

constitution requires of every citizen entering upon the legislative or executive function, to swear "that he believes in one God, in the future rewards and punishments of another life, in the holiness of the Old and New Testament, and that he professes the Protestant religion." In short, with individuals, and even with some societies, religion is one of the objects which occupies the least of the attention of the American people; and it is affirmed that in those states where Presbyterianism has preserved the most of appearance, of influence, and of rigidity, it is exercised in general only for the sake of form.

There are in almost all the towns of America, at least in the principal cities of the states, societies for agriculture, societies for the encouragement of arts, and for the formation and maintenance of public libraries; these last excepted, few among them attain the end proposed, and but few of them can ever be able to attain it in the present state of America. The expences which these last societies incur in small pamphlets, are paid by voluntary subscription, in which the inhabitants of the United States, in easy circumstances, are more liberal when the public good is the object of them, than they are in bestowing their time in reading them.

There are also a considerable number of charitable societies, some of which are marine societies, whose purpose is, in some towns, to provide a subsistence for the wives and children of captains, or masters, who die at sea; or for providing assistance to all vessels wrecked upon their coasts. There are also societies for the assistance of emigrants; that is to say, for assisting with advice and succours those strangers who arrive from Europe, with an intention of establishing themselves in America. Others subscribe for the support of hospitals and schools, and for the distribution of proper medicines; there are some for the purpose of ameliorating the situation of prisoners; some also for the civilization of the Indians; and, lastly, others unite themselves for the purpose of accelerating in America the epoch of the destruction of slavery. In all these different charitable societies, composed of men of all classes, of all professions, and of all religions, there is not one in which some of the people called Quakers are not to be found; they are the agents of a great many of them, and of some