

Lycurgus, *American Herald*, 29 October 1787

A writer on the Fœderal Constitution in the CENTINEL of the 20th inst. tells us a story of *Dr. Franklin's* confidence of General *Pepperell's* expedition against *Cape-Breton*, in 1746; and when the *Dr.* was interrogated, with regard to the *ground* of his confidence: gave the following, viz. *that all the praying people were on his side*; from which this writer concludes—*that the new Government of the United States will be adopted, since the ministers, and christians of all denominations are now ingaged in praying for it; and there is good reason to believe that no prayers have as yet been offered against it.*

I was really in hopes that my eyes would not have been disoblged any more with an observation of so ill natured an aspect.—Has it come to this, that no person of any denomination is a *Christian*, except those who pray for the adoption of the proposed Federal Constitution? If that constitution is as good as its most zealous devotees can imagine, I can by no means suppose that it will be considered at the *last day* (or ought to be at any other time) as a test of *Christianity*.

In a free government all such *scurrilous* reflections cannot be perused without horror, nor the author thought of without pity as well as contempt; and the man who, when a question of the utmost consequence is before the public for their discussion and examination, shall presume publicly to *unchristianize* all such as do not pray for *their* particular system would do well to consider, whether his approbation will do any service to any system which he may espouse.

For my part I am rejoiced to see the different systematicks offer their sentiments to the public, and the reasons which induce them to embrace such sentiments; and I take it to be a priviledge which of *right* they ought to enjoy, and a *duty* which they ought to perform.

If the constitution is good, it can receive no damage from examination, but will, like silver, by rub[b]ing appears brighter and brighter, and the people be led to accept of the same with more unanimity, for its being fully investigated and understood: But if it will not bear examination no person of the least degree of honest intentions can wish it adopted; and that person (let his station in life be ever so dignified or his occupation be what it may) who wishes to prevent an *open, free, candid, and impartial* examination of such a momentous question, discovers a disposition better calculated for the Meridian of *Constantinople* than *America*, and would make a better figure as a *Janizary* than a member of a free republican government.

Boston, October 24.

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