

Will be presented, A TRAGEDY, called

The ORPHAN; Or, The Unhappy Marriage.

- Acaño, Castallo, Polydore, Chamont, Ernesto, Paulino, Cordelio, Chaplain, Monimia, Serina, Florella, Mr. Warren, Mr. Moreton, Mr. Wignell, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Warrell, Mr. Warrell, jun., Miss L'Esfrange, Mrs. Merry, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Harvey

End of the Tragedy a new Ballet Dance, (composed by Mr. Byrne) called

THE BOUQUET:

In which will be introduced, the favorite TAMBOURINE DANCE.

To which will be added, A FARCE, (written by Foote) reduced to one act, called

The Mayor of Garrat.

- Sir Jacob Jollup, Major Sturgeon, Jerry Sneak, Crispin Heeltap, Bruin, Roger, Mrs. Sneak, Mrs. Bruin, Mr. Francis, Mr. Warren, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Darley, jun., Mr. Warrell, Mr. Blissett, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Meebler

The French company of Comedians, having been honored with considerable applause on their first appearance, will perform again on Saturday next, and every Saturday, until further notice. Particulars will be expressed in future Bills.

On Saturday the Comedy of SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER;

Or, The Mistakes of a Night. With a celebrated French Opera, in 2 acts, called LES SOULIERES MORCLORES.

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.

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to send their servants to keep places a quarter before 5 o'clock, and to order them, as soon as the company are seated, to withdraw, as they cannot on any account be permitted to remain.

VIVAT RESPUBLICA!

READINGS and RECITATIONS,

Moral, Critical, and Entertaining;

MR. FENNEL

RESPECTFULLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Philadelphia, and its vicinity, that an interesting Reading will be delivered at the College-Hall, on Tuesday evening next, at 7 o'clock.—Where, by permission of the honorable, the Trustees of the University, the course will be regularly continued during the winter.

Occasional admission tickets to be had of Mr. Poulson, Jun. at the Library; at Mr. McElvee's looking-glass-store, No. 70, South Fourth-street; and at Mr. Carey's, Book-feller, Market-street. Dec. 21. d5t.

This Day is Published,

PORCUPINE'S POLITICAL CENSOR,

For NOVEMBER, 1796.

CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS

On the Insolent and Seditious Notes, (Attacking the sovereignty and independence of the United States)

Communicated to the People, by the late French minister, ADET. December 21. * 1w

On Wednesday, the 28th inst.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, will be sold at public auction, (if not before disposed of at private sale) at the City-Tavern,

All that capital manion-house, stables, out-houses, &c. and three contiguous tracts of land situate on the West-side of Schuylkill in the township of Blockley and county of Philadelphia, generally known by the name of Landown, containing 199 acres 181 perches more or less and a meadow plantation and tract of land in Blockley township aforesaid adjoining Landown, containing 64 acres one perch.

The premises are so well known as to need no particular description. Few seats in America can compare with Landown for convenience and elegance; it commands a variety of rich beautiful prospects and is remarkably healthy. Terms of sale will be made known by

PHILIP NICKLIN, } Attorneys in fact to ROBERT E. GRIFFITH, } James Greenleaf. Dec. 12. St8th

Just Arrived,

Per schooner Daphne, Captain Morse, from Aus-Cayer,

A Cargo of SUGAR and COFFEE.

Also, per brig Betsy, Captain White, from the Ile of France,

- 72 Hogheads, 1 puncheon, and 25 cistners, of Batavia Sugar 45 Hogheads Pepper of Malabar 65,000 lb. Coffee 23,000 Cotton 4,000 Indigo—For Sale by

F. Coppinger,

No. 221, South Front-street

December 21

For Sale,

Seven elegant Sites for Buildings, 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 *03

TWO WORDS OF AN EUROPEAN,

On the Conflagrations that have distressed this Country.

IF preservation from the destructive ravages of fire is one of the greatest interests of the public; the importance of it invites those who have little, as well as those who have extensive knowledge to communicate it; and the right of nations which grants protection to the foreigner, imposes upon him to take in the welfare and prosperity of the people, where he enjoys it, a share when it is not contrary to that of his own nation. This is a sufficient apology.

Spectator of some fires in various parts of the United States, I saw with pleasure, the courageous zeal, and the intelligence of the citizens, and fire companies; but I thought I perceived two essential defects; and I must suppose that many others exist which I did not perceive, but which others must have taken notice of.

The first of these deficiencies seems to me to be a want of a sufficient quantity of hose that ought always to be with every engine. It is necessary that the first engine on the spot, (at the burning of a church for instance,) should have hose enough, to conduct the water at least as far as the bells, and in houses, they should not only reach the roof of the burning house, but do it even if they were on the roof of some neighbouring house. The men who direct, the hose may then, with the aid of a wet blanket or skin, approach the center of the conflagration, and crush by the violent and direct ray of the water, the violence of the destructive element. In a late fire which I witnessed to the eastward, three quarters at least of the water were lost, being wasted in the streets, they could not aim at the seat of the fire which was in a third story, having not hose enough, the engines spouted the water making half circles like the bomb from a mortar, and the water fell like rain on the fire of the roof; when at the same time the interior and most violent fire was not reached by the engines. It is certainly an acknowledged fact, that a single engine whose hose strikes the fire, has a more certain and a more prompt effect than twenty others which spout the water in an indirect manner, and at a great distance.

As in many parts of Europe they are obliged to be very economical, instead of hose of leather, they make use of a woven stuff of hemp, made without a seam, and of which a foot does not cost ten cents. I leave the reader to judge whether a manufacture of this ingenious and modern invention ought not to be introduced into the United States, at the expense of the government?

In the second place you have never seen in this country, ladders which are made use of in different parts of Europe. If a building on fire stands alone, if it threatens falling, or if the fire is already so violent it is not possible to make use of the common ladders, to save the lives and the property of the people, without the greatest danger, from the common ladder; likewise you can never oppose the fire with advantage, because it is out of your power to support them on any thing when the conflagration is already violent, except on the neighbouring buildings, either in the same row or opposite. In all these cases nothing is more useful than the Horse ladder, which supports itself without help, by its superior extremity. You may like wise employ usefully, (where you can get them) the Gardener's ladders, which are double, and support one another; but more convenient still are the Trippe ladders joined at the top by a triangle of iron, and which rise upon a basis as extensive as you please, being secured by cramp irons. These ladders may be posted opposite the fire at any convenient distance, like the wooden towers of the Romans, which approached the walls of a besieged city; then the ladders become so many batteries from which the men can take aim at the fire. Thirty or forty men can easily mount with the hose, upon a ladder of this description. S.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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

Thursday, December 15.

Mr. Ames said that the gentl man from Virginia (Mr. Giles) had represented him as saying that he took it for granted that we were on the eve of a war with France. So far was this from being correct, he had grounded his expression carefully upon what fell from the gentleman himself. He said if we were on the eve of a war, as Mr. Giles insinuated, it was above all things necessary that they should cling around the government, and not let an idea go forth to the world that there was a division of sentiment on the subject of the respective duties we owe to France and to our own country. He knew not what more he could say with respect to France. He had advocated words strong enough for any thing but a love-letter, and such were reported by the committee. It was possible indeed he might not feel all the ardor in her favor which was expressed by other gentlemen; for their's he was free to say he thought excessive and pernicious. He wished most cordially for peace with all nations, but if that could not be had, he wished for an union of sentiment in support of our national character and dignity.

So much for that subject. With respect to what had fallen from the speaker, it was possible on so many points, and with so many aspects of the same point, in the business of several years, he might not have acted consistently, tho' as to the matter in question, he neither admitted nor believed any such thing. He always acted as he thought best at the time; but at different periods he might, and this he said merely for the argument's sake, have acted differently. Sincerely, he was sure he had acted, and the house would believe he had ever avowed his sentiments as he really felt them. But he could not see any thing of this inconsistent kind in his conduct. Admitting that the capturing of our vessels by the British were acts of hostility,

and there was great difference between such acts and the just causes of war, were we, he said, even then without reflection or preparation, or demand of justice, to return hostility for hostility? The French had also captured our vessels, and yet no one spoke of this as an act of hostility, or of sequestration, prohibition or embargo, or blamed those who were silent. If one nation committed an act of hostility against another, was it not advisable, rather than immediately to retaliate, to endeavor to adjust the matter by negotiation? He thought so, the citizens of the United States unquestionably thought so, and that our administration had great merit in settling the late differences with Great-Britain as to avoid war. It was true that the British had taken our vessels under a claim of right which they had to do so; and as contraband goods were liable to be seized, part of their conduct was clearly right by the law of nations, and a great part clearly wrong. So that it was difficult to determine which were acts of hostility. This of course required examination of facts, and adjustment of principles. The treaty wisely provided for both. For this purpose a negotiation was opened, and was in a train that he sincerely hoped would be finally successful.

Gentlemen had been greatly offended by the terms justice and magnanimity, addressed by Mr. Jay in his memorial to the British government; but now our country was threatened, wronged and insulted, in a very extraordinary manner, no language was soft enough to be used towards their favorite republic. This distinction was remarkable. The remarks on inconsistency would no doubt labor for a solution of this enigma. Our real patriots would labor with them to be satisfied why the language of custom and common decency, should be so shocking in one case, and why even humility and supplication should seem too harsh for offended France in the other.

With respect to the present situation of our country with the French republic, it was no reproach upon our government that the French had issued complaints against us. It was said the British treaty was the ground of offence; if so, he hoped there was not a drop of true American blood that was not carried with rather more heat and rather more hurry through the heart, by such a declaration. It was an insult that marked the utmost insulence of spirit on one side, and its lowest abasement on the other.

No cause of offence, Mr. Ames said, could justly be taken on account of that treaty, since the French treaty was in common with our other treaties declared to be of prior force by an article of Mr. Jay's, and were the articles of the two treaties to clash, those of the French treaty would destroy any opposing article in that made with G. B. so that the treaty would continue the law of the land, the same as if no British treaty existed. Our juries and courts could be relied to carry the law of the land into effect.

Information had been received, Mr. Ames said, and stated to the public in all the newspapers, that continual efforts were making in Paris to excite a spirit of animosity against this country, and this by persons who were (though unworthily such) American citizens. Whether the language held by gentlemen in this house on the present occasion would not have a tendency to increase, to encourage and to assist that spirit, he left those gentlemen to determine. Whether to say we were wholly in their power; that they were the only power which could annoy our territory, that they were invulnerable and irresistible, and we defenceless, that they were in the right and we in the wrong was becoming any character but that of a Frenchman. If we are on the eve of a war, said Mr. Ames, I blush for gentlemen who can use such language, at a moment when the power with whom the war was contemplated is offering injuries and menaces to our country. If the event were to be war, he acquitted the administration of blame. It had not provoked it; but it was, if we may credit such various and concurring information as we had owing to the intrigues carried on in Paris. It had been there represented that there was a division of sentiment betwixt the government and the people of this country, and that they (the French) had only to speak the word, and the government would fall, like other despotisms, which they affected every where to overturn. If this was the fact, and so it had been represented, this house and this whole country ought to shew it no countenance, he thought it the duty of the place where he stood to make it manifest to the French nation it would not be borne: that in case of extremities he did not balance for a moment which country he should declare for, that of strangers or his own.

Mr. Ames said, he himself did not believe there was any chance of war. The French could have no pretext for it and as little interest or desire to drive us to that alternative. As this kind of threat he doubted not, was to answer a certain purpose, and was timed at the very moment when it was expected to fix it, when that business had passed over, he supposed we should hear no more of war. We may suffer many wrongs, and depredations on our trade, said Mr. Ames, but this country will seek redress, not by war, in the first instance, but by negotiation as before. Whatever be our government, said he, whether perfect or not, we are bound to support it; and not, at such a period to speak of injuries and evils which are not derived from the neglect or improvidence of our government, and therefore ought not to chill the ardor of our zeal for its support. They are not true; but if they were, they should now be kept out of sight. Mr. Ames concluded with an apology for having said so much, as it was well known he did not propose to speak often, he intended to have said but little and hoped the committee would see that he had been personally called upon and therefore would excuse him.

[Debate to be continued.]

Wednesday, December 21.

Mr. Heath called up the resolution which he yesterday laid upon the table respecting an alteration in the law as it relates to Revenue officers, which after a few observations, on the propriety of referring it to the committee of ways and means, it was referred to that committee.

Mr. D Foster wished the committee of claims to be discharged from the farther consideration of the petitions of Charles Pierras and D. S. Franks as the petitioners were dead. Agreed.

Mr. Blount called up the resolution which he yesterday laid upon the table respecting the extension of grants made to officers and soldiers killed in battle, to those who died in the service. A committee of three members was appointed.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of ways and means, made a report on the petitions of Abalom Baham, Daniel Burns, Jacob Bellher and Oliver Barnet, for compensation for services performed during the war, which was against them, recommended leave to be given to withdraw their petitions. The report was read a second time, and the three first cases were confirmed by the house; but a decision on the last, on motion of Mr. Mulenberg, who said he wished to give some information on the subject which he had not then with him, was postponed till Monday.

Mr. Patton moved that the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures made last session, respecting the kidnapping of negroes and mulattoes from different states, contrary to the laws of the said states, should be committed to a committee of the whole house. Agreed, and made the order for Monday.

Mr. Milledge presented the petition of Jonas Forsh, of the state of Georgia, for compensation for himself and men under his command, when called out to defend the frontiers. Referred to the Secretary at War.

Mr. Thatcher presented the petition of Samuel Freeman, deputy post-master of Portland, in the district of Maine, praying for additional compensation, which was read.

Mr. Coit moved the House to take up the resolution which he yesterday laid upon the table respecting the balances due from individual states to the United States. He observed that those balances amounted at the time of settlement, to three and a half millions, and that with the interest paid upon them, they were now four and a half, and it was therefore desirable that something should be done in the business.

Mr. Williams said it was to be lamented that they could not come at the principle upon which the commissioners had settled these balances. He thought if this matter was duly examined that those states which were made creditor states would not be found to be so. He thought the business of importance, and such as might not be hurried thro' the house. He did not expect the resolution would have been called up to day, and therefore wished a few days might be allowed before it was decided upon.

Mr. W. Smith did not think farther time was necessary for determining upon the resolution, as it went no farther than to direct an enquiry on the subject. If this enquiry was not gone into soon, they should be able to do nothing this session, as it must terminate on the 3d of March. He hoped therefore, the subject would not be deferred.

Mr. W. Lyman said this resolution ought not to go to a select committee, but be referred to a committee of the whole. He wished to know what enquiry could be made? The principles on which the accounts had been settled, were objected to. Were a select committee to determine the justness of this? He wished not this. He never should be in favor of referring any subject to a select committee, in order to have an opinion expressed. Such references were only a loss of time; he was for referring the matter at once to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Gilbert had no objection to this subject being referred to a committee of the whole, in order to bring it before the view of the house. Whenever this was done, he trusted a due investigation would take place, and the matter be rightly adjusted.

Mr. Coit said he had hoped his resolution was so framed as that no objection could have been made to it. Every one acknowledged something was necessary to be done. The most natural way, in his opinion, would be to make an application (which had not yet been done) to the debtor states for payment; but, since they had a committee specially appointed to adjust all money matters, notwithstanding what had fallen from the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. W. Lyman) to the contrary, he thought it best to direct the enquiry to be made by them.

Mr. Baldwin thought the resolution a very proper one for bringing the business before the house. Some objections, he observed, had been made to the principle. He believed the principle upon which the accounts had been adjusted was such as had been generally approved of; and he tho't if the subject was gone into, there would be no difficulty in settling the business.

The resolution was agreed to. Mr. Williams moved the order of the day on the petitions of certain refugees from Nova Scotia and Canada. The house accordingly went into a committee of the whole on the subject; and a number of papers having been read relative thereto, together with the last report of a select committee, which was against the petitioners.

Mr. Greenup hoped the report would be agreed to. He was upon the committee who made it. He said, in their examination, they could find no resolution under the old government to allow these refugees the bounty of lands prayed for, and therefore he thought they ought not to be allowed.

Mr. Livingston spoke in favour of the allowance, and called for the reading of a former report in their favour, which he hoped would be agreed to.

Mr. Sitgreaves said, upon enquiry of the clerk, he found none of the reports on this subject had been printed. He himself stood in the predicament of many others who were unacquainted with the business. As it was a subject of complexity, he should therefore move that the committee rise, in order to have the papers printed.

The committee rose accordingly, and the papers were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Chittie presented a petition from John Sears, for a claim against the United States. The petition being read, Mr. C. said it would be recalled that this case had been reported upon last session in favour of the petitioner, and that, a Bill