

Old American Company.

THEATRE—CEDAR STREET.

For the Benefit of Mr. Prigmore & Mr. Martin.

THIS EVENING,

November 26.

Will be presented,

A much admired COMEDY, (performed but once in this city,) called

NOTORIETY.

After the Play, Mr. Mason will deliver a Dissertation upon Hobby Horses, in the character of Squire Groom—the Statesman's hobby, the Soldier's hobby, the Lawyer's hobby, the Beau's hobby, the Physician's hobby, the Lady's hobby, the Patriot's hobby, the Fiddler's hobby, the Manager's hobby, and his own hobby.

In the course of the evening, Jonathan's journey to Philadelphia, his visit to the Theatre, peep into the Museum, view of the Circus, his trip to the Camp at Carlisle, and description thereof, by Mr. Prigmore.

To which will be added,

(by Particular Desire)

A Musical Entertainment, never performed here (but once) called the

Children in the Wood.

Performed in all the Principal Theatres in Great Britain, with unbounded Applause.

The Music by Dr. Arnold, with accompaniments and additional Songs, by Mr. Carr.

Between the acts of the farce, Mr. Hodgkinson will sing the much admired song of the new "Bow Wow."

End of the Farce, Mr. Martin will recite Dr. C's Smith's celebrated Epilogue in the character of Harlequin. The whole to conclude with a

Leap thro' a Barrel of Fire.

The doors will be opened at half after five, and the curtain drawn up precisely at half after six o'clock.

BOX, one Dollar—PITT, three quarters—GALLERY, half a dollar.

Messrs. HALLAM & HODGKINSON, respectfully acquaint the Citizens in general, that every expense has been cheerfully sustained that might tend to make the Old American Company, worthy a share of their patronage, during the short stay—the nature of their engagements will permit them to retire here.

Places in the Boxes may be had at the Box Office, from ten to one every day (Sundays excepted) and on days of performance from three to five P. M. where all tickets may be had, and at Mr. Bradford's book-store, No. 8, South Front street, and at Mr. Carr's music-store.

LAST NIGHT BUT ONE.

For the Benefit of Mr. Nelson & Mrs. Wilson,

On Friday Evening, Nov. 23, will be presented a much admired Comedy, called

Wild Oats;

OR,

The Strolling Gentleman.

End of the Play, "The Soldier Tired of War's Alarms," by Mrs. Pownal.

Afterwards a CATCH CLUB, under the direction of Mr. Carr, President Mr. Hodgkinson, in which will be introduced several of the new and most admired songs, duettes, catches, and glee and "The Heaving of the Lead," by Mr. Nelson.

To which will be added a FARCE, called

The Romp.

Tickets delivered for that night, by Messrs. Lee, Miller, Keenard, McNight, or Humphreys, will be admitted.

THE LAST NIGHT THIS SEASON

Mr. & Mrs. Hodgkinson

Respectfully acquaint the Citizens in general, their BENEFIT is on Monday, December 15, when will be presented, the very popular OPERA of

The HAUNTED TOWER,

With new Scenery and decorations—by particular desire, the Dance of the TWO PHILOSOPHERS.

And the Comedy of the

LYAR.

Tickets may be had at the usual places, and of Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkinson, No. 89 Fourth street south.

To-Morrow will be Landed

from on board of the Brig Mary, Capt Beaks, at Sims' wharf,

Old Sherry Wine,

In hhd's. and quarter casks,

FOR SALE BY

Philips, Cramond & Co.

Nov. 24

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, November 24, 1794.

In Committee of the whole on the report of the committee appointed to draft an address to the President of the United States, in answer to his Speech to both Houses:

Mr. Cobb in the chair.

A motion for the committee's rising was arrested by Mr. Fitzsimons, who read in his place the following as an amendment to the report:

"As part of this subject, we cannot withhold our reprobation of the self-created societies, which have risen up in some parts of the union, misrepresenting the conduct of the government, and disturbing the operation of the laws, and which, by deceiving and inflaming the ignorant, and the weak, may naturally be supposed to have stimulated and urged the insurrection."

"These are, Institutions, not strictly unlawful, yet not less fatal to good order, and true liberty; and reprehensible in the degree, that our system of government approaches to perfect political freedom."

Mr. Giles rose in opposition to the amendment—he said, when he saw the House of Representatives of the United States about to erect itself into an office of censorship, he could not reconcile it to his duty to remain silent on the occasion.

Mr. Giles then entered into an encomium of some length, on the public services and personal character of the President. He vindicated himself from any want of respect or esteem towards him. But at the same time contended that they had a right to canvass his communications. He then entered into an examination of the propriety of the expression employed by the President, with regard to self-created societies. Mr. Giles said that there was not an individual in America, who might not come under the charge of being a member of some one or other self-created society.

Associations of this kind, religious, political and philosophical, were to be found in every quarter of the continent. The Baptists and Methodists, for example, might be termed self-created societies. The people called the Friends were of the same kind. Every pulpit in the United States might be included in this vote of censure, since, from every one of them, upon occasion, instructions had been delivered, not only for the eternal welfare, but likewise for the temporal happiness of the people. There had been other societies in Pennsylvania long before the present one existed, and for several purposes. The venerable Franklin had been at the head of one, entitled a society for political information. They had criminated the conduct of the governor of this state and the governors of other states, yet they were not prosecuted or disturbed. There was, if he mistook not, once a society in this state, for the purpose of opposing or subverting the existing constitution. This was called a republican society, and finally succeeded in its object. They also were unopposed. If the House are to censure the Democratic societies, they might do the same by the Cincinnati. It is out of the way of the legislature to attempt checking or restraining public opinion. If the self-created societies act contrary to law, they are unprotected, and let the law pursue them. That a man is a member of one of these societies will not protect him from an accusation for treason, if the charge is well founded. If the charge is not well founded, if the societies, in their proceedings, keep within the verge of the law, Mr. Giles would be glad to learn what was to be the sequel? If the House undertake to censure particular classes of men, who can tell where they will stop? Perhaps it may be advisable to commence moral philosophers, and compose a new system of ethics for the citizens of America. In that case there would be many other subjects for censure, as well as the self-created societies. Land-jobbing, for example, has been in various instances brought to such a pass, that it might be defined swindling on a broad scale. Paper money also would be a subject of very tolerable fertility for the censure of a moralist. Mr. Giles proceeded to enumerate other particulars on this head, and again insisted on the sufficiency of the existing laws, for the punishment of every existing abuse. He observed, that gentlemen were sent to this house, not for the purpose of passing indiscriminate votes of censure, but to legislate only. By adopting the amendment of Mr. Fitzsimons, the House would only produce recrimination on the part of the societies, and raise them into much more importance than they possibly

could have acquired, if they had not been distinguished by a vote of censure from that House. Gentlemen were interfering with a very delicate right, and they would be much wiser to let the democratic societies alone. Did the House imagine that their censure, like the wand of a magician, would lay a spell on these people? It would be quite the contrary, and the recrimination of the societies would develop the impropriety of having meddled with them at all. One thing ought never to be forgotten, that if these people acted wrong, the law was open to punish them; and if they did not, they would care very little for a vote of that House. Why all this particular deviation from the common line of business to pass random votes of censure? The American mind was too enlightened to bear the interposition of this House, to assist it either in its contemplations or conclusions on this subject. Members are not sent here to deal out applause, or censures, in this way. Mr. Giles rejected all attempts at a restraint on the opinions of private persons. As to the societies themselves, Mr. Giles personally had nothing to do with them, nor was he acquainted with any of the persons concerned in their original organization.

Mr. Lyman hoped that the member from Pennsylvania would, upon reflection, withdraw his amendment; if he did not, he should move that the committee should rise. Mr. Lyman considered it as improper to pass a vote of censure, as it would be to pass a vote of approbation. Besides, where will this business of censorship end? It would be much better not to meddle with the democratic societies at all. Some of them were perfectly sensible that they had gone too far. He should therefore move that this committee do now rise, and that the chairman should report the address as it now stood.

Mr. Thatcher hoped that his colleague would not insist on taking that question just now, before other gentlemen had an opportunity of answering him if they saw proper.

Mr. Lyman in reply, said that gentlemen were at liberty, in discussing his motion, to express their minds as to the self-created societies. He had no wish to preclude any member from delivering his opinion.

Mr. Sedgwick requested that Mr. Lyman would take this motion out of the way. Mr. Lyman withdrew it.

Mr. W. Smith then rose, and entered at large into the subject. He said that if the committee withheld an expression of their sentiments in regard to the societies pointed out by the President, their silence would be an avowed desertion of the executive. He had no scruple to declare that the conduct of these people had tended to blow up the insurrection. Adverting to Mr. Giles he thought the assertion of that gentleman too broad, when he spoke of not meddling with the opinions of other than political societies. He considered the dissemination of improper sentiments as a suitable object for the public reprobation of that house. Suppose an agricultural society were to establish itself, and under that title to disseminate opinions subversive of good order, the difference of a name should not make Mr. Smith think them exempted from becoming objects of justice. Would any man say that the sole object of self-created societies, has been the publication of political doctrines? The whole of their proceedings has been a chain of censures on the conduct of government. If we do not support the President, the silence of the house will be interpreted into an implied disapprobation of that part of his speech. He will be left in a dilemma. It will be said that he has committed himself.

Mr. Smith declared that he was a friend to the freedom of the Press; but would any one compare a regular town-meeting where deliberations were cool and unruffled, to these societies, to the nocturnal meetings of individuals, after they have dined, where they shut their doors, pass votes in secret, and admit no members into their societies, but those of their own way of thinking. Mr. Smith by way of illustration, observed, that this house had never done much business after dinner. In objection to this amendment it had been stated, that the self-created societies would acquire importance from a vote of censure passed on them. They were, for his part, welcome to the whole importance that such a vote could give them. He complained in strong terms, of the calumnies and slanders which they had propagated against government men and measures. Every gentleman who thought that these clubs had done mischief, was by this amendment called upon to avow his opinion. This was the whole. Mr. Smith begged the house to take notice, and be repeated his words once or twice, that he did not mean to go into the constitution of these societies, or to say that

they were illegal. The question before the house was not whether these societies were illegal or not, but whether they have been mischievous in their consequences.

Mr. McDowell was of opinion that the term of self-created societies was too indefinite. He professed the highest respect for the character of the President; but he did not think that the proposed vote of censure would be any eligible proof of it. The house of representatives were assembled not to volunteer in passing votes of reprobation on societies, or individuals, but to legislate. He wished that gentlemen, instead of losing their time on such frivolous and inflammatory amendments, (this was the exact meaning, though perhaps not the exact expression of the member,) would proceed to the proper business of the house. The gentleman from South-Carolina seemed to be well acquainted with democratic societies. It was very true that they had published resolutions reprobating the assumption business, and the system of funding; but the rest of the people, as well as democratic societies had very generally, censured the assumption, and the funding transactions. These laws were wantonly passed in darkness—they have occasioned the insurrection which have called the citizens by thousands to the field and have occasioned an expense of millions. He thought that some laws had been passed which answered no good purpose, nor indeed any purpose, but that of irritating the public. The present amendment he considered as destructive not only to the intercourse of domestic society, but that it involved a prospect of throwing restraint upon the conduct of gentlemen in the house of representatives. With the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Giles) he was satisfied, that the amendment, if adopted, would have no weight whatever with the citizens of the United States; as they were too enlightened to accept of opinions from their representatives. Mr. McDowell, in different parts of his speech, spoke of the societies in general, as much less offensive than they were supposed, if indeed they were not entirely free from blame.

Mr. Tracy rose next. He had imagined that no man would have the hardihood to come forward in that house and vindicate these societies. He quoted, from the remarks of Mr. McDowell, The words "your wanton laws, begotten in darkness, first raised insurrection, and have caused the enormous expense of millions for the western expedition." Mr. Tracy after reading these expressions from a memorandum, which he held in his hand, declared his surprise, that a gentleman, whom he knew to possess the candor and good sense of the member from North Carolina, could suffer such language to escape him. He was certain that the gentleman, if he had not been somewhat in a hurry, never would have permitted these words to pass from his lips. Quitting this topic, Mr. Tracy, said that he would, for his own part, be disposed to let these societies alone, and leave them to the chastisement of their own consciences. If they were to say "gentlemen you, as tyrants, make laws, and slaves obey them,"—"I would answer," said Mr. Tracy "it is very rash. Think before you say this again. We believed that, from inadvertency, some things have escaped from Democratic societies, which they had not well weighed, and which had a bad effect on weak and ignorant people in the western counties of Pennsylvania. You have seen the bad effects of your temerity. Take care before you publish any such thing again"—"this is all the length which we mean to go, and can any body object to this? The Democratic societies form but a very small portion of the people of America. Where is the harm in saying that one hundredth, or I believe I might say, not more than one thousandth part of the citizens of the United States have been mistaken, and that they have been imprudent in printing certain indelicate resolutions? Mr. Tracy declared that if the President had not spoke of the matter, he should have been willing to let it alone, because whenever a subject of this kind was touched, there were certain gentlemen in that house who took their backs, like a fore-backed horse, and cried out the liberties of the people! Mr. Tracy wished only that the house, if their opinion of these societies corresponded with that of the President, should declare that they had such an opinion. This was quite different from attempting to legislate on the subject. Has not the legislature done so before? Is there any impropriety in paying this mark of respect to a man to whom all America had such indelible obligations? He thought that this declaration from the House of Representatives would tend to discourage democratic societies, by uniting all men of sense against them. Mr. Tracy said, that perhaps the member who spoke last, might be connected with some of these societies, or which he entertained so favorable an opinion.

Mr. McDowell said that he had wanted the House to avoid quarrels, and to mind their proper business of legislation. He declared that he was not a member of any such society. He did not know that he had ever been in the company

of any person, who was a member of any of them. He was even, he declared upon his honour, ignorant whether there were, or ever had been, any such societies in North Carolina. He avowed to the smile of the fore-backed horse, and said, that he believed his back to have been rubbed harder in the last war, than that of the gentleman. He imagined that these societies had done both good and harm, and again declared, that he could not consent to a vote of indiscriminate reprobation.

Mr. Dayton said, He could readily believe the declaration of the gentleman from North-Carolina, that he was not a member of any Democratic society, for it was very certain that if he had been a Member, their principles and views would have been better known to him, and he or course would have been more cautious how he defended the whole of them. Mr. Dayton said he could put that member right in one particular, by telling him that he was egregiously mistaken, in supposing that the late insurrection was to be ascribed solely to our laws. New-Jersey was one of the states upon which a requisition was made for troops to march against the Insurgents. There were citizens in that state, who were not in favor of the laws in question, particularly the Excise Law, but instead of being less friendly to good order and to the government, they were among the foremost to offer themselves as volunteers. They argued thus with themselves (and Mr. Dayton said, he wished the member from North Carolina had in his discretion, adopted the same just course of argument before he had come out in his speech). "The question is not now whether this or that particular law be good or bad, but whether the authority of the laws shall be maintained, whether the will of the majority shall be supported, or anarchy and disorder shall prevail? Impressed with these noble sentiments, his constituents, at the call of the President, a man in whom they all confided, and whom they all loved, had zealously stepped forth, and were now sharing the hardships of the camp with their brethren in arms from the other states. Mr. Dayton conceived it to be the duty of the house, to answer that part of the President's speech which pointed to certain societies, and combinations of men, as the fomenters of those unhappy disturbances. The Legislative and executive branches were established by the people, to promote their most essential interests and dear rights. The members who composed them, had been duly elected, and were regarded, as the sentinels over public liberty and general order. If he whom the confidence of the people had placed in the highest watch-tower, and whose commanding situation enabled him first to see the approach of danger, sounded abroad the alarm, should we in our subordinate stations, fear to convey the word and to communicate the alarm, lest thereby we may render ourselves more conspicuous to our enemies, and may be more surely aimed at by those who are equally the enemies of our constituents. Such a conduct Mr. Dayton added, would be dastardly in the extreme, and would be treacherous to their trust. It was not that he feared as some gentlemen had expressed themselves, to leave the President to the single resentment of those societies, for his character was above their censure, and was too well established in the hearts of the people, to be affected by any of the machinations of those self-created societies. As for himself, Mr. Dayton declared he should think it an honor to be censured by those societies or combinations which had been guilty of designs to defeat the operations of the laws, and to disseminate suspicions, jealousies and accusations of the whole government.

Mr. Nicholas.—"When we see an attempt made in this House to reprobate whole societies, on account of the conduct of individuals, it may truly be suspected that some of the members of this house have sore backs. The President has been apprised of the absurdity of making this a Legislative business." Here Mr. Nicholas read a passage from the President's speech, to show, that the notice taken of self-created societies, was not intended for a topic of discussion in that house. The passage was expressly addressed to every description of citizens. "And when in the calm moments of reflection, they shall have traced the origin and progress of the insurrection, let them determine, whether it has been fomented by combinations of men, who, careless of consequences, act from avarice. Was this an address to the two houses? Did this passage show that the President wanted them to intermeddle? Were they called upon to give an opinion? Where could be the pretence for any thing of this sort? The House have made acts. The Democratic soci-