

Israel , *American Herald*, 31 December 1787

A respectful regard to the teachers of Religion, is some check to the growth of Immorality among the common classes of mankind; and does not the late Delegation of a number of Clergymen to a Seat in the ensuing Convention, indicate, that this respect still subsists in the minds of the people?—But is there not danger that it will be lost in execration against an Order, in whom they have thus confided, if the arbitrary System, fabricated in Philadelphia, should happen to be adopted, even though they should not co-operate with those who are urging its acceptance by every artifice.—Heaven forbid that Religion should receive a wound in the house of its friends!—Or, that by any part of the conduct of this venerable Order, the moral character in this country should suffer a further diminution, and lie prostrate with all political principle beneath the shrine of despotism!—But if this Body should throw their weight into the scale of FREEDOM, as they did in an honourable and distinguished manner, in the late Revolution, they may yet have an Influence on the mind and manners, in their Clerical capacity; and at the same time be instrumental in saving their country from the complicated mischiefs that hang suspended over it.—Mankind are generally supine under every oppression, until they begin to FEEL the rod that scourges them; and though there is too great an appearance of a general servility of manners; yet this people are not sufficiently ignorant and depraved, nor scarcely, in any respect, quite ripe for Slavery.—It is true, *the Ashnetes may feast for a while on the royal dainties, and the tribe of Issachar bend the shoulder to the burthen, and become the servants of tribute; yet Judah will soon rouse as a lyon, and his hand take hold on the neck of his enemies,—while in every quarter of America the sons of Dan will be as an adder in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that his rider shall fall backwards, and perhaps perish beneath the pile of his own rearing.*

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