

tion on these vain and ill-natured reflections on Messrs. WIGNELL & REINAGLE'S Company.

That this country should be incapable of producing a good actor, I can scarcely believe, when speaking is so great a requisite in the completing a finished performer. It is a well known fact, that there are gentlemen in this country, both at the bar and in public bodies, that perhaps yield to none in the world as Orators—and, I think scarcely any person will deny that our pulpit orators are fully equal, if not superior any to in the universe. If therefore we have produced such a number of persons in the different characters of legislators, lawyers, and divines, that yield the palm to none, why could not equal talents for the stage be found? With regard to the other, that no performers of merit ever come to this country, this must most certainly be a very erroneous and false opinion, if any reliance can be placed on the English themselves. The first rate judges there, of Theatrical abilities, have declared, that Mrs. Whitlock, (who they will hardly deny is now here with the New Company,) was second to no one, except her sister, Mrs. Siddons, and but one degree inferior to her; and I believe if real justice was done them, there are many others who would receive the same applause. I have been told by an Englishman who has frequently seen Mr. Chalmers on the stage in Europe, that he was a very distinguished and eminent performer there; as further proof of which, I beg leave to introduce an article that appeared in Mr. Brown's Philadelphia Gazette of last evening.

In the Morning Post, a London paper of the 25th of July, we find the following article:

"The vessel that was to have sailed with the Theatrical performers last week for Philadelphia, has put back, and is now detained in the river. In addition to Miss Broadhurst, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Shaw, &c. Mr. Chalmers is engaged.—Talents, like his, should not be lost to the English Stage—for in Tragedy and Comedy, he has held for the last three years, the most distinguished line of acting, in the Theatres Royal of both Ireland and Scotland. The ship sails with this enterprising company on Sunday morning."

What then can be inferred from their paltry attempts to underate the talents and abilities of the performers Mr. Wignell has brought to this country, but a pitiful vanity, or incorrigible prejudice, that will never allow that merit can be found in any other place, than the spot from whence they sprang. And it is sincerely wished, that the Observer may fulfill his promise of handling such self-created and self-important censurers, "without mit-tens."

A FRIEND TO MERIT.

March 4th, 1794.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

TO THE OBSERVER.

I HAVE given some of your numbers a cursory reading, without taking much trouble in considering whether your high claims to candour were well founded or not.

I nevertheless suspected, that as men of the largest professions, are generally the least sincere, you had some covert object in view, for the accomplishment of which you were endeavoring to establish a reputation for candour to which you had no just pretensions, and your fifth number seems to justify the suspicion. After giving an account of a conversation which you say you "accidentally heard at the Theatre last evening between a gentleman and lady," (if such a conversation really happened, you might have said between a P—y and a Lady) you proceed to remark, "That the Observer is in justice bound to add, that since then, he has received information from indisputable authority, that this company of Players are persons of irreproachable characters, as men and women, and as performers many of them have not left superiors and some not equals in Europe."

That many if not all of them are of irreproachable characters, and that they have very great merit on the stage, I am well satisfied of, but the assertion that "many of them have not left superiors and some not equals in Europe," is almost too extravagant to merit a serious refutation, and would hardly have been made by a person really possessing the candor to which you pretend.

If "many of them have not left superiors in Europe," it follows, that we have many performers, any one of whom, is equal to the first performer in Europe! And if some of them have not left equals in Europe; it follows, that neither Mrs. Siddons or any actor, or actress in any country in Europe is equal to some of the company of the New Theatre!

Contrast this with your following remarks, and endeavour to extricate yourself from the contradiction into which you seem to have fallen. You say "Mrs. Whitlock's articulation is so perfectly just, her face, her eye, and indeed her whole attitude and gesticulation come so near the model you had feigned to yourself, for an actress, that you must do a violence to your own feelings not to declare, that altho' she may not be equal to Mrs. Siddons, yet she is so equal to any expectations we had entertained in America, the feast of feigning and hearing her on the stage you hope will be frequently repeated."

So then Mr. Observer, while you admit that Mrs. Whitlock, the heroine of your eulogium "may not be equal to Mrs. Siddons," you would have us believe, that "some belonging to the New Theatre have not left their equals in Europe." Before we can do this, you must either satisfy us, that Mrs. Whitlock holds but an inferior rank on the American stage, or that Mrs. Siddons does not live in Europe, but in Asia, Africa or America—If you can do neither, you must give over all pretensions to candour, or acknowledge that the fault was in your head, and not in your heart—It is Mr. Observer, an old but just proverb, that "an imprudent friend is the worst of enemies," and you have so completely verified it, that if you really wish to serve the cause you seem to espouse, I recommend to you to change your signature, since you will no longer be regarded under your present one—Several of the new performers are admirable in Tragedy as well as in Comedy, and it is really a pity that you should have Tragedized them in so tragi-comical a manner.

A SUBSCRIBER.

PHILADELPHIA,

MARCH 7.

The Petersburg paper of the 25th ult. mentions the arrival of the ship Harriot at Norfolk, from Lymington, which place she left about the 25th December. The only articles of news brought by this vessel, which appear in the Petersburg paper, are the following:

There has been a quarrel between Danton and Robespierre in the Convention, which ended in a decree that they and the President should settle and make up the dispute by a fraternal embrace in the presence of the members.

On the 22d of November the Royalists attacked the Republicans in Alsace, and though successful in the first onset, were afterwards defeated, and so great was the slaughter, that it is believed the party is exterminated.

At the celebration of the Birth-Day of the President of the United States in Richmond, Virginia; and Annapolis, in Maryland, the following Toasts were given:

A speedy establishment of an American Navy; and success to the author of the proposition, and its advocates.

Pain to our Sham friends, and Champagne to our Real ones.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

Thursday, March 6.

Several petitions were read and referred.

Mr. Trumbull reported a bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment of the United States for the year 1794—which was twice read, and committed for to-morrow.

A petition was presented by Mr. Watts, from Stephen Paraque, captain of a French Indiaman now lying in the port of New-York, praying for reasons stated, a longer time than is allowed by the letter of the law, for the payment of the duties on goods to be landed from said ship, giving the customary bonds—this petition was referred to a select committee.

Mr. W. Smith reported a bill making provisions in cases of disability of a district judge—this was read twice and committed

In committee of the whole on the bill to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the ports of the United States—Mr. Boudinot in the chair—The two first sections of the bill were agreed to with one alteration moved by Mr. Trumbull, which was to give the District Court as well as the Circuit Courts, cognizance of the offence.

The third section which relates to the penalty, &c. it was moved should be struck out—This motion was negatived—It was then moved to insert the word Foreign before 'Ship or Vessel'—which was agreed to.

The committee proceeded through the bill—which was reported to the House with sundry amendments—these were agreed to by the House, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

In committee of the whole on the bill to provide for destroyed certificates of a certain description—Mr. Bourn in the chair; the bill being read, a motion was made that the committee should rise and report the same—this was done; it was then voted that it be read the third time.

Mr. Watts of the committee on the petition of Stephen Paraque, Capt. of the French Indiaman, brought in a report which is in favor of the petitioner; the report was accepted by the House, and a bill ordered to be brought in pursuant thereto.

A bill to provide for the expence attending the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Bourn in the chair; this bill being read, Mr. W. Smith moved to add a section to continue in force for an act already extant on this subject; this amendment was agreed to; the bill was then reported to the House, and with the amendment laid on the table till to-morrow.

Mr. S. Smith reported a bill for allowing to Lieut. Col. Toufard an equivalent for his half pay for life—twice read and committed for to-morrow.

In committee of the whole on the standing rules and orders, Mr. Boudinot in the chair: The committee, after some discussion rose and reported progress—and the House adjourned.

Friday, March 7.

The bill to prevent the carrying on the slave trade from the ports of the United States to any foreign place or country was read the third time and passed.

The bill limiting the time for presenting claims for destroyed certificates, was read the third time and passed. The blank for the time to be allowed for presenting the claims, was filled with "the first day of June 1795."

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Otis their Secretary, informed the House that they have passed the appropriation bill with amendments.

Another message from the Senate, informed the House, that they have appointed a committee to join a committee of the House, for the purpose of considering what business is necessary to be done the present session—what may without injury to the public service, be referred over to the next session, and to report whether the present may not be closed on the first Monday of April next.

The enrolled bill providing for the remission of the foreign tonnage duty on sundry French vessels, was brought in and signed by the Speaker.

In committee of the whole on the bill to provide a naval armament—Mr. Boudinot in the chair—

In the first section Mr. S. Smith moved to strike out 20 guns, and to insert 36—which makes the force proposed, four ships of 44 guns, and two of 36 guns each—the committee proceeded through the several sections of the bill, and made sundry amendments in respect to officers, rations, &c.

Mr. B. Bourn observed, that the force contemplated would afford no protection to the Commerce of the United States, for the present season—as it would require several months to build and equip the ships. He therefore moved to add another section, the object of which was, to authorize the President of the United States to provide a temporary protection, till the ships proposed by the bill, shall be ready.

Mr. Fitzsimons said the bill did not restrict the President to ships to be built—He may use his discretion in procuring the requisite force.

The motion after some debate was negatived.

The committee then rose and reported the bill with amendments—the amendments were taken into consideration by the House—and all of them agreed to.

Several other amendments were proposed, some of which were agreed to—and then the bill passed to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

Adjourned till Monday.

We are informed, that there is a British order of Government in town, in which the commanders of the vessels of war of that nation, are directed to take and carry into British ports, all vessels loaded with provisions, bound either to France, or to her colonies—also all vessels loaded with the produce of the French Islands.

The Merchants and Traders of the city of Philadelphia, are desired to meet on Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock, at Barnabas M'Shane's tavern, the sign of the Harp and Crown, North Third-street, to receive the report of their committee, and to appoint a committee to collect information respecting the capture and detention of vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States, by the cruisers of the nations at war, to lay the same before the President of the United States, with such representations as they may find necessary.

NEW THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, March 7,

Will be performed,

A NEW COMEDY,

(never performed here) called

Every one has his Fault.

Lord Norland,	Mr. Whitlock.
Sir Robert Ramble,	Mr. Chalmers.
Mr. Solus,	Mr. Morris.
Mr. Harmony,	Mr. Bates.
Captain Irwin,	Mr. Fennell.
Mr. Placid,	Mr. Moreton.
Hammond,	Mr. Green.
Porter,	Mr. Warrell.
Edward,	Mrs. Marshall.
Lady Eleanor Irwin,	Mrs. Whitlock.
Mrs. Placid,	Mrs. Rowfon.
Miss Spinler,	Mrs. Bates.
Miss Wooburn,	Mrs. Morris.

The EPILOGUE by Mrs. Whitlock.

At the end of the Comedy,

A COMIC DANCE,

Composed by Mr. Francis, called

The SCHEMING CLOWN,

OR, THE

SPORTSMAN DECEIVED:

By Mr. Francis, Mr. Darley, jun. and Mrs. De Marque.

To which will be added,

A FARCE, in two Acts, (performed here but once) called

The Village Lawyer.

Scout,	Mr. Harwood.
Snarl,	Mr. Francis.
Sheepface,	Mr. Bates.
Justice Mitimus,	Mr. Warrell.
Charles,	Mr. Cleveland.
Mrs. Scout,	Mrs. Rowfon.
Kate,	Mrs. Bates.

BOXES, one dollar—PIT, three quarters of a dollar—and GALLERY, half a dollar.

* * * As inconveniences to the public have arisen from the Box-book being opened on the days of performance only, in future attendance will be given at the office in the Theatre every day from ten till one, and on the days of performance from ten till three o'clock in the afternoon. Applications for Boxes, it is respectfully requested, may be addressed to Mr. Franklin, at the Box-Office.

The Doors will be opened at 5 o'clock, and the performances begin at 6 o'clock precisely.

Vivat Republica.

In the Name of the French Republic.

EVERY Frenchman is forbid to violate the Neutrality of the United States. All commissions or authorizations tending to infringe that neutrality, are revoked, and are to be returned to the Agents of the French Republic.

Philadelphia, Ventose 16th, second year of the French Republic, one and indivisible (March 6th, 1794, o. s.)

The Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic. JH. FAUCHET.

The Editors of newspapers within the United States, are requested to republish the foregoing notice.

LOST,

In Market street, between Fourth and Front streets, a 5 Dollar BANK NOTE of the Bank of the United States. Any person finding the same, and will return it to the Printer, shall receive the thanks of the owner.

March 7th