

NEW THEATRE.

THIS EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, WILL BE PRESENTED, By particular desire, (for the third time here,) A celebrated COMEDY, called, Secrets Worth Knowing: Written by Mr. Morton, author of Columbus, Way to get Married, Cure for the Heart-Ache, &c. &c. and performed at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, London, and the Theatres of Boston, New-York and Baltimore, with unbounded applause. To which will be added, a favorite Comic Opera, in two acts, called, Children in the Wood. BOX, One Dollar—PIT, Three-quarters of a Dollar—and GALLERY, Half a Dollar. \* \* \* Future days of performance will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, until further notice.

PROPOSALS,

FOR CARRYING Mails of the United States, On the following roads, will be received at the General Post-Office, until the 13th day of February next, inclusive.

FROM Philadelphia by Bristol, Trenton, Princeton, New-Brunswick, Wood-bridge, Rarway, Elizabethtown and Newark to New-York six times a week. From May 1 to November 1. Leave Philadelphia every day (Sunday excepted) at 1 P. M. and arrive at New-York in nineteen hours, the next day (Sunday excepted) by 8 o'clock, A. M.—Returning; leave New-York every day (Sunday excepted) at 1 P. M. and arrive at Philadelphia in eighteen hours the next day (Sunday excepted) by 7 A. M. From November 1 to May 1, The mail is to be taken from Philadelphia at the same hour and delivered at New-York by 9 A. M. in 20 hours; and is to be taken from New-York at 1 P. M. and delivered at Philadelphia at 8 A. M. in nineteen hours. 2d. From Philadelphia by Chester, Wilmington, Newport, Christiana, Elkton, Charleston, Havre-de-Grace and Harford to Baltimore, six times a week. Leave Philadelphia every day (Sunday excepted) at 9 A. M. and arrive at Baltimore in 27 hours, the next day (Sunday excepted) at noon. Returning; leave Baltimore every day (Sunday excepted) at 4 A. M. and arrive at Philadelphia the next day by 9 A. M. in 17 hours. 3d. From Baltimore by Bladenburgh, Washington and Georgetown, to Alexandria six times a week. From April 1 to November 1, Leave Baltimore every day (Sunday excepted) at 4 A. M. and arrive at Alexandria the same day by 6 P. M. Returning—Leave Alexandria every day (Sunday excepted) at 4 A. M. and arrive at Baltimore the same day by 4 o'clock P. M. From November 1 to April 1, Leave Baltimore every day (Sunday excepted) at 4 A. M. and arrive at Alexandria the next day (Sunday excepted) at 8 A. M. Returning—Leave Alexandria every day (Sunday excepted) at 3 P. M. and arrive at Baltimore the next day (Sunday excepted) at 4 1/2 P. M. 4th. From Philadelphia by Downingtown, Lancaster, Columbia, York, Carlisle, Shippensburg, Strasburgh, Bedford, Somerset and Greenburgh to Pittsburgh once a week. Leave Philadelphia every Saturday at 4 A. M. arrive at Lancaster in the evening, arrive at York on Sunday noon, at Shippensburg on Monday, at 6 P. M. Leave Shippensburg on Tuesday at 4 A. M. and arrive at Pittsburgh the next Friday at 10 A. M. Returning—Leave Pittsburgh every Friday at 3 P. M. and arrive at Shippensburg the next Monday by 6 P. M. Leave Shippensburg on Tuesday at 4 A. M. and arrive at Philadelphia the next Thursday by 8 P. M. Note 1. The contracts for the above routes are to be in operation on the first day of April next. The contracts for the routes No. 1, 2, 3, are to continue in operation until the first day of October in the year 1800; and the contract for the route No. 4 is to continue until the first day of October in the year 1801. Note 2. Fifteen minutes shall be allowed for opening and closing the mail at all offices on the routes where no particular time is specified. Note 3. For every fifteen minutes delay (the impassibility of rivers excepted) in arriving after the times prescribed, in any contract, the contractor shall forfeit one dollar; and if the delay continue till the departure of any depending mail, whereby the mails destined for such depending mail lose a trip, an additional forfeiture of five dollars shall be incurred. Note 4. If any persons making proposals desire an alteration of the times specified he must state in his proposals the alteration desired and the difference it will make in the terms of his contract. Note 5. The usual penalties for misconduct in the carriers will be stipulated in the contract. Note 6. The mail on the route No. 3, shall be carried in a Sulkey during three months of the winter season, having a box or chest to prevent the mail from rain. The mails on that route during the rest of the year and the routes No. 2 and 3 shall be always carried in a light box sufficient to defend it from the rain, or a box within the body of the stage. JOS. HABERSHAM, P. M. General. General Post-Office, Philad. Jan. 1, 1799. en6w

A Farmer Wanted.

WANTED a married Man capable of managing a Farm (of 60 acres within 10 miles of the city) having some knowledge of gardening, and whose wife would undertake the charge of a Dairy, &c.—Such persons, on producing sufficient recommendations of their honesty, industry and sobriety, will meet with liberal encouragement; for particulars apply to the printer. Feb. 6. 2aw tf.

Pasture Lot.

TO be rented for one or more years, a Pasture 1/2 Lot in Fourth Street, continued, about half a mile above the city—It is in a good state of cultivation, well fenced, contains THREE ACRES, and has the benefit of a run of water passing through it—apply to the printer. Feb. 6. 2aw tf.

Country Seats for Sale.

TWO Seats at convenient distances from Philadelphia, each comprising perfect accommodation and conveniences of every kind for a genteel family—For particulars enquire of EDWARD BONNALL & Co. No. 64, Dock-street, 1st mo. 31. 2aw6w

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8.

The following interesting Report was laid before Congress early in the present session, and several Bills have been since brought in, pursuant to it.

MESSAGE,

From the President of the United States, accompanying a Report to him, from the Secretary of War, of the 24th inst. relative to the Military Establishment.

Gentlemen of the Senate, & Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

A Report of the Secretary of War, made to me on the 24th of this month, relative to the Military Establishment, I think it my duty to transmit to Congress, and recommend to their consideration.

JOHN ADAMS.

December 31, 1798.

REPORT.

The Secretary of War, respectfully Reports, to the President of the United States,

THAT there are several subjects, which, in his opinion, will deserve the attention of Congress to order the Military Establishment more manageable and systematic; and procure to it the means of further improvement.

It is not presumed that Congress will think it prudent to relinquish any of the measures of security which have been so wisely adopted; nor need it be observed that any relaxation in these, may frustrate their object, by affording argument of weakness or irresolution. It may be true, that some late occurrences have rendered the prospect of invasion by France less probable, or more remote; yet duly considering the rapid vicissitudes, at all times of political and military events: the extraordinary fluctuations which have been peculiarly characteristic of the still subsisting contest in Europe; and the more extraordinary position of most of the principal nations of that quarter of the globe; it can never be wise to vary our measures of security, with the continually varying aspect of European affairs. On the contrary, a very obvious policy dictates to us, a strenuous endeavor, as far as may be practicable, to place our safety out of the reach of casualties which may befall the contending parties, and the parties more immediately within their vortices. Paying due respect to this state of things: regarding the overthrow of a large portion of Europe as not entirely chimerical, and standing as it were in the midst of falling empires, it will be our prudence to cultivate a spirit of self-dependence, and to endeavor, by unremitting vigilance and exertion, under the blessing of providence, to hold the scales of our destiny in our own hands. In offering these preliminary observations, the Secretary presents nothing new to the President, most, if not all of them, having received, directly or indirectly, in his communications to Congress, his deliberate sanction and authority.

Circumstances as the United States now are, the progress of public danger may render an extension of military preparations indispensable, and a proper organization for the troops of the United States extremely beneficial. In proportion as the policy of the country is adverse to extensive military establishments, it ought to be our care, to render the principles of our military system as perfect as possible, our endeavors to turn to the best account, such force as we at any time may have on foot, and to provide an eligible standard for the augmentations to which particular emergencies may compel a resort. In these views it is conceived the organization of our military force would be much improved, by modelling it according to the following plan: 1st. That a regiment of infantry, composed as at present of two battalions, and each battalion of five companies, consist of, one colonel, two majors, a 1st and 2d; one adjutant, one quarter-master, and one pay-master, each of whom shall be a lieutenant; one surgeon, and two surgeon's mates; ten captains, ten first and ten second lieutenants, besides the three lieutenants above mentioned; five cadets, with the pay and emoluments of sergeants; two sergeant-majors, two quarter-master sergeants, two chief musicians, 1st and 2d, ten other musicians, forty sergeants, forty corporals, and nine hundred and twenty privates. 2d. That a regiment of dragoons consist of ten troops, making five squadrons, and the following officers and men, viz: one colonel, two majors, a 1st and 2d, one adjutant, one quarter-master, and one pay-master, each of whom shall be a lieutenant; one surgeon, and two surgeon's mates; ten captains, ten first and ten second lieutenants, besides the three lieutenants above mentioned; five cadets, with the pay and emoluments of sergeants; two sergeant-majors, two quarter-master sergeants, two chief musicians, 1st and 2d, ten other musicians, forty sergeants, forty corporals, and nine hundred and twenty privates; the privates including to each troop, one saddler, one blacksmith, and one boot-maker. 3d. That a regiment of artillery consist of four battalions; each battalion of four companies, and of the following officers and men, viz: one colonel, four majors; one adjutant, one quarter-master, and one pay-master, each of whom shall be a lieutenant; one surgeon, and two surgeon's mates; sixteen captains, sixteen first, and sixteen second lieutenants, besides the three lieutenants above mentioned, thirty-two cadets, with the pay and emoluments as at present established, four sergeant-majors, four quar-

ter-master sergeants, sixty-four sergeants, sixty-four corporals, one chief musician and ten other musicians, and eight hundred and ninety-six privates, including to each company eight artificers.

The principal reasons for this organization will be briefly suggested and explained.

1st. It will be observed that the proposed proportion of men to officers in the infantry and cavalry is considerably greater than by the present establishment. This presents in the first place, the advantage of economy. By the proportional decrease of the officers, savings will result in their pay, subsistence, and the transportation of their baggage; and the last circumstance, by lessening the impediments of an army, is also favorable to the celerity of its movement.

2d. The command of each officer will become more respectable. This will be an inducement to respectable men to accept military appointments, and it will be an incentive to exertion among those who shall be engaged, by upholding that justifiable pride which is a necessary ingredient in the military character, a company will then admit of an eligible subdivision into platoons, sections and demi-sections, each of a perfect front.

3d. Each battalion will be of the size judged proper for a manœuvring column in the field, and it is that portion of an army, which in the most approved system of tactics is declined to fulfill this object. A battalion, according to the best judges, sanctioned by experience, ought neither to be too unwieldy for rapid movements, nor so small as to multiply too much the subdivisions, and render each incapable, either of a vigorous impulse or resistance.

4th. The proportion of officers to men, ought not to be greater than is adequate to the due management and command of them. A careful examination of this point will satisfy every judge that the number now proposed will be adequate to both. And it is illustrated by the expectation that our fundamental orders, in conformity with those of the nations of Europe generally ought to place our infantry in three ranks, to oppose to an enemy who shall be in the same order, an equal mass for attack or defence.

But it is not intended to recommend a present augmentation of the number of rank and file, to the proposed standard. It is only wished that it may be adopted provisionally, as that of the war establishment.

The regiments which have been authorized may continue in this respect upon the footing already prescribed; leaving the actual augmentation to depend on events which may create a necessity for the increase of our force.

The other alterations recommended, have relation rather to systematic propriety, than to very important military effects.

1st. The term lieutenant-colonel, in our present establishment, has a relative signification, without any thing, in fact, to which it relates. It was introduced during our revolutionary war, to facilitate exchanges of prisoners, as our then enemy united the grade of colonel with that of general—But the permanent forms of our military system, ought to be regulated by principle, not by the changeable and arbitrary arrangement of a particular nation. The title of colonel, which has greater respectability, is more proper for commander of a regiment, because it does not, like the other, imply a relation having no existence.

2d. The term ensign, is changed into that of lieutenant, as well because the latter, from usage, has additional respectability, offering an inducement to desirable candidates, as because the former, in its origin, signified a standard bearer, and supposed that each company had a distinct standard.

This in practice has ceased to be the case, and for a variety of good reasons, a standard of colors to each battalion of infantry, is deemed sufficient. This standard is intended to be confided to a cadet, in whom it may be expected to excite emulation and exertion. The multiplication of grades, inconvenient in exchanges, is thus avoided.

In the cavalry it is proper to allow a standard to each squadron consisting of two troops, and hence it is proposed to have five cadets to a regiment.

3d. The nature of the artillery service being constantly in detachment, renders it proper to compose a regiment of a greater number of battalions than the other corps. This our present establishment has recognized. But there is now a want of uniformity which leads to disorderly consequences: one regiment being composed of four battalions, the other three. The same organization ought to be common to all. The diminution of the number of musicians, while it will save expence, is also warranted by the peculiar nature of the artillery service. They answer in this corps few of the purposes they are applied to in the infantry.

Existing laws contemplate, and with good reason, that the aids of general officers (except the commander in chief) shall be taken from the regiments; but they do not provide that when so taken, their places in the regiment shall be supplied by others. It is conceived that this ought to be the case. The principles of the establishment suppose for example that three officers to a company of a given number, are the just and due proportion. If, when an officer is taken from a company to fill one of the stations alluded to, his place be not filled by another, so that the number of officers to a company may remain the same, it must follow, that the company will be deficient in officers. It is true that the number of a company is continually diminishing, but it diminishes in officers as well as men: and it is not known that the proportion is varied. Practice, in every institution, ought to conform to principle, or there will result more or less of disorder. An army, in many respects, a machine, of which the displacement of any of the organs, if permitted to continue, injures its symmetry and energy, and leads to disorder and weakness. The increase of the number of rank and file, while it strengthens the reasons for replacing the officers who may be removed, will more than compensate, in point of economy, for the addition of officers by the substitution. This may be

submitted to the rest of calculations. But though the place of an officer in his regiment ought to be supplied upon such removal, he ought not to lose his station in the regiment, but ought to rank and file, as if he had continued to serve in it.

I should do it justice to this subject if I did not acknowledge this plan of organization had received the full and unequivocal approbation of the commander in chief, lieutenant general Washington.

The annexed Schedule (A) will shew in one view the difference between the present and the proposed establishment.

The provision, that aids-de-camp and the officers of inspection shall be drawn from the line of the army, is not restricted as to grade—There ought to be such a restriction. The aids of major generals ought not to be taken from a rank superior to that of a captain, nor those of the brigadiers from a rank superior to that of a first lieutenant. The rank from which inspectors may be taken, ought in like manner to be limited; those of brigades, to the rank of captain; those of divisions to that of major. This will guard against the multiplication of the superior grades, by removals to fill such stations.

The two companies which it is proposed to add to the actual number of the cavalry, it is desirable should be raised immediately. If this is agreed to, they might receive the denomination of hussar companies—a description of cavalry extremely serviceable in an army.

It is incidentally noticed, that the act of last session, augmenting the dragoon corps to eight companies and assigning to it a lieutenant colonel, and other officers, to constitute it a regiment, has not provided a surgeon or mate. This omission will require attention.

If there shall be occasion for the actual employment of military force, a corps of riflemen will be, for several purposes, extremely useful. The eligible proportion of riflemen to infantry of the line, may be taken at a twentieth. It is submitted whether a specific provision to this effect, will not be proper in arranging the army for a war establishment.

The only provision for the appointment of a quarter-master-general, is to be found in the act of the 28th of May, authorizing the President to raise a provisional army, which limits his rank and emoluments to those of lieutenant-colonel. This provision is conceived to be entirely inadequate for a war establishment. The military duties of the office are of a nature to render it of the first importance in an army; demanding great and peculiar abilities, and a character every way worthy of trust;—accordingly it is the general practice, founded on very substantial reasons to confide it to an officer of high military rank. The probability is, that without a similar arrangement on our part, we shall not be able to command a fit character, and in taking one of inferior pretensions, we shall subject the service to disadvantages out of all proportion to any objections which may be supposed to militate against the conferring of such rank. It is feared that an appointment under such a provision will only create embarrassment should there be real necessity for military exertions, and that the alternative must be either to leave the army destitute of so necessary an organ, or to give it one likely, in the progress of things, to prove unequal to the task. A new provision on this subject appears absolutely indispensable.

The Secretary does not discover, in any of the acts, the necessary provisions for the appointment of hospital officers, or a hospital establishment.—As military hospitals are indispensable to an army, especially in time of war, it is respectfully suggested, that provisions on the subject ought to be made by law, and that the regulations to be found in the resolutions of the old Congress, more particularly in those under the date of September 30, 1780, and 3d of January, 1782, as containing the faithful results of much experience, may afford some important lights respecting this department.

The certain consequence of disregarding so essential a measure in the event of war, and the encampments of our army, will be a train of diseases which must cut off a large proportion of our troops. It is deeply to be lamented, that a very precious period of leisure was not improved towards forming among ourselves, engineers and artificers—and that owing to this neglect, we are in danger of being overtaken by war, without a competent number of characters of these descriptions.—To form them suddenly is impracticable. Much previous study and experiment are essential. If possible to avoid it, a war ought not to find us unprovided. What has been done to facilitate this object, and the perfection of our artillery, will be seen by the annexed extract of a letter from the Secretary, marked (B) to the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives, for the protection of commerce and the defence of the country taking in connection with the act providing for raising of the corps of artificers and engineers, with the act to augment the army of the United States, and for other purposes, passed the 16th of July, 1798. What has resulted from the latter act, will make the subject of a particular report. In the mean while, it is conceived to be advisable to endeavor to introduce from abroad, at least one distinguished engineer, and one distinguished officer of artillery. They may be sought for preferably in the Austrian and next in the Prussian armies. The grade of colonels, with adequate compensations, may attract officers of a rank inferior to that grade in those armies, who will be of distinguished abilities and merit. But in this as we know from past experience, nothing is more easy than to be imposed upon; nothing more difficult than to avoid imposition, and that therefore, should the measure be sanctioned by law, it will be requisite to commit the business of procuring such characters to some very judicious hand; under every precaution that can put him upon his guard.

It is also suggested, that an inspector of fortifications is much wanted. In case of a legislative provision on this subject, the offi-

cer may be either drawn from the corps of artificers and engineers, or it may be left discretionary with the president to chuse him where he pleases. If, however, the choice is to be restricted to that corps, it will be proper that withdrawing him from it, shall not prevent his right to rise in it, and that his place in the corps should be filled by an officer of the same grade.

It will be easily imagined that without such an officer the service may essentially suffer. To obviate this, the department of war has always found it necessary to employ a person, who has been paid out of the contingencies for performing that and some other duties of a military nature.

The importance of a faithful representation of the real state of the fortifications, public buildings and barracks, the qualifications of the commandants of forts, the police they observe, and degree of attention they bestow on the works, magazines, and the like, can stand in need of no comment.

It is further submitted, whether it will not be proper, and conduce to the improvement of artillery, to enlarge the field from which to select a fit character of inspector of artificers. As the law now is, the inspector must be chosen from the corps of artificers and engineers, and would require one of its most experienced officers, all whose services are indispensable to the corps itself.

It has been often observed by officers of the army, that the public would save by a measure, and more satisfaction be given to the soldiers generally, if a regulation was adopted to infuse his clothing shall be fitted to the soldier. It cannot fail to happen that clothing made at a distance from the army, will in numerous instances be ill-fitted to the person to whom it is issued. This is an inconvenience, as it respects appearance, comfort and ease, and causes the soldier to be careless of his dress—it of course merits consideration, whether it will not be remedied by making provision by law, for the necessary alteration at the cost of the soldier.—As there are always to be found tailors in an army, the alterations may be made there during seasons of inactivity, & moderate compensations may be established, to be deducted out of the pay of the soldiers. The tailor, who, when so employed, will be exempted from military duty, will be satisfied with very small allowances; and the soldiery will from the best information I can obtain, prefer this expence to the inconveniences of wearing cloaths which do not fit them.

Another point no less deserving particular attention, is the composition of the ration of provisions. It was in the last session augmented beyond all former example. It is not recollected that the ration which was allowed during the war with Great-Britain was found insufficient by troops once formed to military habits, acquainted with the best method of managing their provision. The present ration, estimating by price, is understood to be greater than the ration in that war, by above 50 per cent. This is evidently a very important augmentation—its various disadvantages attend it; a great increase of expence; additional difficulty in furnishing, under all circumstances, the stipulated allowance, consequently, a multiplication of the possible causes of discontent, murmurs, and perhaps even mutiny—the necessity of a greater number of waggons for transportation, and of course the extension of this always serious source of embarrassment to military operations.

The quantity of spirituous liquor, which is a component part of the ration, is so large, as to endanger, where there might not before exist, habits of intemperance alike fatal to health and discipline. Experience has repeatedly shewn that many soldiers will exchange their rum for other articles, which is productive of the double mischief of subjecting those with whom the exchange is made to the loss of what is far more necessary, and to all the consequences of brutal intoxication.

These, and such considerations, have induced the Secretary to cause to be inserted in the contracts made under his orders, a proviso, "that if the quantities of the component articles of a ration shall be reduced by law, the price to be allowed therefor, shall be proportionally reduced." And in the article of enlistment, a proviso, that the soldier is to accept such ration as is or shall be established by law."

It is well understood that the increase having been once made, a change is delicate; but it is believed to be indispensable, and that the temporary evils of a change can bear no proportion to the permanent and imminent evils of a continuance of the error.

It may not perhaps be advisable to bring back the ration to the standard of the late war, but to modify it in some respects differently, so as not materially to affect the aggregate expence.

For example, it may consist of eighteen ounces of bread or flour, or an equivalent in rice, or indian meal, when flour cannot be obtained; one pound and a quarter of fresh beef, or one pound of salted beef, or three quarters of a pound of salted pork; fat, when fresh meat is issued, at the rate of two quarts, and candles at the rate of a pound and a half for every 100 rations.

With regard to liquor, it may be best to exclude it from being a component part of the ration, allowing a discretion to commanding officers, to cause it to be issued in quantities not exceeding half a gill per day, except on extraordinary occasions.

Vinegar also ought to be furnished, when to be had at the rate of two quarts, and soap at the rate of two pounds per hundred rations, but this ought to depend on circumstances, and ought not to make part of the established ration.

There are often difficulties in furnishing articles of the latter description, and the equivalent in money is frequently rather pernicious than beneficial. Where there is a contract, the promise of such articles is apt to prove more beneficial to the contractor than to any other person. He commonly so manages it that the substitute is not a real equivalent.

But it need not be remarked, that whatever is to be done in this respect must be so