

they can be said to be "professing a belief in the faith of any protestant sect," is perhaps another question; and hence, although all such persons "shall be capable of being elected into any office of profit or trust," &c. "and shall fully and freely enjoy every privilege and immunity enjoyed by others of their fellow subjects," yet it does not perhaps, necessarily follow, that, Free Enquirers are to have this privilege.

In the Constitution of Pennsylvania, Declaration, art. 2d, after declaring "that all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience and understanding," declares, "nor can any man who acknowledges the being of a God, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiments, or peculiar mode of religious worship:" &c.

Yet, rather inconsistent with the above, in the Plan or Frame of Government, art. 10, each member of the Legislature, before he takes his seat, is made to acknowledge not only his belief in God, "the Creator and Governor of the Universe," but also he must subscribe to the following, "I do acknowledge the scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

This is the only "religious test;" but even here, "each Member" is made to acknowledge what no one knows, or can know to be true, and what reason and common sense show to be false, in any other sense than that every book is given by inspiration; for "there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding." *Job*, xxxii. 8.

In the Constitution of the State of Delaware the same "unalienable right" is recognized; and, in the Declaration, it says,—

*Art. 3.* "That all persons professing the Christian religion, ought forever to enjoy equal rights and privileges in this state, unless under color of religion any man disturb the peace, the happiness, or safety of society."

The Constitution of that state, like the present Constitution of the State of New York, precludes clergymen of any denomination from "holding any civil office in the state."

The Constitution of North Carolina guarantees, art. 19, "That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience." Here the subject is left without any restrictions whatever.

The Constitution of South Carolina, art. 13, says, "The qualifications of electors shall be, that every free white man, and no other person, acknowledges the being of a God, and believes in a future state of rewards and punishments," &c. &c. (many other qualifications) "shall be deemed a person qualified to vote," &c. And "no person shall be eligible to sit in the House of Representatives, unless he be a protestant religion," &c. What an excellent mode of making a test! This state also excludes clergymen from holding any of the civil offices of state.

Article 38, after tolerating, "all persons and religions,"