

MR. BACHE,

In your paper of the 11th inst. I observe a paragraph condemning the new England clergy for the part they have acted on a late occasion, as this is calculated, tho' perhaps not intended, to make a wrong impression on the public mind, I persuade myself you will be ready to correct the error, by giving place to a few observations.

He must be entirely ignorant of the Eastern States who does not know that the clergy are among the most enlightened and respectable class of citizens and that generally speaking their conduct and behaviour is the best commentary on the purity of their doctrines.

As Citizens certainly they have something to do with civil government—During the revolution they were the most zealous and the most influential of our citizens, in asserting the independence of our country. They are far however from meriting the appellation of *party men*.—When SHAYS' rebellion (which struck at the existence of government) happened in Massachusetts, the clergy were, I believe, unanimously on the side of order and government, and on the late occasion I presume they consider it as a question not between one set of political opinions and another but between government and anarchy, between public faith and public dishonor. He must view the clergy as degraded indeed, who can consider it as their duty to remain silent and inactive while a few men in our government are pursuing measures calculated to involve a country, of which they are a part, in shame and ruin.

They may be mistaken in the tendency of the measures to which I allude, but certainly viewing the subject in the light they do they would be inexcusable if they remained silent. It may seem strange to you Mr. BACHE, and far from being orthodox, but I assure you that it forms a part of the duties and labours of an Eastern clergyman to inculcate both by precept and example *obedience to the civil authority*; and at present I believe they hold in greater abhorrence the modern doctrines of holy insurrection, ingratitude for services performed, and calumny against characters the most spotless and pure, than the horrors of popery or the spreading of heresies.

LUCIUS.