

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16.

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. PENNO,

I have not the smallest doubt but Congress will duly appreciate the advice given them in your paper of Thursday evening, by "A friend to laws and freedom." If politics alone were affected by his remarks, I should not have taken this notice of them—

But in order to render his reasoning irresistible to Congress, he has introduced a kind of mercantile arithmetic.

I conclude, that considering the members of Congress as mere politicians, he had supposed that they would be so bewildered in his arithmetical logic that in order to extricate themselves they would be obliged implicitly to adopt his conclusions—Be that as it may, his arithmetic is certainly very fallacious.

He goes upon the idea that the capture of one vessel out of four sent out by a merchant must proportionably raise the value of the other three, because it will make provisions scarcer. This would be true if the cargo in the captured vessel were destroyed; but notwithstanding the capture, the cargo goes to market; if not to the same island, to a neighbouring one—So that in fact, it would be better for a nation that a vessel should founder than that she should be captured; for in neither case is the country indemnified; but in the former the cargo cannot go to market in competition with our other produce and so lower the market; in the latter it may—And yet the friend to laws, &c. says, that in the former case there is a national loss, and in the latter not.

One other delusion—that the national loss is not so great where the vessel taken is insured as when it is uninsured. It is true that the individual loss may not be so great in the former as in the latter, for the insurance may be by a company and the property owned by an individual—But as it respects the nation, the loss is exactly the same—The property has gone out of the country and nothing is returned for it.

I have thought it proper to make these observations, for fear that our merchants and underwriters, being convinced by the reasoning of the "friend to laws &c." that they lost nothing by the captures made of their vessels, should be induced to privateer upon their own property—For certainly it would be a great saving to them, to take the one vessel out of four, which he supposes may be taken by an enemy without injury to the country.

AN ENEMY TO NONSENSE.

Dec. 15th.

From an English Paper.

European intelligence; of the most recent dates, furnishes nothing consoling to the friends of peace. Accounts from Hamburg, to Oct. 4, mention, that the negotiation at Udina, was positively at an end; and the German troops were marching for the fields of controversy. The French armies, our readers will recollect, were ordered to be filed up by the 6th of Oct. Thus on both sides, is note of a dreadful combat given. On the Rhine both powers have very formidable armies; and Gen. Buonaparte, on the other side of Germany, has a powerful chain of posts at Udina, Belluno, Bassano, Verona, &c. which menaces Germany, from the borders of Austria to Tyrol. We know not what force the Emperor has to oppose the French in this quarter, but if it is not powerful, the first intelligence we may receive, may be his appearance under the walls of Vienna; or a division passing the Tyrol country, attack the flank of the German army on the Rhine; while the powerful force of Angereau assails them in front. Those who delight in human carnage, we doubt not, will be soon gratified.

One Bailleul, a representative in the French council of 500, published an address to his constituents in August last, in which he declares to them, and to all France, that the majority of the two councils favor a royalist conspiracy, and that the nation is betrayed. On the 30th of August, only five days before the late explosion, a motion was made in the council of five hundred by Duprat (one since banished) for a vote of censure against this incendiary address of Bailleul. The tumult and violence of the debate that ensued, tho' common enough there, are scarcely to be described or conceived by Americans.—They called—robber, rogue, and murderer; but stopped, however, short of blows.

Duprat expatiated upon the evil tendency of this address, and moved that it should be referred to a committee to report the proper measures to be taken against the author.

Hardy, and others of the party of the directory, then a minority in the councils, opposed this, and exclaimed—"Dare you violate the liberty of the press?" Yet, only five days after, 32 out of 36 of the newspapers then printed in Paris, were suppressed by the directory. This is liberty of the press! Tallien, on the same side with Hardy, distinguished himself by his zeal. In answer to the reproaches cast upon him, for the many murders of which he had been guilty, he confessed—"that he might have committed some errors—he might have been hurried away by the ardor of some principles—he had perhaps concurred in the death of some real patriots—but such was our fate, that republicans must die by the hands of republicans."

It is curious enough, that Tallien made this defence because he said, it was important that the members should not be victims of the foulest aspersions. What could his enemies have charged against him more scandalous and horrid, than he has said of himself to clear up his character? It is especially singular, that this same lamb-like Tallien—this babe of grace, concluded his

harangue by recommending to the council, mutual forbearance, harmony and brotherly love, and "that they would extinguish every passion for the public weal."

If one could possibly suspect, that there was any hypocrisy in politics, especially in regenerated France, the numerous bombastic professions of love for liberty and patriotism, and love of mankind, so fashionable in their legislature, would not be in future so edifying and comforting to their admirers, as they have been.

From the ALBANY GAZETTE.

Mrs. Printers,

An account of the Cohoes Falls, with several gentlemen, one of the company undertook to account for this most wonderful and stupendous cataract, and gave it freely as his opinion, that the time was when the waters below the falls flowed on a level with the bed of the river above. An idea at once so novel, and to us improbable, although enforced by philosophical arguments, and a depth of reasoning to which it was impossible for us to reply, had no conviction on our minds; the old opinion, that it was so from the beginning, being firmly seated there.

On my return, in casting my eye over a volume of Coxe's travels in Switzerland, I found this ingenious author to entertain a similar opinion of the falls in the Rhine. As it is a matter worthy the investigation of the curious, I have made an extract of it, and send it for insertion in the Albany Gazette, not doubting but it will be acceptable to some of your readers.

About three miles from the commencement of the Via Mala (says our author) we came to a stone bridge of a single arch, thrown across a gulf; a sublime scene, which I stopped to admire, and which I left with regret. The Rhine falls in a beautiful cascade, rolls in a narrow channel at the depth of above 400 feet perpendicular, furiously dashing under the bridge, expands itself in a wide basin, and there is lost under a rock, through which it has forced a passage.

The impending mountains, partly bare and partly embrowned with firs, cast an awful gloom over the gulf below.

I was here greatly struck with one circumstance, which I had observed in several other valleys of Switzerland, but never in such perfection as at this place. The Rhine, which is at present about 400 feet below the bridge, seems evidently to have once flowed as high, or even higher, than the place where the bridge now stands; to have gradually worn away the rock, and excavated the deep channel in which it now runs."

NEW-YORK, December 14.

From recent European accounts it appears that unless our Envoys to the French Republic, accomplish the object of their mission, by a treaty stipulating reparation for past injuries, and a more friendly conduct in future, no hope of averting the ruin of our commerce will remain, but what depends on our own measures and resources. From the decree in the Council of Five Hundred, disavowing the apparently amicable motives which actuated that body a little before the late violent change, to adopt the report and the motion of Pastoret; and from certain unfriendly decisions by the Mariee Tribunals, we may infer, that unless engagements are entered into, and religiously observed, of treating us with more equity, the same piracies will be exercised on our shipping, which, during the two last years, have so indelibly tarnished the annals of the Republic.

That their privateers have been successful in cruising against the American, as well as British commerce, is a known truth; and the industrious preparations to carry it on more extensively than ever, leave little room to hope for the escape of any of our merchantmen, bound to the British European dominions.

If then, by a denial of national justice, we are to continue exposed to the same and greater risks, from French cruizers, and from the unprincipled pirates of America resident in France—if no resource, but that of repelling force by force, remains, if, to submit tamely to the blow aimed by an assassin, be synonymous with deliberate suicide—shall we continue to sit with arms folded, without one attempt, one effort to avert our destruction? No—We do not desire war—we solicitously wish for peace with its attendant blessings—our past conduct is an adequate proof, and our obvious interests are sufficient pledges, of this. But let us put ourselves in a posture of defence. Let us assume a repulsive attitude. Let our vessels be armed. Let them no longer be the prey of ruffians, unprovided themselves, with the means of offensive operation, and formidable only by their numbers and character.

It is not uncommon to find cowardice associated with cruelty. The miserable poltroon who fees a weaker individual in his power, feels no sentiment of humanity, but gives a loose to the most boundless excesses. Where he finds himself matched, or his power overbalanced, the contemptible wretch is as abject, as he before shewed himself despotic.

This remark is confirmed by an incident which lately took place in the British channel. An armed American Indian (that description is permitted to carry guns) was met by a French privateer full of men, who after firing into him, ordered him, in terms the most dominating, to heave to, and threatened instant destruction in case of non-compliance. The American, calm and unmoved, sent one ball into the picaroon, which so deranged his courage, that he immediately struck—and with the magnanimity of a hero, gave himself up. Our countryman bid him "steer off," and more careful in future how he meddled with Americans.

This, with other facts of a similar complexion, shews at how little expense one half

the property sacrificed by our forbearance, might have been saved; and how great a part of the disasters incurred by our merchants, might have been avoided by the single permission to carry a few guns.

The idea of being involved in war, by measures of self protection, is chimerical and degrading in the extreme. If we may not defend ourselves when attacked, how contemptible is our situation! We may at once renounce independence as the shadow of a shade, and acknowledge the United States to be colonies of whatever power pleases to seize upon them. Let us think like the President, and with him declare, that—

"Nothing will contribute so much to the preservation of peace, as the manifestation of that energy and unanimity, of which, on many former occasions, the people of the United States have given such memorable proofs; and the exertion of those resources for national defence, which a beneficent Providence has kindly placed within our power."

CHARLESTON, Nov. 28.

Yesterday a negro man named Mccredi, charged with being a principal in the late conspiracy with Jean Louis and Figaro, who were executed on Tuesday last, was tried by a court of justices and freeholders; the guilt of the prisoner was fully proved, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be hanged this day, at 12 o'clock.

A correspondent begs leave to remind his fellow-citizens of the necessity of placing lights to their windows, on an alarm of fire. The advantages resulting therefrom are too obvious to need further observations.

HALIFAX, N. C. Dec. 4.

On Saturday last, the company of artillery belonging to the brigade under the command of captain Smith, paraded in this town. At the close of the parade, a proposition was made to supply the quota required from the Company, by volunteers; when they unanimously stepped forward, and offered their services.

We are likewise informed, that the quota required from the lower regiment of this county, was furnished by volunteers on the 16th. The first company called on (capt. Morris's) turned out to man.

It is with pleasure we announce the above demonstrations of the patriotism of our fellow citizens; by which they have evinced, that whatever may be their sentiments respecting other nations, they are pointedly determined on the defence of their own.

C O N G R E S S.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY—DECEMBER 14.

Continuation of the Debate on the subject of Foreign Coins.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Mr. Dent in the chair, on the Report of the Select Committee relative to Foreign Coins, and Mr. Nicholas's Resolution having been read.

Mr. SITGREAVES said, he had mentioned yesterday, that there was in his opinion, an obvious distinction between the cases of Gold and Silver Foreign Coins; and all the reflection he had since given to the subject, had confirmed him in the conviction which he then expressed. He moved, therefore, to amend the resolution under consideration, by adding after the word "Foreign," the word "Silver," which would have the effect of confining the suspension of the act in favour of silver, and leave the act of 1794, to operate on gold coin. If, said Mr. S. the design of the Mint had been only to gratify the pride of Sovereignty, the object would have been inconsiderable and unworthy of the expense of supporting it; but it was established for far more important ends. It was, that the Government might have a control over its circulating medium, which was essential, in order to prevent its debasement by alloy and fraud. This debasement was chiefly applied to Copper and Gold Coin, but not so much to Silver. He saw no reason, therefore, why Foreign Silver Coin, which had long been current in this Country, should be forced out of circulation into the Mint; they were of the same use and value with any which might be re-issued; but it was very different with respect to Copper and Gold Coin, which was subject to be debased in so many different ways, and which could not be prevented, until we had a sufficiency of our own coin, which would be under our own direction and control.—

Let the stoppage of French Crowns take place when it might, it would be attended with some inconveniences, yet the period must arrive, if the Mint were to be supported; but he conceived these inconveniences would be felt in a very small degree with respect to Gold Coin. The proclamation of the President of the United States, which notified that Foreign Coin would cease to be a legal tender after a certain day made in October, 1796, related to both Gold and Silver Coin; but the notice respecting Gold Coin was much farther removed than that of Silver; it was not to go out of circulation, till July next, whereas the silver coin had already gone out of circulation, except that it were payable at the Banks and to the Revenue Officers. It was, therefore, much more in the power of persons holding Gold Coin to get it out of their hands before the time arrived. The quantity of Gold coin in circulation, compared with the whole circulating medium, he said, was very small, and therefore, but little inconvenience could arise from its circulation being stopped; and on account of the probability of Gold coin, it would be much easier transported to the seat of Government. But the most important consideration was, the present mutilated state of Foreign Gold Coin, which rendered it impossible for those who were not well acquainted with the detail of business, to guard against frauds. In the State of Pennsylvania, not one man in 500 was in possession of

a pair of Gold Scales, and without them, it was impossible to ascertain whether gold was weight or not, and there were still fewer persons, if they had scales, who knew the real value of gold coin when it was deficient in weight. This great evil in the middle States whatever might be the case to the Eastward and Southward, convinced him, that the former Foreign Gold Coin was thrown out of circulation, the better. But it was yesterday said, that when our own gold coin should get into circulation, it would be equally subject to debasement, and therefore, that it would be impossible to pass it by tale. He would not say, that, in the course of time, this might not take place; but on the outset, trade and intercourse would be considerably facilitated, by having a proper medium of our own; and when our gold coin should become corrupted, by clipping, &c. it would only have to be returned to the Mint to be re-coined. These considerations had induced him to make his motion.

Mr. J. WILLIAMS was against the amendment. The observations of the gentleman were favourable to the cities, but not to the extreme parts of the Union. Suppose it were practicable or necessary, to call in the Foreign Gold Coin, where would the Mint find bullion to replace it? The difficulty was the want of bullion; and if they prohibited the circulation of Gold Coin they should prevent its increase. And even if they had sufficient bullion, he thought the works of the Mint too contracted, to coin a sufficiency for all the purposes of the United States, and he did not think it would be right to extend them, since, if a Nation were to have its Mint, it should be at the seat of Government, which in two years, was to be removed from its present situation. As to the present Establishment, it had been attended with considerable expense, without affording any benefit, except to this City. Our own gold, the gentleman said, would not for a long time be either clipped or sweated; but when it was, it might be returned to the Mint to be re-coined; so that there would be a constant routine of sweating, clipping and coining. But the gentleman said, it was impossible to prevent imposition in receiving the gold coin now in circulation as few persons were possessed of gold Scales he was certainly misinformed in this respect, as few persons who were in the habit of receiving any considerable sum of money, were without gold scales, or ignorant of the value of gold. Why then, compel people to send this coin to the Mint? Was it because they were shortly to be called upon for farther sums of money to support the establishment, and gentlemen wished to give it the appearance of usefulness? With whatever view it might be done, he certainly could not agree to it.

Mr. PINCKNEY was in favour of the resolution of the gentleman from Virginia, without the proposed amendment. He was a gainst agreeing to the report of the committee, because, it would either produce no effect, or an injurious one. Gentlemen differed in opinions as to the effect; some supposed it would depreciate the coin, others thought it would produce no such effect. To him this was immaterial. If it did not tend to depreciate the coin, it would have no effect to force it into the mint; therefore, the arguments of gentlemen went too far. And, if it did tend to depreciate the coin, it would have a very injurious effect. He did not say this because he was against the establishment of the mint; he believed with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Sitgreaves) that it might be productive of good; but he did not think this the proper way to support it.

Mr. OTIS rose with some regret, and a good deal of diffidence, on this question, because his opinion differed from both the gentlemen who had just delivered theirs. He was equally opposed to the amendments of the gentleman from Pennsylvania and Virginia, and in favour of the original report. He considered both the amendments as having a tendency to undermine the mint establishment; if that of the gentleman from Virginia were agreed to, that institution would have but a short duration; and whatever credit may be due to the ingenuity of that gentleman, and others who support his motion, for this indirect attempt to destroy it, he thought it behoved gentlemen who wished well to that institution, and considered it as connected with the national prosperity, to pause, before they gave a vote which should go to this effect. If the mint were found to be an inconvenient establishment, and the expense of it greater than the convenience, let a proposition be bro't forward, and let the question be fairly met, and not endeavour to effect its overthrow in the way proposed. In order to elucidate his assertion, that this proposition would destroy the mint; he would enquire how the mint was to be supported? It could not be supported with sufficient bullion, except by means of the foreign coin now in circulation. Bullion was not imported in large quantities into this country. In looking into a report on this subject, he found the quantity of bullion imported was small. Government had no power to traffic in it, and our merchants did not often import it; therefore foreign coin was the only aliment with which the mint could be fed. And if the business of calling in this coin were postponed for two years, no argument would then exist for stopping the circulation which did not now apply; they should then be told that the expense of reissuing would exceed the utility of the measure. It had been said that the measures recommended by the report would not have the effect of throwing foreign coin into the mint, since though nearly seven millions of revenue were received from the custom-house, little of this coin had been sent there heretofore.— This, Mr. O. said, could not be expected when there was no restraint laid upon the banks to do it; besides, dollars had been in great demand for the London and East-India markets, and the bank had found it necessary to keep back their dollars, and pay out their towns. Hereafter this reason

MRS. GRATTAN, ESPECIALLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of the city, that her first CONCERT of Vocal Music will be on Thursday next, the 21st of December, inst. at Mr. RICHARDT'S.

ACT I. Quartette, Pleyel Handel. Song—Angels ever bright, Gleck—Mrs. Carr, Darley, jun. and Hill, The Mariners.

Song—Mr. Carr, Duett—Mrs. Grattan and Mr. Carr, Paillo. Song—Mr. Darley, jun. Gleck—Mrs. Grattan, Messrs. Carr, Darley, Hill.

ACT II. Concerto Piano Forte, (by a young lady) Viotti. Song—Mrs. Grattan, Sacchini. Gleck—Messrs. Carr, Darley and Hill, Jackson. Duett—Mrs. Grattan and Mr. Carr, Time. [has not this'd]

Song—Mr. Darley, jun. Quartette—Mrs. Grattan, Messrs. Carr, Darley and Hill.

Six dollars each full-ribber for one ticket of admittance during the season.

Full-ribbers ticket transferable, but any full-ribber on paying his subscription, will have a right to demand tickets for the unmarried part of his family, which tickets will admit them every night during the season, but are not transferable.

The Concert to begin at half past six and the music to attend for the Ball at eight, the expense of which Mrs. Grattan engages to discharge.

Non-subscribers tickets—2 dollars. Subscriptions received and tickets delivered by Mrs. Grattan's clerk, at No. 192, High Street.

Non-subscribers tickets to be had the day of the Concert at the Bar at Mr. Richardt's.

December 15. dtz rft

Marshall's Sales, United States, } ff. Pennsylvania District, }

BY virtue of writs of vendition exponas, issued out of the district court of the United States, and to me directed, will be sold at public Sale at the merchant's Coffee-House, in Second Street, on Wednesday the 17th day of December inst. at 6 o'clock in the evening, all that piece or parcel of meadow ground situate, lying and being in the township of Palfunk, and County of Philadelphia, on the road leading to State House Ferry, containing about fifty-four acres and three perches, whereon are erected a two-story brick building, out houses and a barn; also one other tract or piece of meadow ground, situate in the 17th ward and county, and nearly on the opposite side of the said road to the said ferry, containing six acres and three quarters also a mill race or tenement and lot of piece of ground situate on the north side of High Street, between 5th and 6th Streets, in the city of Philadelphia, containing in front on High Street, thirty three feet, and in length or depth two hundred feet, bounded east by property of Hannah Pemberton, north by South alley, west by property of William Bell, and south by High Street aforesaid.

Seized and taken in execution as the property of Henry Seckel, and to be sold by William Nichols, Marshal.

Marshall's Office, } December 15, 1797. } dtf

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 Swift, 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 } Guzena } Addee } Enertie } Patna } Jellepore } Oddee Coffees } Tigerry Guzenas } Beeboorn Gurrahs } Blue Guineas } Guillaudendary Handkfs. } Doreas } Dacca Mulmuls } Taada Coffees } Santipore Mullins } Kermichee Romals } Chandereonah Nayanfook & Bandanoe Handkerchiefs } The above Goods to be sold without the smallest reserve. Philadelphia, Dec. 12. *djt

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. 3 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. doct

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 unconscionable 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, surely prove adequate to its entire abolition.

WIGNELL & REINAGLE. December 15.