

NOTES.

NOTE [A.]—Page 12.

LIBERTY of conscience is a dear privilege. It has full scope in this Country, and the clamor of sectarians is utterly without ground. To build upon this claim, doctrines and measures which leave nothing permanent; which, in effect, annul solemn covenants, and contradict our commonest notions of honesty, is merely to use liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, or covetousness, or licentiousness. Instead of strengthening civil government, it subverts it. It is directly in the face of the constitution of this Commonwealth, which declares that, "the legislature shall, from time to time, authorize and require, the several towns, parishes, precincts, and other bodies politic or religious, to make suitable provision at their own expence, for the institution of the public worship of God, and for the support and maintenance of public protestant teachers of piety and religion." How idle are all laws to this purpose, if they undo themselves by provisional relaxations; if they warrant the individuals, who have deliberately acted in forming a contract for the support of such a teacher, to break away, at any moment, from the obligations of the contract, and deny the support they promised to furnish! Better have no legislation than to have it so extravagantly absurd. The Baptists are the most clamorous for such a prostration of constitution and law. And alas! they have not clamored without effect. It is hoped and believed that the Judiciary will stand firm in defence of the Constitution, and treat as mere nullities, as the mere offspring of a disorganizing democracy, all laws evidently subversive of it. Let us have full-grown liberty, but no dwarfish licentiousness.

NOTE [B.]—Page 12.

A FARMER: No. 10. Such is the strain of malediction in this prudent disclosure of feeling. "In this liberty (the voluntary election and support of ministers) and in the political causes which have and are every day disgusting it, if they are continued, we foresee the downfall of federal clergymen.—Already has the forgiving spirit plead for clergymen seventy times seven.—Adverse combinations, oppugnations, disrespect, reproach, and systematic revil-