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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

*The FESTIVAL of INDEPENDENCE  
in Connecticut. By a Traveller; in  
a Letter to his Friend.*

**Y**OU are reasonably curious as to the political and religious festivals of this people, and one has just occurred, which I shall endeavour to describe to you. The day on which the independence of this nation upon England was announced, has, ever since, been celebrated as a great and momentous æra. Laws, and public and official records, are always dated from this æra, as well as from the christian; but in private transactions it is not noticed. That it is not in general use, and that it has not entirely excluded the *Anno Domini*, has been a topic of regret with some; but this regret seems to be absurd. It is true, perhaps, that the use of the christian æra is enforced by no religious sanction, that the revolutionary period is capable of being strictly ascertained, and that every expedient for keeping alive the ideas of national unity and sovereignty, is useful; but it is to be feared, that the benefits of this expedient would be

outweighed by the evils. Since it would be confined to themselves, it would introduce some degree of confusion into the transactions between individuals of different nations; and it is, at best, but a wretched method of maintaining political virtue. Names and dates are a very inadequate basis on which to build the love of liberty and country. Besides, if there be any political influence in dates, there must, for similar reasons, be a religious tendency, and the christian æra must therefore be as dear to the devout man, as that of independence is to the patriot.

In this State\* there is no political festival, that has relation to the nation in general, but this. The governor, or chief magistrate, is annually elected by the people, on a fixed day, and this day is solemnized with much pomp. This election is ascertained and recognized by the legislative body, which meets on the same day at Hartford; and though it be an holy-day throughout the State, it is not accompanied with particular processions or solemnities any where but at Hartford.

\* Connecticut.

hungry boy, come in and partake of one with your happy parents, whose every care is softened by the sweet hopes they form from the amiable dispositions of their children. Your little beggar's other wants shall be attended to, you shall see him comfortably clothed, the distress of his family shall be relieved, and he shall be put in some way of learning to get his own livelihood, and assisting his aged parents, and helpless brothers and sisters.



To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

MANY of your readers are, perhaps, already informed that I have, for some months past, devoted my leisure hours to the collection of materials, with a view of writing an history of New-York. It is my design to begin with the first colonial establishment by the Dutch, and to end with the late revolutionary war. The work is intended to include, besides the usual details of political transactions, as large an account of the Indian tribes and our relations with them, of ecclesiastical affairs and proceedings, and of our agricultural, commercial, and literary progress, as will be consistent with the requisite brevity.

In an undertaking of this kind, it will readily occur to you that much difficulty must arise from the scattered state of the documents necessary to be consulted; and that, after the largest accumulation of materials which an individual can accomplish, much dependence must be placed on the kind assistance of literary gentlemen, in different parts of the state.

With a view to obtain such assistance, I drew up, several months

ago, the subjoined queries, and transmitted a few copies of them to some gentlemen, who were judged able and disposed to furnish the desired information. As these, however, had a very small circulation, and as the purpose intended by them has been hitherto but very partially attained, I take the liberty of soliciting a place for them in your very useful Magazine.

It can hardly be doubted but that many of the descendants of the first settlers, and principal families of our state, have books and papers in their possession, which would be important to a collector of materials for its history. It is to be lamented that their reluctance to disclose is so great. I hope this general application to such persons, will induce them to communicate, without delay, what they possess of this nature. The smallest article of information which they may find it convenient to furnish, will confer an obligation on me, and will promote a work which is undertaken with a view to public utility. It will doubtless be recollected, that as there are few works which require more patient and indefatigable labour, than the one in question; so there are none, in accomplishing which, it is more in the power of all descriptions of persons to afford assistance.

I am, Sir, with much respect,  
Your humble servant,

SAMUEL MILLER.

New-York, July 24, 1799.

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QUERIES, &c.

1. When was the first settlement made by the Dutch in New-Netherlands? Under what authority did these settlers come to America? What were their number and their condition, with respect to character and property?

2. When did the first regular organization of the colony, and the