

verment? He believed the gentlemen would join in saying they concurred in these sentiments; and if so, where was the propriety of refusing to agree to this clause? He hoped they would reconsider the matter, and that by dividing the question, the clause moved to be struck out might be retained.

Mr. Nicholas said the question could not be divided; if it could, a member could never vote agreeably to his wish. For his own part, he had rather the paragraph in question should be retained, and have liked the motion better had it not included it.

Mr. Giles said gentlemen might refuse to strike out the whole, and then move to strike out a part, and so attain their object. But, said he, admitting the paragraph to be founded on truth, was it a thing they had any thing to do with as legislators? Was it proper to remind the people of Europe that they are not so happy as we? Suppose, added he, any individual was to go into the house of his neighbor, and say to him, "I am very rich and you are poor; I am very happy, but you are very miserable;" would such a conduct be well received? He believed not; and he was unwilling to do that in a national capacity, which he disapproved in an individual one.

Mr. Sitgreaves said, he felt himself perfectly indifferent as to any division of the question, because his mind was prepared to give an unqualified vote to every sentiment contained in the answer reported. He did not believe it to be either unnatural or unbecoming in us to derive happiness from a contrast of our own situation with that of other nations who were less favored. He believed it was the only way in which we could justly appreciate the value of our situation. He believed every thing appeared greater or less, worthier or valuable by comparison, and that our happiness and prosperity would not appear evident, except contrasted with nations less so. He perfectly agreed with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Giles) that what was condemnable in private life, would be equally so in public, and he should think it wrong for a man to exult over his neighbor's poverty or misfortune in the way he had mentioned; but though he should not chafe to offend his neighbor, he saw no impropriety if he, in the bosom of his family, painted his faults and follies, in order to warn those under his care against the like, and that they might be sufficiently grateful for their superior advantages. He thought there would be nothing in such a conduct either unnatural or unbecoming, and therefore did not wish to see the paragraph struck out.

He did not in any degree doubt the wisdom and firmness of the administration of the government: in the language of the answer, he entertained "a grateful conviction, that the wise, firm and patriotic administration of the President, had been signally conducive to the success of the present form of government." This, he said, was not only his sentiment—it was the sentiment of America.—Such a sentiment was the only reward which could be given to labours like those of the President: he thought they ought not to be withheld by that house, when every public body, from one end of the continent to the other, were pouring them forth. He saw no reason for being so very cautious of compliment, which would in effect convey reproach instead of praise. If these sentiments were universally felt, there could be no impropriety in their expressing them: but if that House, indeed, believed that the administration of the President had neither been wise, firm nor patriotic, then they would concur with the motion for striking out. It had been insinuated, that the present situation of this country, with respect to its foreign relations, was owing to the want of firmness and wisdom in the administration. His opinion was directly the contrary, and he believed that it was the opinion of America. This opinion was fully expressed by that House on a recent occasion in the last session, and he did not believe it had seen any cause for changing its opinion. It was no reason for qualifying the expression relative to the prosperity of the country, because private credit had been in some degree deranged, as that derangement could not be attributed to any act of the government. He was sorry that such circumstances should have been mentioned, to tarnish the bright appearance of the country. These circumstances were "but like a speck upon the sun." Why were they not told of the fires which had happened at New-York and Savannah, as well as of the derangements of our merchants? Such trivial matters were not to be mentioned in a national view.—If the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Giles) did not regret the resignation of the President, he did: he believed America did, and he believed this regret was extremely natural and proper.—He did not think it undignified. That gentleman had said the government would go on without him, and that there were many others capable of filling the Presidential chair. This might be so; but did it follow, that they should not regret the loss of a valuable public servant? Should we not regret him, said he, on account of the universal confidence placed in him? Confidence in the officers of government was valuable, he said, under every form, but particularly in a republican government: it was the chief principle from which it derived its energy.—Could this be denied? If not, certainly regret was natural, because this confidence would not be so great in his successor, tho' he might be possessed of equal talents and virtues.

Mr. Sitgreaves said, he should not agree to the motion of the gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. Harper) because it was substituting other words in place of those used, for no good reason whatever. Those words would not change or improve the sentiment or the phraseology, and there was therefore no utility in adopting them. Upon the whole, he believed the answer reported, to be free from the charge of adulation. He believed there was not a sentiment in it, which was not justified by fact.—It was expressive of national regret at the departure of our chief magistrate from office, and of national gratitude for his services; sentiments, which he believed would not be agreeable to the American people to withhold from him.

[Debate to be continued.]

Thursday, December 15.

The order of the day being called for on the answer to the President's Speech, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, when Mr. Giles's motion for striking out the last eight paragraphs of the answer being under consideration, after some observations from Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Livingston, the motion was put and negatived.

Mr. Harper then renewed his motion for striking out the seven last paragraphs, for the purpose of introducing a paragraph containing nearly the same sentiments, which, after a few observations, was negatived, 25 members only being in favor of it.

Mr. Parker renewed his motion for striking out the words "the free and most enlightened in the world, which, after considerable debate, gave way to an amendment of Mr. Thatcher to have the expression read "the spectacle of a free and enlightened nation, offering," &c. which was carried by a considerable majority.

Mr. Livingston next moved an amendment in the sixth paragraph, to strike out from the word "tranquil" to "period," and to introduce in its stead "present period with that," so as to read "to compare the present period with that immediately antecedent," &c. which was carried 42 to 37.

Mr. Livingston next moved to strike out the words "wise, firm and patriotic administration" in the next paragraph, and to introduce in their stead the words "wisdom, firmness, and patriotism," which after much debate was lost.

The committee then rose and reported the Address with the amendments, which the house took up, and having gone through, Mr. Sitgreaves moved an amendment to strike out the "while we participate" to "countrymen," and to insert after the words "to interest our attention, and" to the following effect, viz. "at the same time that we assure ourselves that your just confidence in the patriotism, self-respect, and fortitude of our countrymen, will not, in any event, be disappointed, and that they will not, on any occasion, forget what is due to the character of our government and nation."

This motion occasioned considerable debate, and was at length defeated by the previous question, which was put in these words, "shall the main question now be put?" The Yeas and Nays were called for, and taken as follow.

Y E A S.

Messrs. Ames, Bradbury, Coit, Craik, Davenport, Ege, A. Foster, D. Foster, Gilbert, Glen, Goodrich, Griswold, Harper, Hartley, Henderson, S. Lyman, Malbone, Read, Sewall, Sitgreaves, N. Smith, Isaac Smith, W. Smith, Swift, Thatcher, Thomas, Thompson, Van Allen, Wadsworth, Williams, Hindman—31.

N A Y S.

Messrs. Bailey, Baldwin, Baird, Blount, Bryan, Christie, Claiborn, Clopton, Coles, Dent, Dearborn, Franklin, Freeman, Gallatin, Giles, Gillespie, Gilman, Greenup, Gregg, Grove, Harrison, Havens, Heath, Holland, A. Jackson, G. Jackson, Kitchell, Livingston, Locke, W. Lyman, Maclay, Macon, Madison, Moore, Muhlenberg, Nicholas, Page, Parker, Patton, Richards, Sherburne, Israel Smith, Stradwick, Swanwick, R. Sprigg, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, Venable—48.

In the course of this debate, which was of a considerable length, some very warm expressions took place betwixt the Speaker, Mr. W. Smith, and Mr. Harper on the point of order. The latter gentleman appealed from the chair to the house, and was pronounced by the house to be out of order.

Mr. Blount moved to strike out the last sentence in the address, "for your country's sake, &c." when the Yeas and Nays were taken as follow:

Y E A S.

Messrs. Bailey, Baird, Blount, Christie, Clopton, Coles, Gallatin, Giles, Greenup, Heath, Holland, A. Jackson, G. Jackson, Livingston, Locke, W. Lyman, Maclay, Macon, Moore, Parker, Patton, Swanwick, Varnum, Venable—24.

N A Y S.

Messrs. Ames, Baldwin, Bradbury, Bryan, Claiborn, Coit, Craik, Davenport, Dearborn, Dent, Ege, A. Foster, D. Foster, Franklin, Freeman, Gilbert, Gillespie, Gilman, Glen, Goodrich, Gregg, Griswold, Grove, Harper, Hartley, Havens, Henderson, Hindman, Kitchell, S. Lyman, Madison, Malbone, Muhlenberg, Nicholas, Page, Read, Richards, Sewall, Sherburne, Sitgreaves, N. Smith, Israel Smith, Isaac Smith, W. Smith, Sprigg, Stradwick, Swift, Thatcher, Thomas, Thompson, Van Cortlandt, Van Allen, Wadsworth, Williams—54.

On the question being about to be put on the answer as amended, Mr. Blount said he wished the Yeas and Nays might be again taken that posterity might see that he was not consenting to this address. The question was carried 67 to 12. The Nays were Messrs. Blount, Coles, Giles, Greenup, Holland, A. Jackson, Livingston, Locke, W. Lyman, Maclay, Macon, and Venable.

Messrs. Ames, Madison and Sitgreaves were appointed a committee to wait upon the President to enquire when and where he would receive the answer to his address.

Adjourned.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

Considering Theatrical exhibitions, when conducted with an earnest desire to please those who support the Theatre, by frequent attendance, as the only rational entertainment the Citizens, in Philadelphia, can possibly partake of in public.—After the laborious hours of business, the theatre presents itself, to smooth the varied scenes of life, to see Nature pourtrayed or "catch the manners living as they rise," either in the exhilarating smiles of Comedy, or the impressive scenes of the Tragic muse, these form "a consummation devoutly to be wished," by every admirer of the Drama.

I well remember that for two seasons past, the performances have been much approved of, the performers received that indulgence and almost unbounded encouragement their respective merits entitled them to; and, at the close of each season, the Managers thanked the public, for their "very generous and liberal support." How then can those very Managers, now come forth, and assert, the very contrary to be the

fact: it was then true, or if not, their acknowledgements must be considered only, as satirical eulogiums on a parsimonious public, whom they seem inclined to force into any measure they may please to adopt.

Mr. Wignell, has gratified the Philadelphians, in bringing Mrs. Merry to America, such exquisite performances as hers, must convince, even the most prejudiced, that the stage can, and ought to pourtray nature in all the beauties of expression and action. In these Mrs. Merry answers our most sanguine expectations. Were there such helps to her as her abilities deserve, and demand, the New Theatre would fully compensate the Managers (even at the advanced price of admission) for their labors. Excepting this paragon, is much inferior in numbers and abilities to any former season: how then, can the public expect to have that entertainment generally they have been used to. If we may judge from a comparative scale of the abilities of those Performers who have left the Theatre (on what account the public are no otherwise concerned than in the loss) and those newly engaged, it plainly appears, the public are not benefited. I have arranged the merits, upon a ratio, making fifteen equal to the highest perfection, upon a general line of acting, of those absent, and of those engaged to supply their stations, leaving the generality of the company to their own merits, several of whom are really respectable.

Performers absent.	New Performers.
Mrs. Whitlock, 13	Mrs. Merry, 15
Shaw, 10	Mechler, 4
Marshall, 9	Miss L'Estrange, 4
Cleveland, 5	Mrs. L'Estrange, 3
Green, 4	
Rowson, 3	
Miss Broadhurst, 10	
Mr. Fenell, 13	Mr. Cooper, 11
Bates, 12	Warren, 9
Chalmers, 12	Fox, 6
Whitlock, 11	L'Estrange, 4
Marshall, 7	
Cleveland, 5	
Green, 5	
119	56

From this it appears that the former Companies were much superior in number and abilities, to the present arrangement. I have omitted several performers belonging now and formerly to the same theatre, whose performances merit, on the same scale, viz. Mr. Moreton, 13, and who undoubtedly is the only chaste male Actor on the New Theatre stage. Mr. Wignell, 10. Mr. Harwood, (whom the public are happy to recognize once again) 13. Mr. Francis, 9. Mrs. Oldmixon, 14. Mrs. Morris, 8. Mrs. Warren, 9.

The above system of Merits, are more from public than private opinion; and the general receipts of the Theatre will speak most feelingly to the understandings of the Managers, and Subscribers, whether the advantage this season, will be more favorable than any former one.

PHILO THEATRICALS.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

NEW THEATRE.

HENRY IV.

THAT "huge hill of flesh," the sensible, witty, gay, humorous, cowardly, gluttonous, lying, thieving Falstaff, has not been, "any time these two-and-twenty years," exhibited in a more masterly and impressive style, than by Warren, on Wednesday evening.

Indeed this piece of acting was given with so perfect comprehension of all the minutiae of the character, that criticism or comment were vain: From the opening of the play to the close, it was supported with such naivete, animation, and consistency, as to authorize the opinion, that no performance in America ever afforded higher satisfaction, or possessed better claims to pre-eminence. Shakespeare, in the course of his dramas, furnishes the critical observer with the original models of most of the prominent characters in modern plays. Dr. Johnson observes, that his "Pistol" is the model of all the bullies on the English stage. Dr. Young's Revenge is wholly built on the tragedy of Othello, but it is unnecessary to cite instances: the remark must strike every one; and all that is left to regret, is, that this system has not been more generally pursued. Falstaff, voracious Falstaff, still stands untouched by the pen of any modern imitator. And here Shakespeare must forever shine without a rival. His overbearing excellence in this finished part, must inevitably swallow, as in a vortex, all who attempt to interfere with him. Indeed Shakespeare himself is thought to have fallen off somewhat in the continuation of his Fat Knight, in the Merry Wives of Windsor. As he is said to have written this play in order to continue the character, by command of Queen Elizabeth, perhaps his genius may have been cramped or laid under restraint by the royal command.

If any parts of Mr. Warren's performance were particularly deserving of commendation, the whole of his first dialogue with the prince; the soliloquy on honor; the merit in the delivery of which was such as to render shouts of applause irresistible; his account of his soldiers;—and that part of the second act where he upbraids the prince with deserting him, "a plague of all cowards," might be mentioned as instances.

Mr. Cooper has great merit in Hotspur; his action is good; tho' too redundant. If he erred, it was in not being "hot" enough—in general, this leading trait in the character did not merit his attention—at times however he was remiss. The soliloquy on the contents of the letter, and the scene with his wife, were admirable.

It may not be improper to notice here some remarks of a writer, who criticises on Mr. Cooper, with little "candor" or consideration. His action, says this writer, was "mechanical." Is not all action mechanical? After delectating Cooper of all claim to merit, he concludes with an enumeration, including all the more important points of the character, wherein he acknowledges him to have been "peculiarly fortunate."

Mr. Moreton, when acting "Hal" was in his element, and did ample justice to the part; he spoiled all in the Prince, by his rant. In this par-

* Within this period have died two performers, of distinguished excellence in the character of Falstaff—Garrick and Henderson. Had they liv'd to "die hereafter," there might have been opportunity of instituting a comparison; but "tis better as it is," and a "younger" must rely for his knowledge of them, on the "abstract and brief chronicles of the times."

ticular, however, he has much amended. It must all be shaken off, before he can become a perfect actor.

Mr. L'Estrange gave some parts in the King with considerable energy and effect. W.

PHILADELPHIA,

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16, 1796.

RETURN OF VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT	Allen	Phillips	Jefferson	Burr	S. Adams	P. Henry	Joy	Clinton	Washington	S. Johnson	O. Edwards
New-Hampshire,											2
Massachusetts,	16	13									
Rhode-Island,											
Connecticut,	9	4									
Vermont,											
New-York,	12	13									
New-Jersey,	7	7									
Pennsylvania,	1	2	14	13							
Delaware,	3	3									
Maryland,	7	4	4	3							
Virginia,	1	1	20	15						3	1
Kentucky,											
Tennessee,											
North-Carolina,											
South-Carolina,											
Georgia,											
Total,											

From the Aurora.

"Mr. Fenno has asserted, that the Senate's answer to the President's speech passed that House unanimously. We know to the contrary."

Extract from the Journal of the Senate of the United States, Saturday, December 10, 1796.

"The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the committee in answer to the address of the President of the United States to both Houses of Congress, and after further amendments it was unanimously adopted as follows," &c.

It is a melancholy fact, that the true cause of the present stagnation in our commercial concerns is the high price of produce.

Surely our patriotic farmers will not look on tamely till our merchants are all ruined and their shipping rotting, for the vain hope that another famine in Europe may occur to favor the present exorbitant prices for their grain.

Arrived—Ship Peggy, Elliot, Bourdeaux, 54 days—Left Bourdeaux October 21.

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

BOSTON, December 9.

Massachusetts' Electors.

On Tuesday last the sixteen Electors of this Commonwealth convened in the Senate chamber, agreeable to a resolve of the Legislature, passed at the last session. The whole number being present, they adjourned to Wednesday, when they again met conformably to the Constitution and Law of the United States, and proceeded to the choice of President and Vice President. The vote, stood as follows;

John Adams,	16
Thomas Pinckney S. C.	13
Samuel Johnson N. C.	3
Oliver Ellsworth Con.	1

An express was dispatched to Philadelphia, with a certificate of the votes, signed by each Elector; another certificate goes by the regular post. One is deposited in the office of the District Clerk, and one in the Secretary's office of the Commonwealth.

NEW-YORK, December 15.

SERIOUS ALARM.

Renewed attempts to set fire to different parts of the city have been discovered.—On Tuesday night a shed in the rear of Messrs. Lindley and Knox's work shop, in Liberty-street, was observed to be caught from coals of fire concealed in an oiled cloth, similarly secured with those lately deposited in Mr. Smith's and Depuyter's cellars in Pearl-street. The house of Mr. Lewis Ogden, in Pearl-street, has been twice set on fire; the evidence of malicious intention is indubitable, and he has sent his black man, suspected, to prison: Another attempt, we learn, was made on Tuesday night in Beckman-street; a bed was set on fire under a child, and his cries alarmed his family; yesterday morning the back-door of Mr. R. Leroy's house in Greenwich-street, adjoining Mr. Lindley's, was observed to have been affected from the same means; the fire having burned through the lower part of the door before it expired.

Sufficient evidence is thus obtained of the evil intentions of a desperate gang which infests the city; and the vigilance of the citizens should be excited proportionably to the mischief which may arise, if they are not early discovered or checked in their attempts. An additional night-watch of confidential persons, to be employed by the inhabitants of the different wards;—or an association of themselves for the same purpose, have been thought of as some means of procuring additional security, and in some parts of the city have already been adopted. We conceive that a reward should also be offered for the discovery of the villains; and a subscription to defray the expence thereof (which should be liberal) we have no doubt would be rapidly made up by the inhabitants.

In addition to the above, we hear that attempts have been made to set fire to the large and elegant range of stores belonging to Mr. Deafield, near the exchange.

Attempts were likewise made to set fire to the ship Mohawk, Capt. Moore.

Another meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the first and second wards of this city, at Mr. Rastone's tavern, on Wednesday evening the 14th December, 1796, it was unanimously agreed—

That it appears attempts have been made by evil disposed persons (unknown to us) to set fire to the city in divers places; it is therefore recommended that night-watch, composed of citizens from each ward, be established, to serve in rotation, until a more regular system can be established; and that a guard of twenty men from this meeting be appointed to patrol the first and part of the second wards of this city, as far as Wall-street, for this and the four succeeding nights; and that Melancton Smith, James Van Dyk, Andrew Morris, Simon Schermerhorn, and Henry Wyckoff, be a committee to appoint the watch in the mean time; and it is further recommended, that similar measures be adopted by the citizens of the different wards.

WILLIAM NELSON, chairman.