

THEATRE.

OBSERVER No. XXIII.

Mr. FENNO,

It has been said of the works of some authors, that after the fiftieth reading they are as fresh as ever. The writings of Shakespeare will continue to please as long as taste or genius shall exist. The public are always pleased with a good representation of the Merchant of Venice, tho' perhaps not one of Shakespeare's plays has been more frequently repeated. The lustre of this immortal man is often obscured thro' the incompetency of those who attempt his characters—but, the last evening, he had as much justice done him, in many parts of the above jultly admired comedy, as was perhaps ever witnessed on an American theatre.

Mr. Chalmers in Shylock, was great—he most deservedly received the full and plaudits of the house thro' the whole play—there was no faulting on his part—and no diminution of the applause which was excited at his first appearance—what a Jew!

Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Moreton, and Mr. Mayhall, filled their several parts with energy and propriety; and Mr. Bates, in Launcelet, was never more in his element.

Mr. Finch, whose benefit it was, played with uncommon animation, and to great acceptance. The Observer thinks that the Audience discovered new sources of future entertainment in this performance.

Mrs. Whitlock in Portia, played with her usual spirit and propriety—and Mrs. Francis in Nerissa. The house never discovered greater approbation of the performers.

The Characters in general were extremely well filled.

Mr. Francis in Old Gobbo, was an excellent old man.

It was expected the house would have been crowded.—The Observer regrets that it was not. It is a reproach to say the world runs after novelties, except they are imported.

"The Embargo" was well received—the incidents are few—plot or surprize, neither—the allusions, popular—the sentiments, just and patriotic.

Mr. Finch in Patrick O'Flanagan, was, at least, as good an Irishman as has appeared on the New Theatre.

The Observer has said nothing of the performance of Wednesday (Mrs. Whitlock's Benefit.) There were some things to admire—and some that were not admirable. But the Critics have drawn their goose quills—perhaps, justly. If faults are corrected, let the austerity of punishment be tempered with mercy, good gentlemen! 14th June.

From the General Advertiser.

From Correspondents.

What a generous, grateful and honorable people are the Americans! How nobly have they rewarded the French nation for their services, and how zealous have they discovered themselves in the cause of liberty! A conduct so worthy as they have manifested towards an ally that has fought, and is at this moment fighting their battles, proves how well they deserve freedom, and how much they are entitled to the affection of a generous, magnanimous and gallant nation! During the American struggle for liberty, we wanted money, and France generously gave it; during her struggle, she, through her minister requested only a reimbursement of a part of the sum lent, and we have refused it. Yes, that virtuous and patriotic body, the Senate of the United States, have rejected a bill, passed in the House of Representatives by a large majority, for granting the minister the sum requested. What have not the people of the United States to expect from the virtue and patriotism of such a Senate! Liberty must flourish under its auspices, and the rights of man may flourish in security under such guardianship. Tyrants may well tremble when they see such union and energy in republicans; they will feel their thrones a void when they perceive the fraternity between the sister Republics of America and France, when they behold the exertions that freemen make to rescue their brethren from the iron hand of despotism. Let the Senate of the United States be held up as an example to the world and to future ages of national gratitude and justice, of love for liberty, and of vigour in defence of oppressed humanity!

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE,

June 5th, 1794.

The Committee to which was referred the bill intitled, "An act providing for the payment of a certain sum of money due to the French Republic—make the following report:

IT appears by a statement of the account between the United States and France, reported to the House of Representatives, that according to the view which is entertained at the Treasury of that account, the United States on the first day of January, 1794, were in advance to France the sum of two millions one hundred eleven thousand and eighty-six livres tournois and five deniers (being 383,162 dollars and 11 cents) beyond the instalments of principal and all interest which had accrued to that period;

It further appears upon enquiry at the Treasury, that since that period there has been advanced on account of our debt to France the further sum of seventy-one thousand two hundred and forty-two dollars and eighty-one cents.

And it appears likewise from the papers referred to the committee, that the President has promised further payments upon the same account of 1,500,000 of livres on the 5th of November next, making together 453,750 dollars; which payments, it is understood may be anticipated at the Bank of the United States, in the proportions and at the epochs which are desired by the Minister of the French Republic.

These sums embrace all the parts of principal which by contract would become payable to France during the year 1794, beyond which, were there no anticipations, nothing would be demandable during the present year, but the interest on the balance of the entire debt, which balance on the 1st day of January, 1794, is computed at the Treasury at 2,611,587 dollars and 88 cents—whence it results, that the payments which have been made, and engaged to be made exceed those which by the terms of contract could be demanded.

This being the case, and the loan in question having been in its origin specifically appropriated to the purpose of the sinking fund;

It is the opinion of the Committee, that it is not advisable to divert it from its destination, as is proposed by the bill referred to them, and consequently that the bill should not pass.

Foreign Intelligence.

NATIONAL CONVENTION,

Sixtiè Germinal 16.

Vadier. At the moment in which justice and probity are the order of the day, I feel constrained to open my heart to my virtuous colleagues, and the people who hear me.—Yesterday I was witness, without being seen, of the scandalous debates which took place at the Revolutionary Tribunal. I there saw conspirators conspire in the face of justice; I was witness to the most atrocious propofals; I heard it said by those criminals: Nothing is more glorious than to conspire against a government which itself conspires. Danton said, that his enemies, the committees of public welfare and general safety, and even the Convention should be torn to pieces in a few days. What! Danton, the only man whom I have feared for liberty, whose robust figure, colossal eloquence, and hideous countenance was enough to have terrified its very image, accuses the Convention! I have seen, citizens, the conspirators insult the judges and juries with an audacity which can hardly be credited.

At the same moment Dillon, and Simon our colleague, conspired in their prison. They had organized a cohort of wretches, which were to have issued from the Luxembourg on a signal being given, to possess themselves of the passages leading to the committees of public welfare and general safety, to fall upon the members which compose them, and sacrifice them to their fury. And these men still breathe! But the people exist to support the energy of the Convention, and to aid in the discovery of every plot; they doubtless will not suffer liberty to be annihilated. For my part, I declare, if I knew a traitor amongst the members which compose the two committees, I would have the courage, though age may be supposed to have frozen my energy, to poignard him with my own hand. (The loudest plaudits resounded from the hall and the tribunes.) Be tranquil, citizens, for the sake of the Convention, the people and liberty. Let us shew what we are; let each member of the Convention render an account to the people of his political and private life (repeated plau-

dit); let each of us present to the people the state of his fortune. (The applauses recommenced, and the whole assembly demanded to have the question put on this proposition.)

Couthon. Yes, citizens, let us render a faithful account of our political conduct; let us make known to the people what we were before the revolution, and what we have been since; what has been our profession, what our fortune, if we have augmented it, and by what means, or if we have become more rich than virtuous; (applauses). Let each of us have this account printed: For me, I shall present you with the truth, if I deceive you in a single syllable, I call national vengeance on my head. (The hall resounded with the loudest plaudits.—All the members spontaneously rose, and voted with acclamations for the propositions of Couthon.)

Couthon. It is grand, it is sublime to see the Convention rise in a body, to adopt my proposition: But as it is necessary properly to digest it, I demand that you decree the limits and principles which should be observed. Let each deputy present, within a month at farthest, a faithful account of his public conduct and the state of his fortune: and let my proposition be referred to the committee of public welfare, with an order to have it presented to-morrow properly digested.

This proposition was adopted in the loudest applauses.

Vadier. I should add to what I have already said, to console the patriots, that the number of conspirators is small: that the people can make love liberty; that by far the greater number of the Convention are men of integrity. But what do the wretches say who breath nothing but calumny: The accomplices of the conspirators said yesterday: To day twenty deputies go to the scaffold, to-morrow as many more, after to-morrow the same number, and thus the Convention will soon be dissolved. These are the atrocities published by the counter revolutionists. Let the wretches perish who thus calumniate the Convention! Perish all the monsters, friends of tyranny & enemies of liberty! The Convention, ever faithful to the people whom it represents, will not fail to crush to atoms every counter revolutionist. Citizens let us be united, and we shall save liberty, we shall save the Republic.—loud plaudits often interrupted the orator.

Barrere in the name of the Committee of Public Safety, presented to the Convention the following list of new advantages gained by the French navy.—(The Gazette Nationale contains only part of this account, and promises to continue it in the next paper, which we could not procure.)

LONDON, April 8.

On Monday, a woman was committed for trial from the public-office, Bow-street charged with extorting from Lord Eardley, 10l. and a draft on his banker for 150l. by threats of publishing a libellous pamphlet against him.

In John Bunyan's Pilgrim's progress there is a catalogue of colaterals that would apply to some of our great men of the present day; Christian asks a Mr. Byends who are his kindred in the town of Fair-speech; and is thus answered.

"Almost the whole town; and in particular my Lord Turnabout, my Lord Time-server, my Lord Fair-speech; also Mr. Smoothman, Mr. Facing Bothways, Mr. Anything, and the parson of our parish, Mr. Two-tongues, was my mother's own brother by the father's side, and to tell the truth I am become a gentleman of good quality, yet my great grandfather was only a waterman, looking one way and rowing another; and I got most of my estate by the same occupation.

We hear, the Irish loan has been negotiated in the stock exchange with great advantage to the purchasers, the security is a Debenture from the government of Ireland, under the authority of an act of Parliament, much in the nature of an Exchequer bill or India Bond, bearing an interest of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half yearly at the Bank of England, the price about 98 for the scrip, with an allowance of above 2 per cent, on the payments, which when we consider the nature of the stock transferable from hand to hand as a bank note, so perfectly convenient for lodging at any time as a deposit for money, every day increasing in value, there can be no doubt of its becoming a favorite security with the public, and that it must rise in proportion to the English 5 per cents. which are now above par.

UNITED STATES.

PROVIDENCE, June 5. "The workmen employed on the Turnpike from the Town of Gloucester,

in this state, to Connecticut, we have the pleasure to learn are proceeding with great spirit. About a mile of the roughest way is already transformed into a beautiful and permanent Road, 22 feet wide, and the committee expect to have the whole completed by the first of October."

NEW-YORK, June 12.

To JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, L.L.D. F.R.S. SIR,

The associated Teachers, in the city of New-York, beg leave to offer you a sincere and hearty welcome to this land of tranquility and freedom.

Impressed with an idea of the real importance of so valuable an acquisition to the growing interests of science and literature, in this Country, we are particularly happy that the Honour of your first Reception, has fallen to this State, and to the City of New-York.

As labourers in those fields which you have occupied with the most distinguished eminence, at the arduous and important task of cultivating the human mind, we contemplate, with peculiar satisfaction, the auspicious influence which your personal residence in this country, will add to that of your highly valuable scientific and literary productions, by which we have already been materially benefited.

We beg leave to anticipate the happiness of sharing, in some degree, that patronage of science and literature, which it has ever been your delight to afford. This will give facility to our exertions; direct and encourage us in our arduous employments; assist us to FORM THE MAN, and thereby give efficacy to the diffusion of useful knowledge.

Our most ardent wishes attend you, good Sir, that you may find in this land of virtuous simplicity, a happy recess from the intriguing politics, and vitiating refinements of the European world. That your patriotic virtues may add to the vigour of our happy constitution, and that the blessings of this country may be abundantly remunerated unto your person and your family.

And we rejoice in believing, that the parent of nature, by those secret communications of happiness with which he never fails to reward the virtuous mind, will here convey to you that consolation, support, and joy, which are independent of local circumstances, and "Which the world can neither give nor take away."

Signed by order of the Committee, William Payne, Chairman. Edward Shephard, Sec'y.

To the Associated Teachers in the City of New-York. Gentlemen,

A welcome to this country from my fellow-labourers in the instruction of youth, is, I assure you, peculiarly grateful to me. Classes of men, as well as individuals, are apt to form too high ideas of their own importance; but certainly one of the most important is, that which contributes so much as ours does to the communication of useful knowledge, as forming the characters of men, thereby fitting them for their several stations in society. In some form or other this has ever been my employment and delight; and my principal object in flying for an asylum to this country, "a land," as I hope you justly term it, "of virtuous simplicity, and a recess from the intriguing politics, and vicious refinements of the European world," as that I may, without molestation, pursue my favorite studies. And if I had an opportunity of making choice of an employment for what remains of active exertion in life, it would be one in which I should, as I hope I have hitherto done, contribute, with you, to advance the cause of science, of virtue, and of religion.

J. PRIESTLEY. New-York, June 9, 1794.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE. June 5.

The Committee to whom was committed the Governor's Speech at the opening of the session, take leave to report the following

ANSWER. May it please your excellency,

While the House of Representatives have reason to felicitate their constituents on the continuance of the invaluable blessing of being governed by men, elected among themselves, by their free and annual suffrages, they feel a peculiar satisfaction in finding this act of their sovereignty so generally exercised in the choice of their present chief magistrate. It is at once a proof of the love they bear their country, and of their attachment to those who have devoted themselves to her service: And the repeated suffrages of the people of Massachusetts, in bestowing their first places of honor

and emolument on those who early adopted and never deserted their cause, must convince the world, that ingratitude is not the characteristic of Democratic Republics; while they will serve as an encouragement to men of virtue, ability, and integrity, to follow the bright example of American patriots. Under the influence of such examples, and in furtherance of such examples, we assure your excellency that we will endeavour faithfully on our part to watch and guard the interests, liberties, and sovereignty of the Commonwealth, that they suffer no diminution.

We consider the present war in Europe, as a war of principles, a combination of kings and nobles, temporal and spiritual, against the equal rights of men, civil and religious. However, the existence of freedom in America, in such a critical contest, may be thought to depend on the ultimate success of the French arms, and however the private wishes of our citizens may have been felt or expressed for the triumph of liberty, yet such has been the conduct, both of the government and people of the United States towards the combined powers, that the legitimate interests of all and each of them have been sacredly regarded, and equally protected. This ought to have secured to us the rights of neutrality. But we have seen, with a mixture of regret and indignation, these rights wantonly invaded on the part of Great Britain: She has insulted our flag, she has interrupted our lawful commerce, she has captured and condemned the property of our merchants, she has impressed our seamen to her service, and in fine, she has invaded our territory. To our complaints for these injuries, her ministers have answered with indifference, if not with contempt. It was a crisis like this, which the people of the United States contemplated, when they formed their union; that the liberties, interests, and honor of the whole may be preserved and vindicated against foreign insult and invasion, by the federal arm. On the strength of this arm, under divine Providence, we must rely. On the wisdom of that government we must confide.

And we hope and trust that their measures have been such, as shall procure to our citizens indemnity for the injuries they have received, and security for the future exercise of the rights of neutrality. For although the preservation of peace, on safe and honorable terms, is the first wish of our hearts, yet we cannot but highly approve the energetic measures that have been, or may be adopted by the government of the United States in vindication of our violated rights, and for the immediate defence of our common country.

That in case the measures pursuing under the wisdom of that government for the continuance of peace should fail of success, they hope, and have a right to expect, we may be prepared for the last resort of nations. And we confidently trust, that should that unfortunate alternative happen, the people of Massachusetts will meet its calamities with that unanimity and fortitude which becomes freemen; and when called, will be found ready, with their lives and fortunes to support the rights, interests, and honor of the confederated Republics.

To the several important subjects, referred to in your excellency's communications, the House of Representatives will pay the earliest and most vigilant attention.

Read and unanimously accepted—ordered, that Dr. Jarvis, Messrs. Matoon, Parker, and Drury, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, with the foregoing answer to his speech.

Friday, June 6. A report of the joint committee on the subject of fortifications, with the following order of the Senate thereon, came down.

"In Senate, June 6. "On the question, whether Castle-Island in the harbor of Boston, being the property of this commonwealth, be ceded to the United States? It was determined in the negative: And thereupon ordered, that Thompson J. Skinner, and Thomas Dawes Esquires, with such as the honorable house may join, be a committee to enquire what alterations and repairs may be necessary upon the fortifications on Castle-Island, & an estimate of the expence."

Read and concurred, and Messrs. Euitis, Jarvis, and Bigelow. (C.) are joined.

S H O E S. A quantity of stout well made Men's size SHOES, adapted for the Southern market, for sale at No. 36, North Third Street. May 6