

NEW THEATRE.

The Public are respectfully informed, that on account of the sudden indisposition of Mr. Moreton, the character of Hamlet will be performed by Mr. Cooper.

THIS EVENING, Monday, December 19

Will be presented,

A TRAGEDY, called

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK.

Hamlet, Mr. Cooper; King, Mr. Warren; Ghost, Mr. L'Estrange; Horatio, Mr. Wignell; Polonius, Mr. Morris; Rosencrans, Mr. Warrell, jun.; Guildenstern, Mr. Mitchell; Francisco, Mr. Darley, jun.; Marcellus, Mr. Fox; Bernardo, Mr. Warrell; Othric, Mr. Francis; Lucianus, Mr. Blissett; Grave Diggers, Harwood & Blissett; Queen, Mrs. L'Estrange; Ophelia, Mrs. Oldmixon; Player Queen, Mrs. Harvey.

To which will be added, A Musical Drama, in one act, called

The Purse; Or, Benevolent Tar.

Baron, Mr. Warell; Theodore, Mr. Fox; Edmond, Mr. Darley, jun.; Will Steady, Mr. Harwood; Page, Miss L'Estrange; Sally, Mrs. Oldmixon.

The music composed by Mr. Reeve. The accompaniments and new airs by Mr. Reinagle.

Box, One Dollar twenty-five cents. Pit one Dollar. And Gallery, half a dollar.

Tickets to be had at H. & P. Rice's Book-store, No. 50 High-street, and at the Office adjoining the Theatre.

The Doors of the Theatre will open at 5, and the Curtain rise precisely at 6 o'clock.

Places for the Boxes to be taken at the Office in the front of the theatre, from 10 till 2 o'clock, and from 10 till 4 on the days of performance.

No money or tickets to be returned, nor any person, on any account whatsoever, admitted behind the scenes.

VIVAT RESPUBLICA!

OLD THEATRE.

On TUESDAY EVENING, December 20, Signior FALCONI

Will continue his Philosophical Performance. Among several new Experiments, too tedious to enumerate, there will be

The Learned Swan.

This piece has always been the admiration of the spectators.

The Sympathetic Windmill.

Which will work or stop at the command of the company

The Incompressible Sealed SNUFF-BOX;

The so much admired RING.

Signior Falconi ambitious to contribute as much as is in his power to the amusement of his patrons, has improved his performance by the

Battle between the Elephant and the Ourang Outang.

Extracted from Bullon's natural history on this subject, and the chase of the Yahoo, a near species of the said Ourang Outang.

This performance will undoubtedly give great satisfaction, particularly on account of the Elephant's being in this city; but as it is supposed many people have not seen it, this will give them an idea of the sagacity of the animal, and his manner of fighting and defending himself, only by the help of his trunk.

With other new scenery and feats not done before. The whole to conclude with the appearance of a SHADE, which will dance a hornpipe in a beautiful dancing-room as well as any maffer.

Doors to be opened at 5, and the performance to begin precisely at 6 o'clock.

Tickets to be had at Mr. North's, next door to the theatre—Boxes may be taken at the same place. Boxes, one dollar; pit, half a dollar; gallery, three shillings of a dollar.

Days of performance will be Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To be Rented,

A Large Vault and Cellar,

That will contain 200 pipes, situate in Walnut between Fourth and Fifth-streets. Also a COACH-HOUSE and STABLE, with Stalls for five horses.

N. B. Goods Stored by the month. Enquire of Benjamin W. Morris.

November 30. mwftz

FOR SALE,

About 1,600 acres of Land,

WELL situated, lying on and between Marsh and Beech Creeks, Milford county, Pennsylvania, in four separate Patents. For terms of sale apply to

Wm. Blackburn,

No. 64, South Second-street.

October 17. mwftf

Insurance Company of North-America.

THE STOCKHOLDERS in this company are desired to take notice that the second Tuesday in January, (being the 10th day of the month) is the day fixed by charter for the election of twenty-five Directors for the ensuing year.

The election will be held at their office, and commence at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The subject of the bye-laws of the Corporation will be submitted to their consideration at this meeting.

EBENEZER HAZARD, Sec'y.

Dec. 12. Opposite the State-House Garden and Congress-Hall; each Lot being 25 feet front on Sixth-street, and 120 feet deep to a 14 feet Court, agreeable to a plan which may be seen at the Coffee-House or at the office of Abraham Shoemaker, No. 124, So. Fourth-street, where the terms will be made known.

December 16. eon3

New-England Rum, Salmon, Beef,

Chocolate, Rice, Boston mould and dipt Candles, a few quarter-casks of Sherry Wine, a few barrels of Cyder, and a few quintals of excellent Tible COD-FISH—for sale by

Ezekiel Hall,

No. 42, North Water-street.

December 14th, 1796.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, December 14.

Continuation of the debate on the address in answer to the President's speech.

Mr. W. Smith observed that the supporters of the present motion expressed their willingness to compliment the President, but seemed to wish to take away all the materials for doing so. They will not allow him to be complimented upon the prosperity of the country, or upon its free and enlightened state, or upon his wisdom and patriotism. (Mr. Giles said he had never denied the patriotism of the President; he believed him to be an honest and patriotic man, but denied the firmness and wisdom of his administration.) Mr. Smith said the present motion went to strike out what related to the wisdom and patriotism of the President's administration, but he was at a loss to discover the difference between the wisdom and patriotism of the President and that of his administration; nor did he see what gentlemen could substitute as complimentary to the President in place of what was proposed to be struck out. The first paragraph, he said related to our internal tranquility which was compared to the state of several of the European nations involved in war. And why, he asked, should a foreign nation be offended with us for speaking of war? It ought not to offend them, because we rejoice that we are at peace, and to appreciate the high value of such a state it was necessary to contrast it with the miseries of war. Had not, foreign nations, he asked, held up this country as an example of wisdom in avoiding war? They had done so, and yet this country was not in return to refer to them.—With respect to the wisdom and fortitude of the President he wished gentlemen would point out one single act, where these qualities were wanting. It had been asserted that the administration of the President had not been wise and firm as it respected our foreign relations; but let it be remembered that the principal ground of complaint of the French minister related to the conduct of Congress and not to the executive, and to acts of the executive sanctioned by Congress. How then can gentlemen cast the whole blame upon him. There was no act of the President which had been offensive to the French nation, which had not been sanctioned by Congress. If there was any blame, therefore, it fell upon them. Mr. Smith intimated the act respecting prizes, proclamation of neutrality, &c. and hoped they should hear no more of separating the President from the other branches of the government, or the government from the people.—The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Swanwick) said that Great Britain and France tho't themselves prosperous? And what was the inference he drew? That if we call ourselves prosperous, they will be offended by the contrast. This could not be the case; for if these two nations thought themselves prosperous, as he represented them, they would doubtless be pleased or laugh at our folly in supposing them otherwise. But he wondered how that gentleman should have so greatly changed his opinion since last session. When the British treaty was before them, he mentioned the great increase of commerce and manufactures which had taken place; that they had outgrown themselves, as a boy, said he, outgrows his cloaths: yet now that gentleman will not allow the prosperity of the country.

With respect to our being the freest and most enlightened nation in the world; he wished gentlemen would specify the nation that was more so.—He knew of none. He did not believe that any nation enjoyed that civil & religious freedom which was the portion of the citizens of this country, or that was so enlightened, particularly as to what related to affairs of government. If gentlemen knew of any other nation so prosperous, he would ask them if they should be willing to change situations with such a nation? he believed they would not.—The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Giles) objected to regret the President's retirement from public life, as there were many others who would fill the office equally well with him. But he would ask, where was the man who had so much of the people's confidence as he, and who could so well insure an obedience to the laws? He believed there had been situations in his Presidency, in which no other man could have steered the vessel of state through the shoals and quicksands with which it was surrounded. He mentioned the western insurrection, and the business of the French minister Genet. Was it not, he asked, to be regretted, that such a man was about to leave the honorable station he had filled? Gentlemen seemed to think, there was too much of adulation in the answer.—Truth, he said, could not be considered as adulation; and let gentlemen point to any part of it, and say, there is no truth in this. If it was founded in fact, it was just to express their gratitude to the man to whom this country owed so much. He wished gentlemen to advert to the address presented to him on his coming into office, and on his re-election. Had he done any thing to forfeit the respect then shewn to him? What would be thought, he asked, if they were to strike out that part of the answer now objected to? It would be said to be not only withholding praise, but exhibiting him to reprehension.—If struck out, and some cold, unmeaning words substituted in their place, it would convey to the world an idea, that he had involved the country in difficulties, destroyed public and private credit, and been the cause of other mischiefs, which had been represented to exist.

When this great man was going forever to retire from public life, it was expected by the nation, that they should express their love, gratitude and affection towards him. These sentiments had been expressed by every legislature of the United States, which had met since his retirement was announced. Why, then, said he, should we alone be silent?—Why send him into retirement with daggers in his heart? He could not see any reason for repressing feelings which had been so generally expressed.

It was objected to the answer, that it wished his example might be the guide of his successor; but he prayed, whoever he might be, that he might follow his steps. Upon the whole, he said, there might be an inaccuracy of expression, a redundancy of stile, but he did not believe there was a sentiment liable to objection. He hoped, therefore, the motion to strike out would not prevail.

Mr. Dayton (the Speaker) said, that he did not rise to accept the challenge given by the gentleman who spoke last from South-Carolina, and to point out a nation more free and enlightened than ours, nor did he mean to contest the fact of our's being the freest and most enlightened in the world

as declared in the reported address, but he was nevertheless of opinion that it did not become them to make that declaration, and thus to extol themselves by a comparison with and at the expense of all others. Although those words were in his view objectionable, he was far from assenting to the motion for striking out the seven or eight last clauses of the address. The question of order having been decided, Mr. Dayton said he would remind the committee that if they wished to retain or even to amend any section or sentence of all that was proposed to be struck out, they ought to give their negative to this motion, as the only means of accomplishing their purpose. It was sufficient therefore for those who were opposed to the question for striking out the whole, to shew that any part within it ought to be preserved. Not unnecessarily to waste time by lengthening the debates, he would take the clause first in order, and confine his remarks to that alone. This part of the address had certainly not been read or had been misunderstood and misrepresented by the member for Pennsylvania. Did it, Mr. D. asked, draw a comparison, as had been suggested by that gentleman, between the relatively happy state of the country in the present and the year immediately preceding: Did it go further than to say that the situation of the United States was more prosperous at this period, than at that which immediately preceded the operation of the present government; certainly it did not; and were proofs necessary to substantiate this fact, or arguments wanted to enforce it? The state of this country under this government was he said that of order and union, their situation at the period alluded to was a melancholy scene of disunion and dissolution. This happy change was ascribed and justly ascribed in the report to our free and excellent form of government, and the interposition of an overruling Providence in our national affairs, neither of which, he trusted, a majority of that house would be prepared to deny or dispute. He could not discern the least possibility of giving offence to other nations in contrasting the blessings derived to this country from a state of peace with the calamity in which a state of war involves those who are so unhappy as to be engaged in it. The expressions were such as could not be construed either to impeach, or indeed to have any allusion to the forms of government under which they lived. If those forms were such as best suited the disposition and circumstances of those who had adopted them, and were best calculated to render them happy, surely it must be admitted that war was not less a calamity even to those the most favorably circumstanced in that respect, and it could not therefore be considered a reflection upon them to call it so, nor to deprecate such a state of things, or to contrast it with that of peace which this country was so happy as to enjoy. He had hoped, he said, that the mover upon reviewing this clause would have excluded it from his motion; but, as he did not think proper to do so, Mr. Dayton could say with great confidence that a majority of the house could not be found to rise for striking out a proposition which embraced the acknowledgment of a state of good government as preferable to disunion and anarchy, and a state of peace as preferable to that of war, and contained expressions of gratitude to Providence for an overruling care, signally manifested in our affairs.

Mr. Ames said, if any gentleman intended to vote for the present motion, to strike out the whole from an idea of adopting the amendment proposed by the gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. Harper) who offered a substitute, he would observe to them, that he wished that influence to be done away, as those who would strike out the whole, wanted no substitute. The two motions were opposite, and the friends of the one ought to resist the other.—The gentleman who made the motion, had not done so from any objection he himself had to the original, but in order to accommodate others. It was well known, that a committee of five members, of very opposite politics to one another, had been appointed to prepare a respectful address in answer to the President's speech (here Mr. Ames read their instructions). As it was the duty of the committee to prepare a respectful address, it might be matter of disapprobation, but not of surprise, that they had taken notice of the several subjects touched upon in the President's speech. It will not be improper to notice, said he, that there was some difference of opinion in the committee, with respect to the wording of that part of the answer now moved to be struck out; but from a conviction of the delicacy of the subject, and a desire to preserve inviolate that decorum which, he was sorry to remark, this debate had broken, such an accommodation took place, as met the approbation of every member. They had therefore some reason to hope, while they regarded every member's right to think for himself, that it would have met with the approbation of both sides of the house. For this reason, except the sentiments should be found objectionable, he should wish the address to be kept entire, rather than that the substitute proposed should be introduced into it, as that would not have the advantage of the same agreement of the committee, nor could it be so maturely considered as the report which was before them in print. He was not disposed to go into the detail of this discussion from the unanimity of the committee, he might indeed truly say he did not expect, and was unprepared for it, although he thought he might depend upon no other resources than the spontaneous emotions of the moment would supply, when he heard gentlemen doubt the truth of the first paragraph in question. Still he chose rather to look for its defence upon the general impression of obvious truth, than to exhaust himself by exhibiting it in detail. He would refer to facts. If there was one voice in America on any subject, it was a confidence in the constitution, and that the country had been exempted from war, by the patriotism and wisdom of the President. These were not sentiments they were called upon to prove by vouching documents and facts; it was the fixed impression that facts had left on the mind, on which he chose to rely. He appealed for the truth of them to every heart, (except that of the gentleman from Virginia) who did not regret the retirement of the President. He believed his appeal would not be in vain. But was there a propriety in making such a declaration?—

He would briefly enquire into the nature of the several objections to the draft of the address. It had been said, that it was neither natural nor becoming to make comparisons between this country and Europe—between the present government, and the tumultuous system which existed prior to its institution. He appealed to the sense and propriety of every one, whether this doctrine was not singular as well as extravagant?

Was any thing more natural, than that a man in prosperous circumstances should increase his happiness by comparing his situation with those in a less favorable state? The man who did not this, left one half of the harvest of his happiness unreaped. By this comparison, a spirit of thankfulness was excited towards the beneficent power who bestowed these blessings. Some gentlemen may, though it would be strange, think differently on this occasion, but he thought the sentiment both natural and becoming. If even a man whose life has not been greatly distinguished by his enjoyments, sees the sufferings or the shipwreck of others, will it not be his duty habitually to thank God for his blessings? But if he has been a sufferer himself, if he himself has escaped shipwreck or fire, will he still more refined sensations of gratitude for the advantages he does enjoy? Or, if a man's neighbor suffer from fire, will he not feel thankful, that he has escaped the calamity? He cannot be thankful enough for what he enjoys without adverting to the calamities he has escaped. Nor did he conceive any more impropriety in thus introducing gratitude, than the introduction of it by clergymen into their daily prayers.

But it had been said, to contrast our country with others in a state of war, is disrespectful. If that be really an objection, it might be easily obviated by adding "unhappily" after the word "war." It would certainly be improper to exult over the misfortunes of others; and the word unhappily would express that we deplore them; but when calamities did exist, it was not improper to rejoice that they were not our own.

A gentleman had taken occasion to observe, that the cry of foreign influence had been sounded thro' the country. He should not be rudely excited as to the foundation there was for this cry; but when it was once raised, the people would attend to facts. The world would judge between those who wished to support the government and others. Mr. Ames alluded to the factious spirit which foreign agents endeavored to stir up amongst the people of this country. England he said had been outraged by an appeal from government to the people, and parliament addressed the king to send an imperial envoy out of their country, for interference with their internal concerns; and yet a similar instance had occurred, and met with no reprobation. A remarkable fact, and more of the same kind appear. We are at peace. But we must not call ourselves a free and enlightened people, lest it should be construed that other nations are not so. This over-cautiousness, said he, may be the way to assert American dignity, but he did not think so. Foreign influence exists, and is disgraceful and pernicious, when we dare not commend our constitution, nor even thank God for its success in our prayers. He did not think the French nation had any reason to complain against this country. There was not only no reason, they wanted even the color of a pretext.

Mr. Ames referred to the words of the President in his speech: "Standing for the last time," &c. He congratulated us that the experiment of the form of government had so well succeeded. The committee, he said, were charged to return a respectful address. The paragraph objected to, was an appeal to facts. Whether the experiment had been unsuccessful or not, was to be determined.—He should think it had indeed failed, if he entertained all the opinions of gentlemen who had advocated this motion to strike out—who denied the prosperity of the country—reprobated its neutral system—thought our principles tending to despotism—and the executive magistrature wanting in wisdom and firmness—that their miseries originated in banks and funding corruption. He should think a republican constitution a chimera in its nature, and a curse in practice. But he entertained no opinion of this kind. He believed this constitution had succeeded remarkably well. It was true, would it not be also useful to make the declaration, whatever foreign nations might do? (for he did not much regard what they did.) And if the period was come, that our government was brought into a peculiar situation; if, in plain English, we are brought (as Mr. Giles alleges) to the eve of a war with France, there was never a time when it was more our duty, boldly and loudly to declare, we are ready to meet them, to cling to our government, and the more so, as it is vilified by their agents, and to say, we mean to support it against foreign power and foreign insults. This was the time to support our dignity with moderation—not to say that we defy you, but that we are Americans, and neither French nor English. This was the time, if the facts stated by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Giles) were founded, to show our unanimity, and not an appearance of imbecility and discord.

Another thing occurred to him. It had been said, that the President no doubt was an honest man and a patriot, but it was not believed he was a wise man. The gentleman from Virginia considered his administration as neither wise nor firm, but his integrity as a private man he had no objection against. If the committee were to make an address after this manner, the house has nothing to say with respect to your administration; except that it is not firm, nor wise, and some of us indit dishonest and treacherous, though we allow you have had no hand in the iniquity, still we believe you a wife and peaceful man, and should be glad to address you as such. In one word, sir, we are glad you are going to live snugly in Virginia.—Is this an address of respect or insult? Was this the respect to be shewn to the first man in the nation—in the world? There was not a word in the address which did not accord with his sentiments. He did not believe with the gentleman from S. Carolina (Mr. Smith) the President would carry with him to his retirement daggers in his heart, if that house refused to do him justice. He bears in his breast that consciousness of rectitude, that armour which dag-