

NEW THEATRE.

ON MONDAY EVENING, January 2, Will be presented, An HISTORICAL TRAGEDY, (Written by Shakespeare) called

RICHARD III.

- Henry IV, Prince Edward, Duke of York, Duke of Gloucester, Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Richmond, Duke of Norfolk, Ratcliffe, Catesby, Trelkel, Earl of Oxford, Lieut. of the Tower, Lord Stanley, Lord Mayor, Tyrrel, Queen Elizabeth, Lady Ann, Duchess of York, Mr. Warren, Mifs L'Estrange, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Wignoll, Mr. Moreton, Mr. Francis, Mr. Morris, Mr. Darley, jun., Mr. Fox, Mr. Bliffett, Mr. Warrell, jun., Mr. L'Estrange, Mr. Warrell, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. L'Estrange

End of the Tragedy, A Scotch Pantomimical Ballet, (composed by Mr. Byrn) called,

The New-Year's Gift;

Or, Highland Frolics.

- Sandy, Jamie, Young Pedlar, Father Gibby, Mother Gibby, Poggie, Annie, Mr. Byrn, Mr. Warrell, jun., Master Bates, Mr. Bliffett, Mr. Francis, Mifs Milbourne, Mrs. Byrn

Highland Lads and Lasses—messrs. Doctor, J. Darley, Mitchell, T. Warrell, Macdonald, Morgan, M. Poignant, M. Lavancy—Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Mechtler, Mrs. Doctor, Miss Oldfield, Miss Anderson, Miss Sphie, and Miss L'Estrange.

To which will be added a FARCE called

Animal Magnetism.

- Marquis De Lancey, La Fleur, Doctor, Picard, Francois, Jeffery, Constance, Lisette, Mr. Moreton, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Francis, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Warrell, jun., Mr. Bliffett, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Francis

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.

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 REPUBLICA!

College-Hall.

READINGS AND RECITATIONS, Moral, Critical, and Entertaining.

MR. FENNEL

Respectfully informs the Public, that On TUESDAY EVENING, January 3, at 7 o'clock, Will be delivered,

(FIRST PART)

PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS,

Including selections from Dr. Young—OP TIME, MAN, LIEB.

(SECOND PART)

THE EFFECTS OF SORROW,

Exemplified in

- The Distresses of a Daughter, M'Kenzie, The Prisoner, Sterne, Maria, 1st and 2nd parts, Sterne, The Beggar's Petition, Dr. Percival

(THIRD PART)

THE EFFECTS OF VIRTUE,

Exemplified in

- The Picture of a Good Man, Young, The Country Clergyman, Goldsmith, Domestic Happiness, Thompson

With Occasional Remarks on the Authors.

Subscriptions are received by Mr. Zachariah Poulson, jun. at the Library, where the Ladies and Gentlemen who may be inclined to honor the undertaking with their patronage, are respectfully requested to send their names and receive their tickets.

Occasional admission tickets to be had of Mr. Poulson, jun. at the Library; at Mr. McElwee's looking-glass-store, No. 70, South Fourth-street; and at Mr. Carey's, Book-seller, Market-street.

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.

Dancing.

MR. FRANCIS of the New-Theatre, in conjunction with Mr. BYRN, late Ballet-master, and principal dancer of Covent-Garden Theatre, London, now of the New Theatre in this city, opened their Academy at Mr. Oellers Hotel, on Tuesday, December 13, where they propose to teach, in the most new and approved methods, Dancing in its various useful and ornamental branches.

Mr. Byrn's recent attention to the dances of London and Paris will enable him to complete this branch of education in his scholars in the most finished style. Favorite Scotch reels will also engage their particular attention.

The days of teaching for their young pupils are Thursdays and Saturdays, from three o'clock in the afternoon till six—and on Tuesdays & Thursdays, from six till nine, for those of a more advanced age.

For farther particulars enquire of Messrs. Francis and Byrn, No. 70, north Eighth-street.

Private tuition as usual.

Philadelphia, December 16, 1796.

SALEM, December 20.

COMMUNICATION.

A few days since, Mr. JAMES BURNES, a native and inhabitant of this town, returned home from the West-Indies, having fortunately escaped from the English. He was pressed by the Majestic English ship of war, from on board the ship Atria; of which he was 2d mate; and was dragged about from Island to Island, in the English service for more than 7 months. He was forced, by the point of the sword, into several bloody battles, and made to fight against the French, and because of his unwillingness to act in the English service, he suffered from them the most shocking cruelties—at one time he lay 19 days in irons, and would have been starved to death, had it not been for the assistance of a woman that was on board the ship. Once before he attempted to escape, in company of another American, and swam to a vessel belonging to the United States; but the master would not let them come on board; and returning, his companion was lost, he supposed by a shark. He brings melancholy and most painful accounts of the sufferings of the Americans, pressed into the English service; and of their perishing by the cruelties exercised upon them, by the sickness, and in battles, and by attempting to escape from a bondage and slavery more dreadful than the Iron Furnace of Egypt. Mr. Burnes has a family in this town, and has returned with the loss of all his little property, and from his appearance, with the loss of a good constitution, and of good health forever.

NEW-YORK, December 29.

The unanimity of the electors, of President and Vice-President, eastward of the Delaware, is a striking fact. Notwithstanding all the calumny vented against Mr. Adams, not one vote could be withdrawn from that old patriot—not one vote could be obtained for Mr. Jefferson. We find a division of opinions in the southern states. Seven votes for Mr. Adams in Maryland are a proof of a sound attachment to the present administration. Even in Virginia and North Carolina, we find by one vote in each, that men dare to act with firmness in support of government.

The truth has ever been, that in proportion to the progress of knowledge, the people of America have rallied round their government. The good work begins in the eastern states—there government first obtains a majority, for there people more early and generally read and inform themselves of facts. As knowledge progresses among the more scattered settlements of the middle and southern states, government collects strength. This has been uniformly the progress.

The parties in our country differ materially in their opinion of the French and English. The friends of our present system of administration wish to make many sacrifices to both nations, rather than become parties in the war. They wish to do justice to both, but dread the power of neither. They dread the intrigues of the French, more than their resentment.

The opposers of administration see in the British, a nation of devils; in the French, a race of angels. They detest the former, and would embrace any slight occasion to quarrel with them—They love the latter, and would bear kicking and cuffing by them, for the sake of wearing a cockade or a red cap.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, December 27.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. Harper acknowledged that it was sound policy in government to keep a strict eye over its treasury, but this watchfulness he said, ought not to go to the rejection of all claims however just and proper. He thought the teaaciousness of approaching the treasury was carried too far in the present instance. He would ask what was the use of society, if it were not to lessen the evils of such calamities as the present, by spreading them over the whole community, instead of suffering them to fall upon the heads of a few individuals? He tho't it the duty of government to alleviate such peculiar distresses as the present. It was said this would prove a dangerous precedent, and prevent necessary provisions against fire. If they were about to make good the whole of the 500,000. destroyed, there might be some ground for the alarm, but when fifteen or twenty thousand dollars only were contemplated to be given, no great danger could surely be apprehended. The fires at New-York, Baltimore and Charleston had been mentioned; but what were the means of Savannah when compared with New-York? Not as one to twenty. New-York was rich enough to bear her loss, but this could not be said of Savannah, all the inhabitants of which were reduced to poverty and distress.—They could not therefore get relief from their fellow-citizens, and to whom could they look for protection and relief with so much propriety as to the general government? When compared to Charleston, the loss of Savannah was of ten times the magnitude as that experienced by it. The loss of Charleston was alleviated by a subscription of thirty thousand dollars from its own citizens, besides the handsome contributions which were made in other parts of the Union; but there was no property left in Georgia to afford relief to its sufferers. Suppose, said Mr. H. we were to give 30,000 dollars towards this loss, what would it be when divided among the whole union? And yet it would be enough to draw down countless blessings upon us from these objects of distress. He hoped, therefore, the committee would not be discharged. It was a case, not only founded in justice, he said, but appealed to the finest feelings of the heart; and a decision in their favour would be applauded by every man, woman and child in the union.

Mr. W. Smith hoped, if the house refused to be governed by motives of humanity, those of policy would have some weight with it. Savannah was a commercial city, and if some assistance was not given to it, all the revenue which had hitherto arisen from thence, would be lost.

Mr. Sitgreaves wished to know whether it was in order to move to re-consider the vote which had just been taken?

The speaker said the present question must first be disposed of.

The motion was then put for discharging the committee of the whole, and lost, there being only 20 in favor of it.

Mr. Sitgreaves observed, that he voted with the majority in the decision on the first question which had been taken; of which he wished to move a re-consideration. Very few questions he said, had occurred since he had been a member of that house on which he could not determine within himself how to act. On the present occasion, he had however suffered a conflict between opposite feelings. He had doubts whether they had the right of appropriating any money except for the public service of the country; at the same time that he was convinced that if ever there was a claim on the humanity of the public, Savannah at present exhibited that claim; and he must own that his feelings had at length, vanquished his doubts; and though he originally voted against taking up the measure, he should now vote for it. He was not sure whether he should not commit an error in doing this; but if it was an error, he hoped it was one which would be forgiven.

The question was then taken for going into a committee of the whole on the subject, and carried by a considerable majority, there being 45 votes for it.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, when,

Mr. W. Smith said, he did not propose to fill up the blank at that time. If the resolution was agreed to, the sum could be put in when the bill came into the house. He himself should not think of proposing to all the blank with more than fifteen thousand dollars. This, it was true, was but a small sum, but it would afford relief to the poorer class of sufferers, and others could not expect to receive the amount of their losses. He should move that the committee might rise and report the resolution.

Mr. Hartley called for the reading of the act allowing relief to the sufferers by fire at St. Domingo. (It was read. It allowed 15,000 dollars for their relief, which sum was to be charged to the French republic, and if not allowed in six months, the relief was to be stopped after that time.)

Mr. Macon wished the act allowing a sum of money to the daughters of count de Grasse to be read also. He did not think either of them in point. The sufferers of the people of Savannah, he said, were doubtless very great; no one could help feeling for them. But he wished gentlemen to put their finger upon that part of the constitution, which gave that body power to afford them relief. Many other towns had suffered very considerably by fire. He believed he knew one that had suffered more than Savannah, in proportion to its size: he alluded to Lexington in Virginia, as every house in the place was burnt. If the United States were to become underwriters to the whole Union, where must the line be drawn, when their assistance might be claimed? Was it when three-fourths or four-fifths of a town was destroyed, or what other portion? Insurance-offices, he said, were the proper securities against fire. If the government were to come forward in one instance, it must come forward in all, since every sufferer's claim stood upon the same footing. The sum which had been given to the sufferers at St. Domingo was to be charged to the French republic, and that given to count de Grasse's daughters was in consideration of their father's services. (The act in favour of count de Grasse's daughters was read.)

Mr. Rutherford considered the object proposed not merely as an act of humanity, but of common policy. Savannah, he said, was a city of a minor helpless state, but being equally under the protection of the general government with the rest, and having suffered so dire a misfortune, it was entitled to relief. It was the duty of the representatives of a free people to afford that relief. They were, he said, a part of the great family of the Union, and when the individual states were coming forward to their relief, he trusted the general government would not be backward in affording its aid.

Mr. Hartley said, that the gentleman from N. C. (Mr. Macon) had voted against both of the bills which had been referred to. He knew no difference between the constitution of the United States and that of Pennsylvania, yet a vote in their house had been carried unanimously. He thought the law for relief of the sufferers of St. Domingo perfectly in point; for, notwithstanding what was said about negotiation, the distresses of those people had consumed all the money before the six months were expired. If ever there was a case in which they could grant relief, this was one. The loss at New-York and Charleston, he said, would bear no comparison with that of Savannah; they were rich and flourishing places, whilst Savannah was a small city of a new state, and the sufferers generally poor. He hoped, therefore, the resolution would be agreed to.

Mr. Moore said the laws which had been introduced as precedents were not in point; for the one sum we were to have credit with the French republic, and the other was in consideration of past services. The distresses of the people of Savannah was not an object of legislation; every individual citizen could, if he pleased, shew his individual humanity by subscribing to their relief; but it was not constitutional for them to afford relief from the treasury. If, however, the principle was adopted, it should be general. Every sufferer had an equal claim. Lexington in Virginia, contained only 100 houses, and all except two had been destroyed by fire. He should therefore move to add Lexington to Savannah in the resolution before them; though he would observe, as he did not approve of the principle, he should vote against them both.

Mr. W. Smith wished gentlemen not to endeavour to defeat the proposition before them by an amendment. He did not think there could be a comparison made between the distresses occasioned by a fire in a small town and one in a populous city. The

destruction of Savannah was a great loss in a national view, as it would cause a considerable defalcation in the revenue, and probably any money they might advance for the relief of the citizens, would be amply compensated, by enabling the city the sooner to reform its former importance in the commercial scale.

Mr. Venable did not see the difference betwixt the two cases which was so distinguishable to the gentleman last up. Because Savannah was a commercial city, its distresses, according to that gentleman, was indistinguishable; but when a like scene was exhibited in a small town, it was no longer an object which touched his feelings. His humanity went no where, but where commerce was to be found. He asked, whether the United States might not as well lose revenue in the first instance, as put money into the people's pockets to pay it with. Humanity was the same every where. A person who had lost his all in a village, felt the misfortune as heavily as he who had a like loss in a city, and perhaps more so, since the citizen would have a better opportunity, by means of commerce, of retrieving his loss. He was against the general principle, as he believed, if acted upon, it would bring such claims upon the treasury as it would not be able to answer.

Mr. Murray thought the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Venable) carried his idea of relief too far. He had no idea, that that house, or any Legislature, could undertake to make good individual misfortunes. He was of opinion, that the lines which separated individual from national cases, were very observable; the one was happening every day, the other seldom occurred. When a large town, said he, is burnt down, and that town is an important southern frontier town, it is surely a national calamity, and has a claim upon the humanity of the country. It was not true, the claim was of such a nature as to be brought into a court of justice, but it was a calamity in which the whole nation sympathized. It was not only a claim upon the humanity of the nation, but also upon its policy, as, by restoring it to its former situation, it would be able to bear its wonted part in contributing to the revenue of the country, and would continue to carry population, arts and wealth, to that distant part of the union. In case of war, he said, Savannah was a most important place. It was necessary the union should have a town in that situation; and he could not consider any money which might now be advanced as given away, but as lent to that town, which would enable it in a few years, to resume its former situation, whilst the withholding it, might prevent its ever rising from its present ruins.

Mr. Kitchell was opposed to the amendment, and to the resolution itself. He had doubts if even they were to give the citizens 15,000 dollars, as was proposed by the gentleman from S. Carolina, whether they should not, instead of service, be doing them an injury; because, if the general government were only to give this sum, the state legislatures would proportion their donations accordingly, and probably give much less than they would otherwise have done, if they had not had this example before them. He had no doubt with respect to the unconstitutionality of the business: he believed they had no right to give money for this purpose, notwithstanding what had been said on the subject—for the constitution, he said, was like Sterne's text; it was moulded to any form, as it suited different views. He should therefore vote against the two propositions.

Mr. Page said he was opposed to the amendment though if the sufferers at Lexington had asked for relief at the time, he should certainly have voted for granting it. He was in favour of an application to the general government, in such calamitous cases, in preference to any other application, and particularly in preference to any foreign aid.

Mr. Hartley hoped the amendment would not prevail. If the loss of the people at Lexington had been greater than they could support, they would doubtless have applied to the legislature of Virginia, but he had not heard of any such application having been made. He agreed with the gentleman last up, that the general government ought to relieve distresses of this kind.

Mr. Murray enquired when the fire happened at Lexington?

Mr. Moore answered about nine months ago. He thought it was the duty of the United States first to pay the claims which were made upon them by distressed soldiers and others, for past services, who were denied justice, because they had passed an act of limitation. If they were to act from generosity, he said that generosity ought to be extended universally. It was a new doctrine, he said, that because a sufferer by fire did not live in a commercial city, he was not equally entitled to relief with the inhabitants of a city, and that though such persons were called upon to contribute to the losses of others, they could have no redress for their own. This seemed as if favourite spots were to be selected upon which special favour was to be shewn. He was opposed to all such humanity.

Mr. Claiborne spoke in favour of the claims of the unfortunate sufferers at Savannah, and if it could constitutionally be done, to go farther than 15,000 dollars. He spoke of the importance of the place, and called it the Slaughter pen of the war.

Mr. Harper hoped the amendment would be rejected, for the same reason that he hoped all amendments which were brought forward with the same view with which it was produced, viz. to defeat the original motion, might be rejected. He thought every proposition should stand or fall upon its own ground. He wished that of his colleague to do so. Mr. H. insisted upon the dissimilarity of the two cases, and that the distinction of great and small calamity was sufficient to distinguish the two cases. With respect to the constitutionality of affording the relief in question, that had already been determined by the several instances which had been quoted, which were also founded upon humanity. The present case, he said, might justly be included under the head of promoting the general welfare of the country. Gentlemen who doubted the constitutionality of the present proceeding, had done the same in the instances alluded to: but, since their doubts had been so frequently overruled, he hoped they should bear no more of them. With respect