

in all his speeches. The last is eloquent, close, and pointed in all his observations. If this young gentleman proceeds as he has begun, he must one day rise to great eminence in political life.

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 19.

On Tuesday Evening the exhibitions at the Theatre, were closed with the HEIRESS—the MISER, and DARBY'S RETURN; after which Mrs. HENRY spoke the following farewell Epilogue.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES. EPILOGUE.

Spoken by Mrs. HENRY, at the THEATRE, on Tuesday Evening. [Written by the author of "AMERICAN SHANDYISM."]

GOOD truth! that they should ever pitch on me, The Company's Ambassadors to be, I, who so oft appear with face of woe, Am sent, their cheerful gratitude to show. "Now had they wish'd to lend some mournful phiz, To deprecate your wrath, and stop a hiss— Or had some author who in doleful dumps, Trembled for fear his cards should not prove trumps, In Green Room quaking, like some half-drown'd whelp, In piteous tone, half dead, demanded help; Then should I, in my element have been, And swept the boards like any tragic Queen— Have knit my brows, and told my whining ditty, Such faces made, as must have mov'd your pity. But now I shall not do my duty half, I'm one of those who scarce know how to laugh; Tho', for the soul of me, I can't conceive, How any reason I can find to grieve: Good benefits in spite of our demerits, Have given us all, a mighty flow of spirits; And tho' I am not equal to my part, 'Tis not because of an ungrateful heart; I feel the favors we each night receive, And shall be thankful long as I may live.— Not I alone—I represent them all— And for the task, indeed I am too small, For boundless gratitude we sure must feel, Whilst without bounds your favors thus you deal.

[In distress, and looking for the Prompter.]

Oh dear—I'm out—what's next—speak, Mr. GAY, Oh dear—he's gone—and I have nought to say— [Somebody behind the Curtain.]

Something about the Stage—

[Mrs. HENRY.] Aye, aye, the stage—

That must improve, in this improving age. When Greece was free, and Athens "bore the bell," The Stage was Virtue's School, as authors tell, There from the boards, just sentiment and truth, By age applauded, form'd the minds of youth: With LIBERTY, the Muses love to dwell— And Liberty gains ground, Newspapers tell. What think ye? May not Truth flash'd from the Stage, Help to keep up this truly glorious rage? Perhaps some Politician there in front, Cries, "Mrs. HENRY, what do you think on't? Why troth, Sir, if I must give my opinion, As men gain knowledge—freedom gains dominion; For, as I heard my dear good husband say, (As we were coming to rehearse to day,) "That man, who knows the rights which nature gave, And is not free, deserves to be a slave." Now from the Stage, may not those rights be shown, And all Man's privileges truly known? They may! and under guidance of your taste, Each day our scenes improve, and grow more chaste; While thus encourag'd, arduously we'll strive, And do our best to keep the flame alive: The glorious flame! whose first unsteady blaze, Will soon be fix'd as Sol's all cheering rays; Dart thro' the wide expanse, illumine mankind, E'en Asia's Sons no longer shall be blind, But join the one great cause of LIBERTY; Whilst the world's voice cries "GREATLY DARE BE FREE." But 'midst this joy, what mean those dismal groans? Ah! sure, they come from Africa's fable Sons! Oh let not truth offend! wipe out the stain! Shall Freedom's Sons on others put the chain! Detested thought! soon may we hope to see, Columbia, Europe, Asia, Africa, FREE, One Genius reign through all—ETERNAL LIBERTY.

And now, alas! we come to taking leave— Cheer'd with applause, we know not how to grieve; Love, duty, sorrow, fill our hearts in turn, But above all, with gratitude they burn; During our absence we will strive to prove, The worthy objects of your future love.

NOTE.

The lines marked with inverted Comma's, were omitted by Mrs. HENRY.

THE NATIONAL MONITOR.

No. XXXI.

The Child, whom many Fathers share, Hath seldom known a Father's care.

GAY.

THE assumption of the State Debts, by the General Government, appears more and more interesting: It is hardly possible to conceive how the peace and tranquility of the Union can be preserved, and justice done to every denomination of our domestic creditors, upon any other plan. The idea of the individual governments' making adequate provision to pay the interest of their particular debts, must prove illusory—for if, when they were in possession of all their respective funds, it was considered as an oppressive measure, to make competent assessments and appropriations for this purpose, the plea of incapacity applies with additional force, as things are now circumstanced.

It may be expected that this just, and politic measure, will meet with opposition—and it is to be feared, that those who have been advocates for this assumption, may have impressions made upon

their minds, different from those that have hitherto actuated them, upon a presumption that the States will fund their debts on Excises and dry Taxes. A few reflections will serve, however, to shew, that this dependence must fail them: From long experience, the creditors of the State Governments must be convinced, that their hopes of future justice in the line they have been in, rest on a very slender basis—They must suppose that the willingness of the States to pay in future, will receive strength from the diminution of their ability—and that their desire to give satisfaction to their creditors will call forth resources superior to those now vested in the General Government. This is so improbable, that it requires a stretch of credulity to countenance the supposition. But if it should be granted, that through the influence of a temporary jealousy of the General Government, some of the States may make extra exertions to fund their debts, it is evident that the complex system which would grow out of the measure, must occasion prodigious loss both to the States' and Continental treasuries—and in a very short time the people would consider themselves as ground between the upper and nether millstone:—Such a situation would issue in the total defeat of the hopes founded on State-Financiering. The same funds placed under one set of directors, would probably pay much more, than if divided under two—but if in the hands of twelve or thirteen different bodies, all acting independently of each other—the losses and deficiencies will not be perhaps less than 50 pr. cent. In short the State creditors, by diverting their hopes from the State government, will eventually realize their demands; they may suffer a temporary suspension in their receipts, and that is all.—On the other hand, they may be amused by a prospect nearer home, but it will vanish at last, and leave them no other resort, than that which now presents, and which they will then see, they might have availed themselves of much sooner, with greater facility, and more to their advantage. The operation of one general plan of taxation, in conjunction with twelve or thirteen rival systems, must be attended with inexplicable difficulties.—The expence of distinct sets of officers—the temptations to frauds by different rates of duties—the difficulty of securing the collection upon several thousand miles of frontier, the incapacity of the States to meddle with goods when imported, and so to check frauds, that power being now in Congress, and many other reasons, all combine to shew the absurdity of different and clashing powers being exerted to effect that, which ought to be one business.

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 19.

We are still in the dark as to the issue of the late commotions at Versailles; and this uncertainty is further increased by the contradictory accounts of the origin of these commotions. If the King seriously meditated a design of quitting Versailles and the National Assembly in order to join his army, it is probable some system was formed, and that movements among the exiled Princes may be the consequence, of which it remains that accounts be received. If the whole affair arose from a bacchanalian faux pas, it may serve to suggest a useful hint to the National Assembly: viz. to quicken their diligence in perfecting the new Constitution, since there is no calculating the variability of the popular opinion.

Extract of a letter from North-Carolina, Dec. 2, 1789.

The only news I have to write you is that the Convention of this State, contrary to general expectation has ratified the Constitution—and that our Grand Master, the late Governor CASWELL is dead.

On Tuesday the first inst. the Judicial Court for the district of Maine, (Massachusetts) was opened in the town of Portland, before the Honorable Judge Sewell. The Oaths were then administered to the Attorney-General, Marshal, and Clerk, and the Court adjourned.

By late accounts from Charleston, S. C. it appears, that all the public offices in that city have been removed to Columbia, the new seat of government. This measure may possibly be productive of advantage to the State; but in the infancy of our country, it certainly appears hostile to the great interest of the whole, to discourage the capital settlements upon the sea coast. In this view the probability is, that after incurring very great expence,

the landed interest will feel the necessity of again removing the seat of government, and fixing it in its original situation. The spirit of freedom first appeared in our capital sea ports; from thence spread into the interior country. Our capitals are the seats of the arts, the Emporiums of trade, the deposits, and resources of our wealth; and every measure that contributes to their increase and importance, most essentially contribute to the general interest.

The funding of the State debts by the respective governments will be a measure fraught with mischievous consequences. There will be excises upon the impost; and perhaps excise against excise, confusion on confusion—trade will be embarrassed; manufactures, protected by the impost, will be saddled in the consuming States with excises; a contest for power and revenue will ensue, to the reviving of bitter animosities, and the destruction of public credit. These ideas strongly suggest the propriety of placing the National and State debts upon one and the same footing: The same principle of justice pleads for the former that does for the latter.

The State creditors, provided they are left to depend on the particular governments, will become interested to diminish the National revenue, in order to brighten their own prospects. But it must be remembered, that they will, at the same time, be divided into twelve or thirteen different bodies, that never did, and never can act conjointly in a business of this kind; while the general Government, having one system pervading the whole Union, must act to more certain effect. The State creditors, therefore, detached from the continental, must be sufferers; but united with them, and having the concentrated funds of the United States to depend on, their fate is involved, not in the fluctuating councils of a particular State, but in the fate of the whole Continent.

Provided our national credit was established in such manner as to bring the public securities to a fixed and certain value, what relief would trade, manufactures, and agriculture derive from a permanent influx of circulating medium! This desirable event does not materially depend on the rate of interest, but on the certainty of the quantum which government can, and will pay. This point settled, the value of public paper will be ascertained, and no future fluctuations of any consequence will ensue. This consideration, among thousands of others that might be mentioned, points out the absolute necessity that something should be done immediately.

The inequality of circumstances which prevails among mankind, may be traced to a variety of causes. Accident has no small share in producing this disparity. But of all the causes that may be adduced, there is none to be compared to those which arise from the means of education: For tho' we often see the sons of genius and learning, in want and indigence; yet in a free country, where the avenues to honor and emolument are open to all, we shall find that by far the majority, owe their eligible circumstances to their early advantages of education: So that one capital source of envy, which is a greater disturber of human happiness than many are apt to imagine, may very easily be removed by making suitable public provision for disseminating knowledge among all classes of the people.

There is a natural propensity in mankind to reduce all to one common level. Dean Swift's observation is therefore founded on a just acquaintance with human nature, when he says,

Your altitude offends the eyes Of those who want the pow'r to rise.

For tho' it must be acknowledged, that elevated circumstances often induce and are connected with a domineering disposition, yet the desire to rise, is as universal as existence; and the preservation of personal possessions is a right that cannot be monopolized or usurped, without violating the principles of liberty. As the wheel of human affairs is in perpetual rotation, the poor should remember that they, or their posterity, may become interested in a sacred regard to the rights of property and its consequent distinctions.

The study of geography is universally approved, and very generally introduced into our seminaries of learning; with this branch of education, history appears to be very naturally connected; and if added to the circle of studies, as it might be with great ease, even in our most inferior schools, it would prove a source of very valuable improvement.

ARRIVALS.—NEW-YORK.

Table listing ship arrivals from Wednesday to Friday, including ship names, destinations, and arrival dates.