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In a letter dated Jan. 26, 1799 to Elbridge Gerry  
in which he professes his political faith  
Jefferson says: (Works Memor. Vol. X p. 78)

"I am for freedom of religion & against all  
maneuvers tending to a legal ascendancy of one  
sect over another; for freedom of the press and  
against all violations of the constitution to silence  
by force and by reason the complaints or criticisms  
just or unjust of our citizens against the con-  
duct of ~~our~~ their agents. And I am for the encoun-  
tering the progress of science in all its branches;  
and for raising a hue & cry against the sacred  
name of philosophy; for availing the human mind  
by stories of raw heads & bloody bones, to a distrust  
of its own vision, and to repose implicitly on that of  
others; to go backwards instead of forwards to look for  
improvement; to believe that government, religion, morality  
& every other science were in the highest perfection

\* in ages of the darkest ignorance & that nothing  
can ever be devised more perfect than what was  
established by our forefathers."