

ought to be held sacred in time of war.

Mr. S. remarked that it had been suggested that the British nation had been guilty of a violation of the laws of nations in their treatment of us—and that therefore we were not bound to govern ourselves by that law in our conduct towards them—This argument however plausible he said would not bear the test of examination—that all reprisals were justified only on the principle that the nation on whom reprisal is made has been guilty of a previous violation of the laws of nations—When a nation disregards that general law by which the conduct of all independent communities towards each other is to be regulated the same law points out the mode of redress—If there has been no violation of that law, there can be no reprisal. If there has been a violation, then the reprisal must be pursuant to the law, for it is the highest absurdity to say, that because there has been an infraction of a law which authorizes a certain mode of redress, that we may pursue a different mode of redress in violation of the law which gives us the right: This would be at once to renounce the whole system of the laws of nations, and throw mankind back into a state of savage barbarity and ferocity.

Mr. S. then adverted to the policy of the measure. He said upon a fair calculation, it would be found that the adoption of the proposition, would be productive of far greater injury to this country, than the amount of the losses sustained by our citizens, in consequence of the hostilities committed upon our commerce. It is evident that this country, even admitting that a war should take place, would wish to renew their commercial connection with Great Britain. But if in contempt of the law of nations, we seize on private debts, we shall forever forfeit all credit; no trust can be reposed in our citizens, and no faith in our government. No foreign merchants will ever deal on credit with our citizens, from a well-guarded apprehension that in case of a war between the countries, the sacred nature of private contracts will not protect them against the hand of a Government which has exhibited the example of a deliberate violation of the laws of nations. When we consider the immense advantages that can be derived from private credit and national honor, it will be easy to imagine the infinite mischief that must result from a disregard of those principles.

Mr. Swift objected to the measure on the ground that he considered it to be a declaration of war—and he did not think that the circumstances required or justified our taking that step. He said that notwithstanding the unwarrantable proceedings of the British nation—yet, no act had been done by the British Court that clearly indicated an intention to make war directly upon us, or that could be considered as direct and intentional war, though we might consider many of their acts as just causes of making war on our part.

The revocation of the order of the 6th of November, the new instructions of the 8th of January, and the explanation given to the merchants of London, clearly evidenced that a war might be avoided with that nation. While there was the remotest possibility of preserving our peace, we ought not to do an act which might endanger a war. While then the conduct of the British cabinet would admit of an explanation, while there was a prospect that we might obtain by negotiation, restitution of the property of our citizens or compensation for the losses they had sustained, we ought to pursue that mode—but if we proceeded to make reprisals by adopting an illegal measure, it must certainly be deemed a declaration of war.

The omission of the regular means of obtaining satisfaction by negotiation and an unwarrantable mode of reprisal would certainly be just causes of war. If we must be driven into a war it would be of the highest advantage to us, to conduct in such a manner as to convince the people of Great Britain, that we sincerely wished to avoid it, and that the unjust and illegal proceedings of their own Court have been the sole cause of the war. In such case we have reason to think, that so great is the interest of that nation in preserving our commercial connection, that a powerful party will be formed in our favor to oppose the injustice of the government.—The sentiments of the people will be against the war, and the Court will find it extremely difficult to maintain it under such circumstances.

But, if without demanding an explanation, we proceed to adopt rash, violent, and unwarrantable measures—the spirit of the nation will rise against us, and the people will join the Court in prosecuting a war which will be then deemed just and necessary.

Mr. Swift then observed that we ought to take into consideration the present situation of Europe—that the late successes of the French nation had materially changed the political prospect. It was possible that these successes had been the cause which had produced an alteration in the

views of the British Court. If events had happened which had rendered the disposition of that nation less unfriendly and hostile, we ought to take advantage of that circumstance, and not do any thing to check the progress of that favorable disposition. He most sincerely hoped that these successes would convince the combined powers of the impossibility to conquer France, and produce a general pacification.

While such were the prospects he ardently wished that a measure repugnant to the principles of common honesty and common justice might be rejected—and he hoped that no gentleman in the committee would vote in favor of a proposition which would fix an indelible stigma on our national character.

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 9.

There are letters in town from Antigua of the 15th March, and from St. Eustatia of the 20th, to a respectable merchant of this city—which say that the condemnation of American property has ceased in the Islands, since the receipt of the late instructions from the British government.

By a gentleman just arrived from Lexington, Kentucky, we are informed that Gen. Wayne moved from his winter cantonment, with the legion of the United States, on the first of March, for the Miami Villages.

The same gentleman also informs, that previous to the march of the Legion, a duel was fought by Lieut. Hulston of the 3d, and Lieut. Bradshaw, of the 1st Sub Legion, which terminated in the death of both, the former having expired on the spot, and the latter 20 hours after.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman to his correspondent in this place, dated Newark, 8th April, 1794.

“Mr. B. informs of the arrival of a schooner at New-York on Saturday, from St. Lucia in 17 days—the Captain relates that a fleet of 8 sail of the line had arrived at Martinique from France, and had landed 5,000 men, who had cut off the communication between the British army and fleet.

“The Captain saw the fleet sailing for Port-Royal Bay, in which the Doughty Sir John Jarvis, was at anchor—we may reasonably expect therefore that the siege of Martinique may be converted into an attack on Jamaica.

“The Sans Culottes it is said, were furnished with only three rounds, and were ordered to rely on the bayonet.”

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in St. Martins, dated March 15, 1794.

“By the last accounts from Martinique, of the 2d inst. the whole island, (except Fort Bourbon) was in possession of the British, who had then 70 pieces of cannon and 14 mortars playing on the fort, which was defended only by 400 men—the colored people having delivered themselves up, on condition of their leaders being permitted to go to America.”

LONDON, January 21.

It is remarkable that the Portuguese, who, for very many years, have not met an enemy in the field, should have beat the French the very first time they came to blows with them; and, though raw in arms, made those troops fly, who had more than once routed the best troops of Spain. But this is an age of novelties.

The following particulars of the action in which they were thus successful is too authentic, and too glorious to the troops, and to some of our countrymen who acted with them, not to be made known to the public.—The letter which brought the intelligence to England was dated the 14th of December.

“The Portuguese troops recently relieved General Ricardos from a disagreeable dilemma, in which he had suffered the French to out-general him. The French having taken a circuitous march, had secured a post, and fortified it on and near a bridge, in a defile where the General was marching through, to effect a junction with the other troops, and by which means he was cut off. General Ricardos was consequently reduced to the necessity of cutting his way through, or laying down his arms. Information having by some means been conveyed to General Forbes, they (the Portuguese) lost not a moment in coming to General Ricardos's relief, and attacked the French with such steady bravery, that they carried the posts, took many cannon and prisoners, and effectually relieved the Spanish General.

“General Forbes had his horse killed by a cannon ball. He then led on the main body on foot, and gained the day. He was personally assisted by the Duke of Northumberland. Much praise is due to Colonel Claviere, who led on the 2d Porte regiment, and whose conduct in a great measure secured the success of the day.”

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

ARRIVED.

Ship Eagle, Hubble Oporto, 50
Schooner Fly, Heylander, Virginia, 11
Mille, Willson, St. Eustatia, 16
Sloop Fair Haven, Bidcock, Egg Harbor.

Captain Hubble arrived here from Oporto in the ship Eagle, informs, that he left there the following American vessels: Ship William, Cogzey, Rhode-Island
Snow Trusty, Cook, Philadelphia
Brig Courtney, Boston,
and two brigs belonging to Baltimore, names unknown.—The above vessels were to sail shortly for their respective ports.

Captain Hubble on the 13th February, spoke the ship Catharine, Capt. M'Collin of this port laying at anchor in the road, inward bound. The schooner Betty of Beverly, had arrived at Oporto—the captain, mate, and two hands belonging to the Betty, were washed overboard by a heavy sea, 15 days after leaving Beverly. Capt. Hubble on the 27th ult. spoke the schooner Fair Lady, Capt. Thompson of New-York, lat. 32, 30—out 11 days, bound to Bermuda.

By Capt. Harden, in 12 days from St. Thomas's we are informed that the English privateers have ceased capturing American vessels, in consequence of some late instruction.—That provisions were so low there and at some of the other islands, that he was necessitated to bring back part of his cargo—that a few days previous to his sailing from St. Thomas's, he was at St. Sufrea, and that while he was there, a canoe came in from Fort Bourbon, by which a gentleman at that place, had received a letter from Gen. Rochambeau, who commands the French troops stationed at Fort Bourbon, informing that he had provisions enough to last 18 months without an additional supply.

Capt. Hughes arrived here, informs that previous to his sailing from St. Thomas's accounts were received there from St. Croix, which mentioned, that about 40 sail of American vessels were there, all preparing to sail for their respective ports.

Arrived at New-York, April 8.
Ship Jenny, Chancy, Savannah
Schrs. Maria, Collins, Beniera
Polly, Edwards, Marigallante
Capt. Smith of Providence, in a brig, sailed from Jackmell, in company with Capt. Rancy, and was next day captured in sight of her.

The schooner Industry, Capt. Adams, bound to Petersburg, Virginia, sailed from Marigallante, in company with Capt. Edwards, of the Polly, who saw her captured the next day, after sailing, by a British privateer.

The Industry and her cargo, consisting of sugar and coffee, were owned by Mr. Myers, of Virginia.

“The Editor is much obliged to the writer of the piece signed ‘A Friend to Republican Freedom.’ As it takes up the subject on general principles, it merits a preference to any remarks which might have been contemplated in answer to the personal attack in the Independent Gazetteer of this morning.—It shall appear to-morrow.

Post-Office, April 8, 1794.

Letters to go by the opportunity expected for Halifax, in the course of next week, in order to be conveyed by the British Packet, from that place to England, will be received at this Office, until Saturday at 12 o'Clock noon.

N. B. The inland postage to New-York must be paid.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE accidental breaking of a bench in the New Theatre, having created an alarm during the performance of Monday evening last, the Managers, ever anxious to remove the slightest cause of apprehension, have taken this occasion to survey the building, and with pleasure inform the public, that after a strict examination, Major L'Enfant, Capt. Sadler, and Mr. John Harrison, confidently pronounce that no structure was ever more secure; and that no weight of any number of people which it is possible to admit into the Theatre, can in any degree impair that security.

(Signed)
WIGNELL & REINAGLE.
Philad. April 9.

A letter from Salem of the 21st of March says, “a vessel is arrived at Marblehead from Bilbao, which left that place the 30th January, and brings an account that the Portuguese had left the combined armies, and returned home.”

House of Representatives, April 9.

Mr. Clark's motion, for stopping the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain, and Ireland, was discussed this day in committee of the whole—No decision took place, progress reported.

A NEW SONG.

Sung by Mr. DARLEY in the Comic Opera of the HIGHLAND REEL.

The Words by Mrs. Rowson.

A Soldier is the noblest name
Enroll'd upon the lists of fame,
His country's pride and boast;
Honour the glorious bright reward,
For which the hero draws his sword,
Should ne'er be stain'd or lost.
To guard our rights and liberty,
Our duty and our care;
The brave and worthy to respect,
And to the verge of life protect
The innocent and and fair.
When glory led our squadrons forth,
Her influence spread from south to north,
There freedom soon appear'd;
'Twas there she found her fav'rite son,
Through all the world his name is known,
Through all the world rever'd.
And smiling thus the Goddess spoke,
Columbia's sons draw near;
A soldier's duty ne'er forget,
Behold the great example set,
The school of honour's here.

Lost last Night,

Between Second and Seventh streets, a Red Morocco Pocket Book, containing a few private letters and a bill of exchange, dated Charleston, March —, drawn by John Minnick on Philip Care, in favor of Sims White, which can be of no use to any one but the owner, whoever has found the same, and will deliver it at Israel Israel's Inn, shall be handsomely rewarded.
April 9.

WANTED, A PRESSMAN,

Apply at this Office.

NEW THEATRE. THIS EVENING, April 9. Will be performed, A COMEDY, called the RIVAL S.

Sir Anthony Absolute,	Mr. Morris
Captain Absolute,	Mr. Chalmers
Faulkland,	Mr. Fennel
Acres,	Mr. Bates
Sir Lucius O'Trigger,	Mr. Whitlock
Tag,	Mr. Marshall
David,	Mr. Francis
Coachman,	Mr. Warrell
Boy,	Master J. Warrell
Mrs. Malaprop,	Mrs. Shaw
Lydia Languish,	Mrs. Marshall
Julia,	Mrs. Francis
Lucy,	Mrs. Rowson

End of the Comedy,
A Pantomimical Dance, called
The Sailor's Landlady,
OR
Jack in Distress.

To which will be added,
A COMIC OPERA, in two acts, called
the

Agreeable Surprise.

(Written by the author of the Poor Soldier.)
Sir Felix Friendly, Mr. Finch
Compton, Mr. Darley
Eugene, Mr. Marshall
Chicane, Mr. Warrell
John, Mr. Francis
Thomas, Mr. Green
Farmer Stump, Mr. Harwood
Cudden, Mr. Blisslet
Lingo, Mr. Bates
Laura, Mrs. Marshall
Mrs. Cheshire, Mrs. Shaw
Cowslip, Miss Broadhurst
Fringe, Mrs. Rowson

Places in the Boxes to be taken at the Box Office of the Theatre, at any hour from nine, in the morning till three o'clock in the afternoon, on the day of performance. Tickets to be had at the office near the Theatre, at the corner of Sixth-street, and at Carr & Co's Musical Repository, No. 122, Market-street. * * As inconveniences to the public have arisen from the Box book being open 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.
BOXES, one dollar—PIT, three quarters of a dollar—and GALLERY, half a dollar.