

New Theatre.

The French Company's Night.

THIS EVENING, SATURDAY, January 14, Will be presented, by the French company, A COMIC OPERA called LAMELOMANIE.

Dans Lequel Mons. Fieron, n'ayant jamais paru sur aucun Theatre, remplira le role du Melomanie. The music by M. Champein.

After which, A COMEDY in three acts, called The Married Man.

Taken from Le Philoophie Marie of M. Destouches, by the authorels of Every one has his Fault, &c. and performing at the Hay-Market theatre, London, with considerable applause.

Lord Lovemore, Sir John Claffick, Mr. Claffick, Mr. Tradewell Claffick, Dorimont, William, Lady Claffick, Emily, Lucy, Mr. Moreton, Mr. Wignoll, Mr. Warren, Mr. Bates, Mr. Fox, Mr. Warrell, jun., Miss L'Esfrange, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Harvey.

To which will be added, by the French Company, A Comic Opera, in one act, called Deux Petites Savoyards.

The music by M. Daleyrac. Le Seigneur, Clermont, Le Bailly, Jaque, Michel, Jofet, M. St. Marc, M. Poignard, M. Viellard, M. Lavancey, Mlle. Tefsiere, Mlle. Sophie.

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.

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!

College-Hall.

READINGS and RECITATIONS, Moral, Critical, and Entertaining.

MR. FENNEL

Respectfully informs the Public, that

THIS EVENING, Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 o'clock, Will be delivered, (FIRST PART)

THE EFFECTS OF REVENGE,

Exemplified by selections from the character of Zanga, Dr. Young

THE PROGRESS OF JEALOUSY TRACED

In the character of Othello, Shakspeare

During which will be recited Othello's speech to the Senate The celebrated scene with Iago And the most striking passages during his paroxysm of jealousy

(THIRD PART.) THE EFFECTS OF JEALOUSY,

Exemplified in Othello's soliloquies before and after the murder of Desdemona Alonso's soliloquies before and after the death of Leonora With critical observations 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. Melwee's looking-glass-store, No. 70, South Fourth-street; and at Mr. Carey's, Book-eller, Market-street—Half a dollar each.

MRS. GRATTAN

Respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of the City, that the second

LADIES' CONCERT

Will be on TUESDAY NEXT, the 17th of January at Mr. Oellers's Hotel,

Act I.

Grand Sinfonio, Holy Lord, Mrs. Grattan, Concerto Violin, Mr. Billingham Trio and Chorus, Siege of Belgrade, Storage.

Act II.

Concerto in Bb. Mrs. Grattan, Ah non fai, Mrs. Grattan, Quartett, Pleyel, Grand Chorus Pirate, Storage.

The Concert to begin at half past six; and at half past eight, the music will attend for the Ball.

Mrs. Grattan begs leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen, that the subscription-book is at her house No. 39, North Sixth-street, for the reception of those names who wish to honor her with their commands.—A subscription for eight nights 16 dollars, including a Gentleman and Lady's ticket, both transferrable.—Half-subscriptions 8 dollars, including one ticket.—Single ticket 4 dollars.

Mrs. Grattan takes the liberty of requesting the subscribers to send for their tickets any day after Thursday, the 15th of December, at No. 39, North Sixth-street.

Single tickets to be had the day of the Concert only, at the Bar of Mr. Oellers's Hotel.

Bank of the United States,

January 2nd, 1797.

The Directors have this day declared a Dividend of Sixteen Dollars on each Share for the last six months, which will be paid to the Stockholders after the 12th instant. G. SIMPSON, Cashier.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, December 19, 1796.

SIR, BY the direction of the President of the United States, I have the honor to inclose a report of the Director of the Mint, suggesting the expediency of some alterations in its establishment, to render it less expensive to the public, and more accommodating to depositors. The report is accompanied with statements of the gold, silver and copper coins, issued from the Mint, from its commencement to the 24th of the last month, accounts of the gold and silver bullion, which has been deposited, and an account of wastage, and a deficit in the silver coinage, which require an appropriation of two thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars and seventy one cents, to reimburse depositors.

I am, with great respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant, TIMOTHY PICKERING.

The SPEAKER of the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, November 29, 1796.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of inclosing for the President of the United States, my annual report on the State of the Mint, with the abstracts referred to therein.

With sentiments of esteem and respect,

I remain,

SIR,

Your most obedient, and very humble servant, ELIAS BOUDINOT.

To the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Director of the Mint of the United States, respectfully reports to the President of the United States on the state of the Mint—

THAT during the experience of twelve months, he has turned his attention (as far as has been in his power) to the institution under his care. He has seen, with regret, an opinion generally prevailing, that the establishment is unnecessarily expensive, and less productive than was rationally expected by its advocates and friends.

The Director finding some foundation for the charge, has endeavoured to discover the cause, as nothing appears in the general nature of the institution, to warrant the idea.

The issue of the enquiry is, that the extraordinary expences attending the Mint, are, in a great measure, owing to its original plan and the principles on which it was established. Among others, the whole coinage, including the refinement of the precious metals, was directed by law to be executed at the public expence, the depositor being fully indemnified from all charges whatever: On this principle, not only the original cost of the works, and the salaries of the stated officers, fall on the public; but also the whole amount of the workmanship, with the alloy, wastage and contingent expences.

The want of experimental knowledge in the business, at the first establishment of the Mint, prevented any tolerable precise estimate of the expences necessarily attending the process; but soon after the commencement of the business, it was found impracticable to proceed with propriety, unless an addition was made to the establishment by the appointment of a melter and refiner.

This important and necessary officer, is not known in foreign Mints, as the precious metals are there generally deposited of the proper standard, or above it; or they are purchased by the Mint, and become public property; there being professional refiners and independent of the Mint, whose business it is to purify metals under standard; but there being no such artists in this city who follow the business, it became indispensably necessary to execute this service in the Mint.

This circumstance was not foreseen, or if foreseen, was considered as included in the duties of the assayer; but the necessity of so essential a check on that officer, forbade this measure, had it been otherwise practicable. This added considerably to the annual expences of the Mint.

Formerly the Director could not make any charge for this process, against depositors; the whole expence therefore fell on the public. Thus on assaying one deposit of about 96,000 oz. of silver bullion, it turned out near 24,000 oz. under standard; to refine which, it cost the United States upwards of 500l. so that the depositor really gained that sum, by bringing his bullion to the Mint. This operated very unequally among the depositors. The citizen who brought bullion in this debased state, to the Mint, received as much coin for the standard silver therein, as he whose bullion was previously refined equal to the standard, and ready for coining at a very trifling expence.

Again—the institution of the mint, without any appropriation of capital, either to purchase the precious metals in bullion, and anticipate payments due on deposits, or to coin for the public, has been another cause of considerable expence. Depending upon depositors alone for the precious metals, it became necessary for their encouragement and satisfaction to coin every deposit as soon as possible after it came into the treasury of the mint, to prevent its remaining unproductive to the depositor; or by which means the clippings and grains were obliged to be melted and coined as they arose, often three or four times for one deposit.

Thus the melting, refining and coining one deposit of 200 oz. of silver, or 20 oz. of gold, would cost the public as much as near 1000 oz. of either, and a much greater proportional wastage; whereas could the bullion be purchased for the public at the market price, and kept in the vaults till a large quantity might be coined at once, or a capital of about ten thousand dollars be allowed to the mint, so as to anticipate the payments to depositors, without being obliged to an immediate coinage on every occasion, a very great public saving would take place, not only as to the wastage, but in the expenture of the materials and labor used in the process, and no injury done to the United States,

but in the loan of the money for a short time. In a word, the difference would be much the same, as between the wholesale merchant and the huckster.

This measure would also have a tendency to fix the price of bullion, and indemnify the public for some part of the expence of coinage. The only question that would arise is, whether, on the principle of economy, it would be a prudent measure on the part of government? Suppose the expences of coinage, including wastage, to be fixed at three per centum to the depositor, while in foreign countries it costs nothing. The consequence would be, that bullion in America, might vary its price three per cent. according to the balance of trade; while bullion in those countries must be supposed invariable in its price, let the balance of trade stand as it will. Bullion then, in those countries will always be at the highest price it ever can be at in America, since it is the price of coin; but in America it may be three per cent. lower. If therefore the United States, by coining, free of all expence, contribute to keep the price of bullion higher than it is in countries where the coinage is paid for, a voluntary expence is created, of which there can be no just reason to complain.

A representation of some of these difficulties, with the dangerous situation of the mint, for want of protecting laws to secure the instruments of coinage, the metals and the coin, as also to prevent counterfeits, has been heretofore made by the officers of the mint, without little other success than a resolution of Congress, enabling the director to retain the expence of refining the precious metals under standard; but the wastage, alloy and coinage, are still dead charges on the public treasury.

While therefore, this policy, on the whole, is considered as beneficial to the United States, the complaint against the mint for its heavy expences to the public, are without solid foundation, as it is impossible to carry on an institution of this nature, under these circumstances, and which requires from 15 to 20 workmen and laborers to attend it, without great expence. Add to this, that the alloy of silver and copper, with the loss by necessary wastage, must unavoidably rise to a considerable annual amount.

But notwithstanding these and other difficulties attending an infant institution, especially the late great advance in the prices of materials and labor, the aggregate expences of the mint are greatly reduced, either from the superior knowledge of the persons employed, gained by experience, or from new arrangements found to be more advantageous than those made on the spur of the occasion. This will appear more evident, by a view of the progressive reduction of the contingent expences in the quarterly accounts rendered into the treasury department, and it is hoped that there will be a farther progress in this desirable economy.

When the present director entered upon the administration of the mint, there was no appropriation of money for the purchase of copper, for the coinage of cents. This he clearly foresaw would prove a source of farther expence, by often leaving the workmen without employ. He made application to Congress by their committee, on this subject; but all that was obtained was thirteen thousand dollars, which was coined into cents, and returned into the public treasury, or remitted for the purchase of copper, before the rising of Congress the last spring. No farther appropriation was made, till it was too late to procure the necessary importation of copper for the summer's coinage, whereby much time has been lost, and some considerable expence of workmen has been added to the summer's account.

It is now hoped, from the present arrangement, no such inconvenience will arise hereafter; but a continual and ample supply of copper coinage be produced adequate to the public wants.

As the laws relative to the Mint now stand, the officers are obliged to pay to each depositor the coins, arising from his deposit, in strict order, and to reserve three pieces of coin from each mass; yet no appropriation has been made to replace the reserve, or to make good the wastage; it is therefore impossible for the officers of the Mint to comply with the law; and the depositors complain of being kept out of their property, till provision is made by Congress for their relief.

By a number of new half johannes brought to the Mint for assaying, said to have been coined in the United States, it appears that a coinage for that purpose is carried on in some state in the Union. Some of these are found to be under standard in their quality, and between two and three penny-weights less than their true weight. These are facts which the Director thinks it his duty to communicate to the President.

From the various experiments made since the establishment of the Mint, it is found unnecessary to make use of silver in alloying of gold, unless it is for the purpose of beautifying the coin; in which case it should be composed at the proportion of one-third silver to two-thirds copper.

By the following abstract of the bullion and coin received and issued from the Mint, since its first establishment, may be seen, as well the nature of the deposits made, as the coins returned to the Treasurer, and the dates of the receipts and issues to this day, with the amount of the copper coinage.

From this it appears, that there is due for wastage, during that period, the quantity of fifteen hundred and ninety-nine ounces, sixteen penny-weights and fifteen grains, of silver, equal to eighteen hundred and forty-five dollars, ninety-five cents and five mills; besides a deficit of eight hundred and forty four ounces, seventeen penny-weights and five grains of silver, equal to nine hundred and seventy-four dollars, seventy-five cents and five mills; making in the whole two thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars and seventy one cents; for which an appropriation ought to be made by law to satisfy a deficient deposit.

The Director thinks it necessary to mention, in explanation of the former officers of the Mint, that by a report made on this subject, it appears that there is yet a considerable quantity of old coins and test bottoms, from which it is expected that nearly the amount of the deficient silver, as stated above, will be extracted.

ELIAS BOUDINOT.

Table with 2 columns: Denomination and value of Coins, issued from the Mint of the United States, from the commencement of the establishment, to Nov. 24, 1796. Includes rows for Gold, Silver, and Copper with their respective values.

There has been deposited at the Mint (for coinage) from the commencement of the establishment to Nov. 24th, 1797—10,670 ounces, 10 penny-weights and 13 grains of gold-bullion, gross weight; being 9,837 ounces and 14 grains, standard weight—and of silver bullion, 416,892 ounces and 18 penny weights gross weight; being 402,502 ounces and 19 penny-weights, standard weight.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, January 3.

Mr. Dwight Foster, from the committee of claims, made reports on the petitions of James Betts, John Day, William Caldwell and John and Elizabeth London, which were against the petitioners, were twice read, and concurred in by the house.

Mr. Coit, from the committee to whom it was referred to report their opinion on the equity and expediency of extending the allowance made to the representatives of soldiers in the late army, who were slain by the enemy, to the representatives of those who died in the service, reported that no consideration of expediency or equity would justify or require the extension contemplated in the reference.

Petitions were presented from John Stables, William Brown, and William Mackay, for compensation for their services during the war, which were severally referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Swanwick, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, made reports on the petitions of John Jewel, Lewis H. Guirame, William Utlick, jun. and John Hughes, for the remission of duties on merchandize destroyed by the late fire at New York, which were to this effect: "that it would be introducing a dangerous principle to the revenue of the United States, to grant relief in cases of this kind, which were more the objects of private insurance, than of public contribution."

The prayers of the petitioners were therefore rejected. The house concurred. Mr. Swanwick, from the same committee, also reported on the petition of Jeremiah Cecil, and others, pilots within the Chesapeake bay, praying that a law might be passed to regulate uniformly the conduct of pilots throughout the United States, that though they did not conceive it necessary at present to pass a law to regulate the conduct of pilots throughout the Union, they thought it would be useful to pass a law for the regulation of the conduct of pilots in the waters of the Chesapeake, and recommended a resolution to that effect, which was agreed to, and referred back to the committee to bring in a bill.

Mr. Swanwick also reported on the petition of Bartholomew Saazen, a sufferer by fire at Cape-Francois, that, during the present negotiation with the French republic, no steps could be taken with respect to this and other petitioners to the same effect. The prayer was therefore recommended not to be granted, and the house concurred.

Mr. Griswold, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of Amos Ayles, praying to be put in possession of certain lands to which he professes to have a claim, made a report. The report was against the petitioner; but, upon motion of Mr. G. Jackson, who was of opinion the petitioner was entitled to the lands in question, and that if a little time was given he could prove it to the satisfaction of the house, the decision upon the report was postponed to the first Monday in February.

On motion of Mr. Swanwick, so much of the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures as related to the petition of Aaron Sheffield, on the ground of new evidence being received, was re-committed to that committee.

The order of the day, on the report of the committee of ways and means on the subject of certain balances due from individual states to the United States, was entered upon, and a very long debate took place. After several attempts to get the business postponed, which were rejected, the house went into a committee of the whole on the resolutions as reported; and, after some debate, the committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Parker, from the committee appointed to wait upon the President of the United States with the resolution calling for information respecting the treaty with the dey and regency of Algiers, reported, that they had waited upon the President according to appointment, and had received an answer according to this effect: "That the President of the United States, before he had heard of the resolution, had directed the papers to be made out, and that when ready he would direct them to be sent to the house of representatives."

Mr. Harper said, that a report had been made by the secretary of the treasury during the last session of a statement of the internal revenue of the United States, with an account of the collection of expence, &c. He said it was a mere temporary order, but, as it was desirable information, he thought it would be well for the house to be furnished with a similar statement every session, he proposed a resolution to that effect, which was agreed to.

Mr. W. Smith from the committee of ways and means, made a report on the provision necessary for improving and effectually securing the internal revenues, recommending the abolishing of the tax upon spirits, in certain cases, and laying it upon the stills according to their capacity.

Mr. S. from the same committee, also reported, that having taken into consideration the subject of raising farther revenue, and the report of the secretary of the treasury thereon, they recommended the following direct taxes, viz.

A tax ad valorem on all lands with their improvements, with certain exceptions, including town lots.

Tithe on slaves, with certain exceptions. The report was twice read, and after some opposition to the day as being too early from Mr. Craik, who wished to consult his constituents on this business, it was made the order for Monday next.

Mr. Blount laid a resolution on the table for the purpose of making some alterations in a law which respected the importation of goods into North-Carolina. Adjourned.