

NEW THEATRE.

(NOT PERFORMED THESE TWO YEARS.)

THIS EVENING,

DECEMBER 15,

Will be presented, a COMIC OPERA (written by the author of the Poor Soldier) called, THE HIGHLAND REEL.

- Laird of Col, Mr. Warren
Laird of Raafay, Mr. Warrell
M'Gillpin, Mr. Harwood
Sandy, Mr. Marshall
Charley, Mr. Francis
Shely, Mr. Bernard
Cloudy, Mr. Blisset
Captain Duff, Mr. Moreron
Sergeant Jack, Mr. Darley
Pie, Mr. T. Warrell
Benin, Mather L'Estrange
Moggy McGilpin, Mrs. Marshall
Jenny, Mrs. Warrell

Lads & Ladies, Mess. Doct. Lavacy, Jolly Laferty, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Milbourne, Miss L'Estrange, Miss Anderson, Madame Harwood, &c. To conclude with A SCOTS REEL.

By the Characters.

To which will be added, a FARCE, in two acts, called, THE SULTAN;

OR, A PEEP INTO THE SERAGLIO.

- Soliman, Mr. Moreron
Olmyn, Mr. Harwood
Elmira, Miss L'Estrange
Imene (with Songs), Mrs. Warrell
Roxalana (for that night only), Mrs. Marshall

TO-MORROW EVENING

(By Desire)

Venice Preserved,

WITH THE

Lying Valet.

The new Comedy of WIVES AS THEY WERE, AND MAIDS AS THEY ARE, which was received with the utmost approbation—will be repeated on Monday.

Bux, one Dollar; Pit, three quarters of a Dollar; and Gallery, half a Dollar.

The doors of the Theatre will open at five, and the curtain rise precisely at six 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.

Tickets to be had at H. and Rice's book-store, No. 50 Market-street, and at the Office adjoining the Theatre.

VIVAT REPUBLICA!

WANTED,

A PERSON that can produce unexceptionable recommendations, to perform a journey this winter as far as the Ohio—Such an one will meet with encouraging terms, by applying at this office.

N. B. Some one acquainted with Harrison county, Virginia, and its neighborhood, would be preferred.

Dec. 15.—1827

NOTICE.

To holders of JAMES GREENLEAF'S and EDWARD FOX'S Engagements.

IN consequence of many having been prevented, from late unavoidable circumstances from obtaining their Certificates, agreeable to former notice. The Trustees now inform them, they are ready to issue the same to those who may apply within sixty days, at No. 8 Chestnut Street, and those who do not, will be considered as relinquishing their claim on the aggregate fund provided for their payment.

HENRY PRATT, THOMAS W. FRANCIS, JOHN MILLER, JUN., JOHN ASHLEY, JACOB BAKER.

December 15.

New-Theatre,

December 11, 1797.

THE MANAGERS particularly request the concurrence of the public in the abolition of a custom, which has hitherto obtained, of giving away or disposing of RETURN CHECKS at the Theatre.

They are aware that gentlemen are unconsciously of any wrong done to the interest of the institution by this practice, from a general, though mistaken idea that Checks are the representatives of a right to so many seats in the Theatre, during an Evening's Entertainment, and transferable at will; when in fact, they were never intended as more than tokens by which the Door-keepers are enabled to ascertain with the least trouble to the parties, that they themselves have been before in the Theatre, or paid for their admission.

Independent of the injury the Managers sustain, such a practice encourages a crowd of idle boys and other disorderly persons to surround the doors of the Theatre, to the corruption of their morals and the great annoyance of the Audience.

It has also been the source of two evils of no inconsiderable magnitude; one is, that sometimes very improper company is by these means admitted; and the other, that owing to Checks passing into dishonest hands, they have been frequently counterfeited to a large amount for the purposes of Sale.

This statement will, it is respectfully hoped, induce the Public to discourage such a traffic; and the exertions of the Managers will, if thus assisted, easily prove adequate to its entire abolition.

WIGNELL & REINAGLE.

December 13

Public Sales of India Goods

AT NEW-YORK,

Will commence on Monday the 18th inst. by A. L. Bleecker & Sons;

The cargo of the ship Swiff, Pierre de Peyster, Commander, just arrived from Calcutta, on a credit of 2, 4, and 6 months—

Consisting of 279 bales of the following articles:

- Manikpore
Kirabod
Guzzena
Addee
Emertie
Patna
Jellepore
Ouddee Coffees
Tigerry Guzzenas
Beeboorn Gurrahs
Blue Guineas
Guillaudendary Handks.
Doreas
Daeaa Molmuls
Tanda Coffees
Santipore Mullins
Kermichee Romals
Chanderconah Nayanfook &
Bandanoe Handkerchiefs

The above Goods to be sold without the smallest reserve.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 15.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 12.

Debate on a Motion for suspending the operation of an Act of Limitation.

(Concluded from yesterday's Gazette.)

Mr. J. WILLIAMS said, he should vote for the resolution, though he thought it did not go far enough. The holders of these kind of certificates had been informed that the act of limitation did not reach them; they therefore supposed their claims would never be barred. This being the case, he thought they should agree to this resolution, and leave the holders at liberty to fund them, since they had evidently been ignorant of the passing of the law respecting them.

Mr. BALDWIN thought some of the arguments on this subject went too far. The truth was they had not sufficient checks to guard against frauds. They had for 12 or 14 years been endeavouring to guard against them. If the resolution passed, which perhaps it ought, the suspension should be for a short time; for though the public were able to guard against fraud, individuals would be continually exposed to deceptions, if this property were suffered to be long afloat.

Mr. EDMOND said, that notwithstanding all the observations which had been made on this subject, he could not vote in favour of the resolution before them. He had heard no argument sufficient to induce him to set aside the act of limitation. They were to presume that this law was made after due deliberation. Why, then, repeal it? Because it was said, there were certain poor soldiers, and others, possessed of certificates which were barred by this act. It was extremely easy to paint the situation of such persons in glowing colours. But when they had passed an act of limitation, they were not to set it aside for particular cases. This would defeat the idea of limitation. They must, therefore, consider all persons in the same situation; whether a person was an original holder, or had purchased his certificate, was immaterial. The statute had equally barred them. Had circumstances, since the passing of the act, changed? No; the only reason which bore any colour, was, that the law had not been sufficiently promulgated. If there had been a neglect on this head, those who had been guilty of the neglect should redress it. Was it not made as other laws were made, and promulgated in the same way? But it is said to be incorporated in a lengthy act, embracing a number of other articles, and no reference was made to it in the margin; but it was comprized in the laws of a single session, making a small volume, and had been promulgated in the same way, in which penal acts which affect the lives of individuals, were promulgated. However the subject might be reasoned upon, it was said that the fact was, that the law was little known. It was said there were members in the house who were not acquainted with this law. Was this, he asked, an extraordinary thing? No one supposed that every member in the house was acquainted with every law of the United States. The soldier, who probably could neither write nor read was not supposed to look after the laws which were passed every session; no, the members of the legislature, when they return home, take the laws with them, and give the information to their neighbours. If they were not thus published, it was owing to a culpable neglect. From all these considerations, he thought the law should be preserved.

Mr. BROOKES said it was an extraordinary doctrine, to say, that though the members of the legislature were unacquainted with a law, yet that individuals, who did not look into a book once in seven years, should be perfectly acquainted with it. What would the people of the United States think of this? It had not the semblance of justice.

Mr. MACON said, on the principles of equity, the statutes of limitation might be looked upon as injurious; but as no law had ever been passed with more notoriety than the one in question, he could not have believed, if gentlemen had not themselves declared it, that it should not have been known to them. It was founded upon the only report which the Secretary of the Treasury ever sent to that house unasked for, and it underwent as much debate as any other law in the United States. These claims, Mr. M. said, could stand in no better situation than those of persons who had not been in the way of getting their claims settled. Where both had performed services, both had the same equitable claims; books were the testimony in both cases. If it were necessary, therefore, to take these claims of the statute, it was equally necessary to repeal all the statutes of limitation at once. Mr. M. mentioned an instance of fraud which took place in Rhode-Island, by a small sum being altered to a larger in a certificate, upon which the interest had been several times paid, before it was discovered. It was impossible, he said to guard against frauds. But he knew very well that whenever the claims of a soldier came up, the humanity and philanthropy of the house were called upon to afford relief; but no difference ought to be made in favour of one class of claimants more than another. There had been a number of hard cases which had been decided against, from their being barred, and if they opened the door at all; it should be opened generally.

Mr. GALLATIN said, he should not have offered any thing more on the subject, but for what had fallen from the two gentlemen last up. There was an essential difference, he said, between these claims and others; it was this, these were liquidated, the others were unliquidated. In the latter there were open accounts at the treasury, and if they were not settled in a given time, it was not possible to check them; that time had therefore been limited; but, with respect to liquidated claims, the same order had not been taken. They were accounts settled, which never could be expected to be barred, as the certificate was a sort of negotiable note from the government. If this had not been the view of the legislature, why except these claims from the acts of limitation? It was clear, therefore, that they stood on quite different ground from the description of claims alluded to. And let it not be said (added Mr. G.) that the holders of these certificates ought to be acquainted with the law which affects these claims. If the United States owe a debt, which they do not mean to pay, except prefeated before a certain day for settlement, it was their duty so to promulgate the law as that it should be generally known. Much had been said on the score of speculation. He thought the great zeal which was now shown against speculators, ought to have been brot into action at an earlier period. Ten years ago the idea of discrimination had been discarded, and he thought it too late to introduce it now. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Smith) had said, it was the duty of members who were present at the passing of the law of 1785 to have opposed it at the time. If the gentleman alluded to him, he was mistaken, as he was not a member of the house at the time the act passed. Gentlemen who had spoken against speculation had confounded two things together, viz. persons who had purchased these evidences of debt of individuals for a trifle, and those who had received them in a regular way. It would be perfectly unjust to put the latter upon a worse footing than original holders; if it were meant only to affect the former, if the bill could be so modified, he should not object to it, though he believed great difficulty would attend the insertion of such a provision; and he hoped the motion would be adopted in its present form.

Mr. ALLEN wished the committee would rise, and have leave to sit again. He wanted this matter developed; there seemed something behind which did not appear; it was impossible that a million of dollars of this description of debt could lie in the hands of original holders. This business had only been introduced this morning, and he thought it was not well understood. He wished to have a little time for consideration. He thought also, that a new system of morals had been introduced on the occasion, which ought to be examined.

Mr. BROOKES and Mr. THATCHER were opposed to the rising.

Mr. M'DOWELL was in favor of it, that gentlemen who wished to speak on the subject might have an opportunity; and that their feelings, which had been worked upon by highly colouring the sufferings of poor soldiers, might have time to cool. He feared the certificates in question, were chiefly in the hands of other persons.

Mr. COIT had no objection to the committee's rising. The sum which had been stated as the amount of the class of claims under consideration was not correct—that sum included a number of claims of a different kind.

Mr. GALLATIN was perfectly willing that the committee should rise; but not from the insinuations thrown out by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Allen) that the motion was wished to be hurried through the house, or that there was something behind which did not appear. Having declared he did not know a person who had one of these certificates, and not having had any desire for the motion to pass to day, of course the insinuation could have no foundation, as it respected him, though he had introduced the business, and he should be justified in taking no notice of it.

Mr. ALLEN said what he meant was, that certain owners of public paper of the United States had determined not to accept of the terms offered by the government, but to have billing for shilling; and that this suspension was intended more to relieve persons of this description than poor original holders.

The question on the committee's rising was put and carried. They had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 13.

Debate on the subject of Foreign Coins.

The House being in a Committee of the whole, the following report of the Select Committee was read.

That it appears from the best information they can obtain, that very little of the silver coin of the United States has circulated at any considerable distance from the Mint, especially in the interior parts of the country.

That by the operation of the law which provided that at the expiration of three years after the coinage of gold and silver should commence, at the mint, all foreign silver coins, except Spanish milled dollars, and the parts of such dollars, should cease to be a legal tender: considerable embarrassments have already been produced, and many losses sustained, as a very considerable quantity of foreign silver coins other than Spanish milled dollars, and the parts of such dollars, was at that time in circulation.

Your Committee also find, that by the operation of the said act, all foreign gold coins will cease to be a legal tender after thirty-first day of July next; that a great quantity of it is now in circulation, and must necessarily continue so until that period arrives, as it will be scarcely possible for the mint on its present establishment to coin a sufficient quantity to replace it.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that provision ought to be made by law, authorising and requiring the collectors of the revenue, to receive in discharge of all demands of the United States, foreign silver coins other than Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars, at the rates, and un-

der the regulations by which they were receivable before the 15th day of October last; that this regulation should continue for two years, and until the end of the next session of Congress thereafter. And that so much of the said act as relates to the circulation of foreign gold coins, be suspended for the like time.

Mr. PINCKNEY moved that the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of Robert Hazlehurst, and others, of the city of Charleston, on the subject of weighing goods imported, be referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

This motion being agreed to, Mr. PINCKNEY presented the petition of sundry wharholders of that city on the same subject, which was referred to the same committee.

Mr. GALLATIN presented the petition of Mary Ivings, formerly of New-Jersey, but now of this city, praying for compensation for the services of her late husband, and for losses sustained during the war. Referred to the Committee of Claims.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they had appointed a joint committee of Enrolled Bills, and requesting the House would appoint one on its part.

Mr. SWANWICK moved that the petition of Edward Thompson, which he presented some days ago, and a reference of which had then been opposed by the Chairman of the Committee of Claims, should be referred to a Committee. Agreed.

Mr. GALLATIN wished to know from the Committee, why the distinction had been made between Foreign Gold and Silver coin; why they had not recommended the Act to be suspended with respect to Silver as well as Gold. He could not see any real reason why Crowns should not be a legal tender for payments in General, as well as to the Collectors of the Revenue.

Mr. SITGREAVES rose to propose another question to the Committee. His Colleague had supposed the distinction which had been made between Foreign Gold and Silver Coin was in favour of the Gold, and would limit the circulation of the Silver coin. He should rather suppose the strength of the distinction was the other way, and he wished to be informed what had induced the Committee to recommend a suspension of the laws respecting Foreign Gold coin. They knew the Silver coin circulated by tale, the value of the latter had been actually diminished by various means, such as sweating, plugging, clipping &c. so that there was no method of ascertaining, with precision, the value of Gold coin, without weighing it; and persons not in mercantile habits, and who were not possessed of a pair of scales, were at a loss to know its value. The inference he drew, therefore, was, that the sooner they could get the Gold coin out of circulation the better, and the quantity was so small, that no great inconvenience would ensue from such a measure. With respect to silver coin, the provision recommended would, he believed, occasion but little inconvenience. But instead of suspending the act as it related to gold coin, he thought they ought to accelerate the period of throwing that coin altogether out of circulation.

Mr. VENABLE (the Chairman of the committee) in answer to the two gentlemen from Pennsylvania, said, that the distinction which the committee had made betwixt Foreign Gold and Silver coin, was founded on this consideration, that the law relative to silver had already been carried into effect, and the consequences which would be produced by the provision recommended, were now felt; and it was supposed that this restriction would be a means of bringing the Foreign Silver sooner into the Mint; as if it were not allowed to be a legal tender for any thing but duties, its circulation would, in a great degree be confined to the Sea-ports, and when the United States got it into possession, they would send it to the Mint, and it would be re-issued in our own coin. With respect to gold coin, though there was little of it in circulation near the Banks, there was a great deal of it in remote parts of the country, where there were no Banks; so much, that it would be impossible to bring it to the Mint, to have it re-issued without sustaining great loss, and without almost being totally deprived, in the mean time, of a circulating medium. And the Foreign Gold coin was subject to the injuries which had been mentioned, our own Gold coin was equally subject to them. Few of the coins of the United States, he said, had found their way into the interior of the country; indeed, so rare, were they, that when they were met with they were preferred with as much care as if they were curious medals.

Mr. J. WILLIAMS approved of the report. In the northern parts of the State of New-York, and the northern and western parts of Vermont, considerable merchandize was carried on with Canada, from whence they received gold coin in payment; and if the law respecting foreign gold was not suspended, there would be no circulating medium in that part of the country, as they had no papers but all payments were made in dollars, crowns, guineas and half joes. As to a coin from the Mint of this Country it was with them quite a curiosity.

Mr. NICHOLAS was not satisfied with the reason which his colleague (Mr. Venable) had given for not going farther in the business. He seemed to think that the law prohibiting the circulation of foreign coin had already been felt, as it respected silver. He believed the first shock had only been experienced. He did not see any advantage to be derived from the regulation proposed. It went to lessen the value of a certain kind of property, in order to enforce it into the mint of the United States; but until it could be shewn that such a measure would be of some advantage to the community, he did not think that the house would be justified in adopting it. It would be said by the people, and with propriety too, that they had established a Mint, but could not work it without defrauding them of their property—he had always thought the establish-

ment unsafe; and in order to make it otherwise, a plan was now contemplated to rob the people of their property. If the time regulations were to be adopted with respect to gold, which were recommended relative to silver, the inhabitants of the interior part of the Country would be wroaged to ten per cent of their monied capitals, as at present a French crown would there pass for more than a dollar; he knew many who retained this kind of property in their hands, because they would not submit to the loss. He saw no reason for prohibiting this kind of coin; he believed it as good as any which could be given them in exchange for it, as a proof of this the banks of this City received it at its original value. The same observations would hold good with respect to good coin. He thought it much better that gold coin should pass according to its weight, than they should pass sanguinary laws to punish persons for reducing its value. He wished therefore, that the whole law might be suspended, as if the regulations proposed were adopted, it would injure one party of the people, for no other reason than because gentlemen were determined to persevere in what he deemed always an error, the support of a national Mint.

Mr. CHAMPLIN said, the arguments of the gentleman last up did not go to the present question, but to whether we should have a Mint, or not. Mr. C. said, when he first saw the law for prohibiting the circulation of foreign, he thought unfavorably of it; but, from the information he had received on the subject, he now thought differently, and believed, if the plan proposed by the committee was agreed to, it would remove any objections to its operation. He thought the reasons which had been assigned for the regulations were good. With respect to the effect it would have on the Mint, as French crowns were to be received in payment by government, they would doubtless be received; banks would also receive French crowns, or parts thereof, their operations would go on as usual, and the value of this species of coin would not be lessened. The act incorporating the bank of the United States had declared, that the notes of that bank should be received in payment by the officers of the United States for duties, which had given a circulation to that paper more extensive than any other, which would of course have a tendency to lessen the evils complained of. He was well satisfied with this report; but, if any amendment could be made to it, which could make it more acceptable to other gentlemen, and equally favorable to the Mint, he should not object to it.

Mr. NICHOLAS asked whether it would be in order to move to insert a resolution in the report.

The chairman answering in the affirmative, Mr. Nicholas said, to agree to the report as it stood would be to set one part of the people to speculate upon another; as in those parts of the Union where little was paid to the custom-house, a French crown would pay for no more than a dollar, and it would be the business of persons living in sea-ports to purchase them at a reduced value, which would be giving a different value to coin in different parts of the country, and be an unjust tax upon a large portion of the people.

Mr. HARPER agreed with the gentleman just put down, that if the coin of the United States was no better than that which they wished to stop the circulation of, every thing which had been done in the establishment of a mint was wrong. This point had often been discussed. It was agitated when the mint was first established, and it was decided that the coin to be issued from the mint would be better than the coin then in circulation; not because a particular piece of gold was of more value to an individual, but because it was better for a nation to have a coin of its own. It was on this ground that the expense of the establishment was justified. Therefore the gentleman was begging the question upon a subject which had long been decided. He was far from being of the opinion of the gentleman from Virginia, that the proposed regulation would reduce the value of foreign coin ten per cent; for, if a French crown passed for an hundred and ten cents in the sea ports, it would soon have the same value all over the United States; and if the attempt to purchase them at an under-value were to be tried, it would be found that a competition would produce their real value. But, he said, though there might not be much duty paid in some parts of the country, there were every where storekeepers who had dealings with the merchants in the sea-ports, and who would be glad to receive them in payment for their goods. He allowed some little inconvenience might arise, in thus endeavouring to promote the circulation of our own coin; but if the business was postponed, the same evil would always occur. He hoped, therefore, the regulation with respect to silver coin, recommended by the committee, would be agreed to. As to foreign gold coin, he should wish that to be put upon the same footing, which would bring it into the mint, and it would be turned into circulation in a new shape. But the committee had reported a fact which, if founded, was of importance, viz. that it was scarcely possible for the mint to receive this money so fast as it should be brought in. If this were so, they must either not call it in, or go on enlarging the mint, or have no mint at all. But he did not take the fact as stated. He believed there was no want of mechanical force in the mint.

Mr. VENABLE interrupted Mr. Harper to say, the committee did not mean that the mint had not the necessary mechanical force; but that they could not get sufficient bullion for the occasion.

Mr. CHAMPLIN wished to have the liberty of asking the chair, whether the question was not susceptible of division. If it were, he thought it would greatly shorten the debate to divide it.

The Chairman answered the question might be divided.