

in having passed in its place "An Act for Establishing Religious Freedom," written by Jefferson. The document is lengthy but the following quotation will give the general tenor:

"Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinion or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or effect their civil capacities." The state-church party kept up the struggle, but the cause of religious freedom prevailed, and in the constitution, adopted soon after, there was no mention of religion nor reference to the deity. James Madison, in a speech in the Virginia convention for the ratification of the constitution, used these words: "There is no shadow of right in the general government to intermeddle with religion. Its least interference with it would be a most flagrant usurpation."

Is there a true American who does not indorse these utterances of one of our greatest statesmen? And are they not as true to day as then? It will be seen by the above extracts that whenever short comings may be charged to the Quakers, Baptists or Presbyterians the world over, those of Virginia colony should be credited with taking a firm stand in favor of civil and religious liberty in those "times that tried men's souls."

The efforts of the church-and-state-ites did not cease with the adoption of the constitution. They set up a long drawn and pathetic plea that the government would soon utterly collapse unless the deity were recognized in the constitution.

Another fight was brought on which resulted in the first amendment to the constitution which says that—"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This was supposed to shut off all further demands for any such amendment, but this was not the case. The agitation did not cease. The most vituperative terms were used in denunciation of the constitution. It was pronounced atheistical, etc, and that even savages would have recognized some great spirit.

Epidemics, storms, famines and all other great calamities were attributed to the failure to recognize God and his law in our country's Magna Charta. When

our civil war came on it was absolutely certain that the only hope for the safety of the nation lay in having the name of God inserted somewhere in the constitution. A society was formed called the National Reform Association, and that association has been working with wonderful zeal ever since. It includes members from every state in the Union and is well organized. It may be well to note the fact that the gallant Col. Breckinridge, whose name has been so prominently before the public of late, has often given the society the benefit of his influence and eloquence.

The snubbing these misguided enthusiasts received last March will not diminish their ardor in the least. Like Hamlet's Ghost, they will not down.

The amendment bill being defeated, Senator Kyle of South Dakota, on April 12, introduced a "Bill for Sunday Rest," which for its intolerent spirit, must make our old Puritan fathers rise up in their graves and shout amen. Apparently the bill is intended for the protection of Sunday as a day of rest, but its real purpose is expressed in the last clause of Section 6 which says that the bill shall be construed so as to secure the "religious observance of the Sabbath."

Jefferson and Madison we have not, but A. T. Jones, the able and eloquent Seventh Day Adventist, and the brave and energetic Liberal, S. P. Putnam, will be on hand to put in their best lick against the enactment of so infamous a measure. This bill is now in the hands of the Committee on Education and Labor of which Senator Kyle is chairman, and may come up at any time. It behooves every true American—every lover of civil and religious liberty,—to vigorously oppose the schemes of this association of zealots who would rob our constitution of its liberal and secular character.

S. SHERMAN,
DEALER IN
CENTRAL POINT
FLOUR AND FEED.

TALENT,

OREGON
