

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF THE

CIVIL INSTITUTIONS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

DEVELOPED IN THE OFFICIAL AND HISTORICAL
ANNALS OF THE REPUBLIC.

BY

B. F. MORRIS.

- “ True religion affords to Government its surest support.”—WASHINGTON.
- “ The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.
- “ The religion of the New Testament—that religion which is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Apostles—is as sure a guide to duty in politics and legislation as in any concern of life.”—DANIEL WEBSTER.
- “ Righteousness exalteth a nation.”—BIBLE.

PHILADELPHIA:
GEORGE W. CHILDS, 628 & 630 CHESTNUT ST.
CINCINNATI: HICKEY & CARROLL.
1864.



Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by

B. F. MORRIS,

**In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of
Pennsylvania.**

STEREOTYPED BY L. JOHNSON & CO.
PHILADELPHIA.

and paper; that, afterwards, the risk of importing them will considerably enhance the cost, and that the calculations are subject to such uncertainty in the present state of affairs, that Congress cannot much rely on them; that the use of the Bible is so universal, and its importance so great, that your committee refer the above to the consideration of Congress, and if Congress shall not think it expedient to order the importation of types and paper, the committee recommend that Congress will order the Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland, or elsewhere, into the different ports of the States of the Union.

Whereupon it was moved, That the Committee of Commerce be directed to import 20,000 copies of the Bible.

On this motion, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, voted in the affirmative; New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, voted in the negative.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

In 1781 Rev. Mr. Aitken memorialized Congress to aid him in printing an American edition of the Bible. Congress appointed a committee, who submitted a report on the subject as follows:—

By the United States in Congress assembled:

SEPTEMBER 12, 1782.

The committee to whom was referred a memorial of Robert Aitken, Printer, dated 21st January, 1781, respecting an edition of the Holy Scriptures, report, That Mr. Aitken has, at great expense, now finished an American edition of the Holy Scriptures in English; that the committee have from time to time attended to his progress in the work; that they also recommended it to the two chaplains of Congress to examine and give their opinion of the execution, who have accordingly reported thereon; the recommendation and report being as follows:—

PHILADELPHIA, 1st Sept., 1782.

REVEREND GENTLEMEN:—

Our knowledge of your piety and public spirit leads us, without apology, to recommend to your particular attention the edition of the Holy Scriptures published by Mr. Aitken. He undertook this expensive work at a time when, from the circumstances of the war, an English edition of the Bible could not be imported, nor any opinion formed how long the obstruction might continue. On this account, particularly, he deserves applause and encouragement. We therefore wish you, reverend gentlemen, to examine the execution of the work, and, if approved, to give it the sanction of your judgment and the weight of your recommendation.

We are, with very great respect,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) JAMES DUANE, *Chairman,*

In behalf of a committee of Congress on Mr. Aitken's memorial.

Reverend Dr. White and Rev. Mr. Duffield, Chaplains of the United States in Congress assembled, report:—

GENTLEMEN:—

Agreeably to your desire, we have paid attention to Mr. Robert Aitken's impression of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Having selected and examined a variety of passages throughout the work, we are of opinion that it is executed with great accuracy as to the sense, and with as few grammatical and typographical errors as could have been expected in an undertaking of such magnitude. Being ourselves witnesses of the demand for this invaluable work, we rejoice in the present prospect of a surplus,—hoping that it will prove as advantageous as it is honorable to the gentleman who has exerted himself to furnish it, at the evident risk of private fortune.

We are, gentlemen,

Your very respectful and humble servants,

(Signed)

WILLIAM WHITE,

GEORGE DUFFIELD.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 10, 1782.

HON. JAMES DUANE, Esq., *Chairman*, and the other honorable gentlemen of the committee of Congress on Mr. Aitken's memorial.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the United States, in Congress assembled, highly approve of the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interests of religion, as well as an instance of the progress of the fine arts in this country; and, being satisfied from the above report of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*.

The American Bible Society published, in 1856, the following statement in connection with the presentation of a Bible to each House of Congress:—

THE BIBLE IN CONGRESS.

A joint note was received in May last from the two chaplains of Congress, suggesting that our Board present a copy of the pulpit Bible for use in public worship at the Capitol. The suggestion was cheerfully complied with, and the following response received, showing, with a thousand other incidents, that, while we have no state-established religion, we are correctly styled a Christian nation:—

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1856.

To the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society.

GENTLEMEN:—We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of an imperial quarto Bible for the use of Congress at the hands of your Secretary.

In behalf of Congress, we beg to tender to you our grateful thanks for