

TO THE EDITOR,

SIR,
Though at a distance from the great world, and not in my power to pay the tribute of congratulation on our beloved PRESIDENT'S BIRTH-DAY—yet the Muse presents her humble offerings, conscious that the spontaneous verse is not equal to the subject—but as it is dictated by a grateful and sincere heart, I hope it will not be unacceptable to some of your readers, if you think proper to give it a place in some corner of your paper.
I am, Sir, your Friend.

Feb. 21st, 1794.

AN ODE

ON THE

President's Birth-Day!

FAIR rise the morn that gave our hero birth,
And with it peace descend to bless the earth,
And hail his natal day!
Fly discord far from these enlighten'd shores,
Let not fell Atë with destructive powers,
Shed one malignant ray.
But let the loves and all the graces come—
Let Nature smiling shed a rich perfume,
And autedate the Spring.
With myrtles crown'd fair Freedom hail the morn,
On which your friend, our much lov'd Chief was born,
And all ye Muses sing.
Let venal bards a despot's brow adorn—
In every wreath they find the rugged thorn—
And praise, a satire prove:
But our bright theme will make the garland shine—
To sweetest flowers his virtues we combine,
And add to those—our loves.
What noble qualities enrich his mind—
His ardent zeal his policy refin'd—
His watchfulness and care—
Where'er his Country needs a faithful guard,
No dire event can find him unprepar'd,
For arts of peace or war.
When savage herds invade our fertile plains,
And undistinguish'd scalp the peaceful swains,
His energy is seen.
Collects the warriors from their rural home,
Their long neglected helmets they assume,
And peace is heard again.
When ancient nations past their zenith, drive
To that fix'd point, at which they must arrive,
And all their glory cloud—
Contending armies crowd the ensanguin'd field,
Their glittering arms are seen—the sword,
The shield
And garments roll'd in blood.
On Nature's theatre, almost alone,
COLUMBIA sitting on a peaceful throne,
Reclines her beauteous form
Upon the bosom of her favorite Son—
Sees him compleat the work which he begun,
And turn the impending storm.
Long may this bright auspicious day appear,
And gild with lucid rays our hemisphere,
Reflecting on his breast—
That conscious peace, that ever must arise
From goodness, usefulness and great emprise,
By which his Country's blest'd.
And when the Arbitrer of life and death,
Shall send his Angel to demand his breath,
And speed his heavenly flight—
May humble hope and sacred joy impart,
Streams of celest'ial pleasure to his heart,
Incommunicably bright.

[The Editor regrets that the foregoing was not received in season for an earlier publication—but its merits preclude the necessity of an apology for its appearance at any time.]

LAW OF THE UNION.

THIRD CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

AT THE FIRST SESSION,
Begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday the second of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three.

An ACT for the relief of Thomas Jenkins and Sons.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the collector for the district of New-York, to remit to Thomas Jenkins and Sons, owners of the ship American Hero, the duties and imposts of tonnage, which may be incurred in consequence of the incompetent or invalid register of the said ship: Provided, They shall obtain, within one hundred and twenty days, a new register for the said ship, in the manner prescribed by law.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLBERG,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Approved February the nineteenth, 1794.

G^o. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

By the PRESIDENT of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS by information given upon oath, it appears that in the night time of the twenty second day of November, a number of armed men having their faces blackened and being otherwise disguised, violently broke open and entered the dwelling house of Benjamin Wells collector of the revenue arising from spirits distilled within the United States, in and for the counties of Westmoreland and Fayette in the district of Pennsylvania, and by assaulting the said collector and putting him in fear and danger of his life, in his dwelling house aforesaid, in the said county of Fayette did compel him to deliver up to them his commission for collecting the said revenue, together with the books kept by him in the execution of his said duty, and did threaten to do further violence to the said collector, if he did not shortly thereafter publicly renounce the further execution of his said office:

AND WHEREAS several of the perpetrators of the said offence are still unknown, and the safety and good order of society require that such daring offenders should be discovered and brought to justice so that infractions of the law may be prevented, obedience to them secured, and officers protected in the due execution of the trusts reposed in them, therefore I have thought proper to offer and hereby do offer a reward of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for each of the said offenders that shall be discovered and brought to justice for the said offence, to be paid to the person or persons who shall first discover and give information of the said offenders to any judge, justice of the peace, or other magistrate.

And I do hereby strictly charge and enjoin all officers and ministers of justice according as their respective duties may require, to use their best endeavors to cause the said offenders to be discovered apprehended and secured, so that they may be speedily brought to trial for the offence aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the city of Philadelphia the 24th day of February one thousand seven hundred and ninety four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the eighteenth.

Go. WASHINGTON.

By the President

EDM: RANDOLPH.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

Whilst I pay my tribute of applause to CRITO'S happy choice of a subject of animadversion in your Gazette of Thursday, I am captivated with his much admired 'taste and sentiment,' and feel something irresistible to participate his *faber ideas*, as well as to join him in the list of those doughty Champions of Virtue, denominated *Reformers of the Age*: But when I look round and view the rapid strides of of Sin—nay, witness even the Wickedness of many, who under the mask of a Samaritan, cover the measure of their own iniquities, and uncharitably attribute to others the causes of the object of their vehemence—the *profligacy of the times*. I say, when I thus view such a picture of human hypocrisy, I cannot withstand an honest indignation, that such men there are, who from the shrines of their devotion yell against vice and immorality, and from the irascibility of their style, defeat their own virtuous purposes. Such Sir, are the means now pursued to disturb the tranquility of Society, and to cast an odium on those, who cannot conscientiously participate another man's opinion.

To revert more particularly to the subject in question, that of Theatrical Exhibitions; and though not a regular frequenter of what CRITO terms 'those mad scenes of pleasure,' I confess, I should prefer an amusement, where Vice and Virtue are so feelingly contrasted, to the Mad Ravings of a Pulpit Orator. To render Virtue amiable, is to shew Vice in its most odious colours.

CRITO would do well, first to appease the irritability of his feelings, before he attempts to work his miracles—and should

be cautious how he criticises those, whom he nigardly preumes, "knows but little of the world or of human nature." Believe me Sir, I have witnessed "The Wrath of HEAVEN," and have seen "those mournful scenes" which CRITO so tragically depicts.—Peace be to the manes of our deceased Brethren—persuaded we all feel an equal sorrow for departed worth so valuable while living. Contrary to CRITO, I animadvert not on words, keeping in mind, "that ten censure wrong, for one who writes amiss."

CRITO, has thrown the gauntlet—it is taken up—recommending however, more moderation in his critical attacks on the style of his purile opponents, as he should be aware that the twisting of phrases and perverting their original meaning to sinister purposes, render his arguments futile, till in the end, they recoil on his own flighty imagination.

DRACO.

For the Gazette of the United States.

A. B.'S FAREWELL to GRACCHUS.

GRACCHUS is so accustomed, perhaps, to a pack, that he can hardly detach the idea of a literal pasteboard-card from the figurative application of that word, to a certain species of writing.—With people of common science and morals his pun is lost.

A. B. is glad to perceive that Gracchus has "feelings" though they be of a "plebeian" or coarse description. It is a symptom that he is not quite so callous, as unprincipled minds usually are: Yet it would seem by the style and complexion of his billet that he has attained to a considerable degree of impenetrability.

He asserts falsehood with as much ease, as if he had been bred to its professional exercise; and with an impudence peculiar to himself, has stated that A. B. has retracted, what Gracchus calls, the error of his first publication. A single proof of this, would have been worth a dozen of assertions; the one, however, cost no labor, the other would have been a Herculean task.

He also very modestly declares, that there is now, no difference of opinion between himself and A. B. who, if he means any thing, must mean coincidence in sentiment with him. One can easily see that he has been used to his trade, and hopes by bold-faced impertinence to impose upon the Jury, that is to decide upon the point in dispute.

In the learned explanations which Gracchus condescended to give, in his first reply to A. B. upon the article sovereignty, we find the following assertion; "as the people delegate a PORTION of their sovereignty, that body which has the legislative power is the sovereign for them." Whenever he will be so good as to shed a little of his light upon this sentence, and explain "what part of the sovereign for the people the legislature is," it will greatly assist A. B. in the solution of a question which Gracchus proposed.

In the mean time as Gracchus has taken his leave, perhaps to accompany his Client, as A. B. advised, he is requested to present the compliments, of the friends of order and good government in America, to the influential leaders in the National Convention, with thanks for the happy riddance which this country has obtained through their INSTRUMENTALITY, of two very troublesome inmates.

Extract from the 2d. Vol. of the Secret History of the Green Rooms in the three Theatres Royal—LONDON.

"MR. FENNEL" (of the New Theatre in this city.)

"This gentleman is among the few who have defended from genteel prospects to the Stage, purely from inclination—without the stimulus of necessity, and in danger of offending very respectable relations, he was impelled as it were by instinct, to attempt the Buskin and made application to the Managers, without the forms of introduction or the impediment of fear.

"Mr. Fennell can boast of more respectable connexions than the generality of the sons of Thespis. He was born in Wales where his relations now are, who gave him a liberal education and intended him for the Bar. He came to London for accomplishment in the law, but his attention was diverted

from that pursuit by a predilection for the Drama. Anxious to try how far nature had qualified him for a profession for which he felt such fondness, and at the same time anxious to conceal his passion from his friends, he judged in so remote a place as Edinburgh his attempt, if unsuccessful, would be buried in oblivion.—He betrayed his errand by speuting in his apartment—but communed with none of the corps: Mr. Jackson (the manager) was personally applied to, and our hero performed Jaffier, Othello, &c. under the assumed name of Cambray.—The flattering reception he met with here induced him to hope for general approbation in London—He waited on Mr. Harris about the opening of Covent Garden Theatre in 87, without any introduction, and coming to the point at once, he repeated two or three speeches so much to the satisfaction of his auditor, that a night was instantly settled for him to make his debut.—Either from a desire to conceal his countenance, or a partiality for the part, he selected Othello for his entrée, and the encouragement given to his first efforts, emboldened him to drop the fable mask and come forward as Jaffier, Alexander the Great, &c. but still under the fictitious name of Cambray. In all those characters he was kindly received, and looked on as a very promising theatrical candidate. But as his talents did not create the admiration he wished and expected, he thought it advisable to practise in the country until his powers were nearer maturity. The favor with which his exertions had been honored in Edinburgh, pointed out that city as the most genial school for his instruction; but he had scarcely renewed his former estimation before he was driven from that stage in the most arbitrary, unjust, and ungenerous manner.

The audience in Edinburgh think themselves the most select and judicious in the world. The audience in London they call an indiscriminating mob—such being their sentiments, they instantly caught fire at the idea of an English Chevalier surpassing their ain clever callant; and after calling a numerous meeting they went to the theatre in a body, resolved to vent their indignation on Mr. Fennell. Whenever he appeared he was saluted with hissing, called on to answer how he dared to take Jaffier* from Mr. Wood, and loaded with the most opprobrious invectives. He endeavored to explain, but on hearing a zealot stigmatise him in the most odious language, his feelings as a man, were so put to the quick, that he replied, "The person who says so is a villain!" This assertion not being generally understood, gave general offence; and he was called on to make submission, more humiliating if possible, than that formerly requested of Mr. Jas. Aickin—which he refused complying with, and in consequence was forced to quit the stage.

Though the arbitrary and illiberal body of lawyers became his bitter enemies; yet the unprejudiced inhabitants of Edinburgh thought him shamefully injured.—The story spread not only through Scotland, but England and Ireland—it was universally talked of and the irascible Caledonians were universally execrated. Every one felt for Mr. Fennell, and wished to see his wrongs redressed.—Finding so many friends, and finding justice so much on his side, he brought an action against the ring-leaders for depriving him of his livelihood, but here he found himself in an awkward predicament.—To the eternal disgrace of that country not one advocate could be found to plead his cause, though it was well known to be a good one—until Mr. Charles Hope and another gentleman stood forth his champions, rather than not rescue Scotland from the ignominy of being destitute of advocates to plead the cause of an oppressed individual.—But as Sir Harry Wildair says, "it is hard to contend with a man in his own profession," so after prosecuting the conspirators with all possible rigor near 12 months, he found himself as distant from redress as when he first began.

"He afterwards performed a few nights in York, and obtained an engagement at Covent Garden last season, when he performed very seldom.

"In his person he is the tallest on the stage; he is handsomely formed; his face, too, is well adapted for the Drama, and his voice is powerful and melodious, and his eloquence lofty and sonorous."

* Mr. Fennell always preferred the character of Pierre—but could not obtain it.