

any thing of mankind, will build his hopes of a firm and upright use of power, on the lucubrations of retirement: ~~on~~ what the man resolves or promises to do before the curtain is lifted; and of what avail are gentleness of manners and harmless reveries, when reputation and life, the curses or blessings of a world hang upon our decision?

Then is the call for great sacrifices, the *atrocem animum*, the soul that holds its purposes fast, in spite of blandishments or menaces, of infamy or death; that gives failure and success to the words, and is prepared to smile whether heaven is propitious to his efforts, or leave nothing to his dying hour but the consciousness of meaning well.

I draw no parallels. I penetrate not into the secret motives, nor call up the past life of Thomas Jefferson. I embody not the breath of slander, nor repeat the tale of an enemy. For the past let this man be made to answer at the bar of his own conscience. For his errors let him urge, as an apology, the frailty of his nature, the fallibility of human judgment, and the tyranny of wayward passions, which received their birth or their fostering from misjudging parents or an unhappy education. I argue, not against his elevation, from the in-

firmities of purpose which his past life has displayed. I address not those to whom *this* is the only obstacle to approbation. I address not those who are already averse to his maxims of government, but those only, who are favourers, or neutrals with regard to what is called politics, but who are likewise *christians*, and from whom it cannot be concealed that Thomas Jefferson *is none*.

Grossly unjust would it be to this cause, to imagine that any man who values his religion, will require to be convinced by any consideration. To suppose that mere zeal for a party, or an opinion, that any selfish or lucrative vice, that the political maxims of Jefferson are so repugnant to those of his opponents, the measures he is expected to pursue, so essential to the welfare of our country, in your eyes, as to outweigh every moral consideration flowing from his *unbelief*.

It is even injurious to the cause in which I am engaged, to dwell upon remote or contingent consequences; to tell you what other nations may think of you for chusing an unbeliever for your governor. What inference will they draw as to the honor in which you hold your God, and his religion: what measures

they may adopt on the supposition of your apostacy from the faith of your ancestors.

I wish not now to address you as politicians, as members of a common country, but as subjects of a deity, and heirs of a life to come; not as actors on a doubtful and transitory scene, and owing short-lived obligations to the creatures that surround, but as members of a universe; as accountable, hereafter, to an all-wise judge, in whose eyes, all the transactions of this world are intended as subservient to those of another, and with whom you will be meritorious or guilty, in proportion as you benefit or injure the condition of others, and your own condition, in that state of future and interminable existence.

Not a pamphlet only, but volumes might be written upon this subject. The consequences might be more variously and largely displayed, the consequences which will follow Jefferson's election, and the imagination might thus be more completely occupied, and more powerfully affected, but my feeble pen has written enough. It would never have been drawn forth, on this occasion, had not there been an unfortunate inattention to this topic, among those better qualified to vindicate the truth—Had not those, who have hitherto at-

tempted the same thing, afforded undue advantages to their adversaries.

Yet they have been eloquent and powerful, and have done some part of that good which they intended. That I also have contributed my mite to the same fund, and exerted to the utmost, and with honesty, my slender abilities, to open your eyes to your true interest, and assist you in interpreting the precepts of your duty, is my consolation and my glory. The success of my efforts will be determined by that power, all whose determinations, whether adverse or propitious to human schemes, will be submitted to by me, and should be submitted to by all, *as right*.