of the shoalness of the water, and currents, steer so close to the batteries, as to be exposed to their fire. This however, is a mistaken notion. On account, indeed, of the numerous and opposite currents in the Sound, the safest passage lies near the fort; but the water in any place is of sufficient depth for vessels to keep at a distance, and the largest ships can even sail close to the coast of Sweden. The kings of Sweden claimed an exemption from toll, but by a treaty of 1720, they agreed to become subject. All vessels, beside a small duty, are rated at 1½ per cent, of their cargoes, except the English, French, Danish and Swedish, which only pay 1 per cent, and in return the crown takes the charge of light houses, signals, &c.

The palace of Cronberg, which is in the fort, is square Gothic buildings. In it was confined the unfortunate Matilda, sister to the English king. Elsineur is also remarkable for being the scene of Shakespeare's Hamlet, and there is a garden half a mile from Cronberg, which is said, by tradition, to be the very garden where the murder of his father was perpetrated. The garden occupies the side of the hill, and is laid out in terraces rising one above the other.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

A PROCLAMATION,

WHEREAS information has been received that a number of individuals, who have deserted from the army of the U. States, and sought shelter without the jurisdiction thereof, have become sensible of their offence, and are desirous of returning to their duty, a full pardon is hereby proclaimed to each and all of such individuals as shall, within four months from the date hereof, surrender themselves to the commanding officer of any military post within the United States, or the territories thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand.—Done at the city of Washington, the fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty-second. TH: JEFFERSON.

By the President,

JAMES MADISON, *Secretary of State.*