

IMPORTANT.

A Gentleman of respectability arrived in New-York last Tuesday, from New-Port, by water, which place he left on Monday. He informs us, that on Sunday last, he saw a gentleman at Newport who had left Boston the day before. This gentleman informed him that the United States ship Boston, Capt. Little had arrived at that port, with a French Ship of war of 28 guns, which he had captured off the West-Indies, after an engagement of four hours. The Boston had 10 men killed, and about 20 wounded. The loss on the part of the French was not mentioned. Our informant adds, that he has no doubt of this intelligence, as the gentleman from whom he had it, saw both vessels come into Boston.

Mr. WAYNE,

YOUR ready insertion of my former letter, induces me to offer you some remarks upon the theatrical performances of the past week.

The popular play of Pizarro, was represented on Monday, and the principal characters were uniformly well supported. The merits of this drama, as a composition, are so well established, that it would be superfluous to enlarge upon them here. An alteration was made in the 5th act, at the last representation; upon which, very different opinions will, doubtless, be entertained. The drama was closed with the death of Rolla. This is the mode in which Kotzebue terminates the original play. Mr. Sheridan, in order to execute poetical justice, or, as some of the critical journalists of England assert, with a view to exhibit a battle and a funeral procession on the immense stage of New Drury, added the concluding scenes. For these additions, he is much censured by a majority of the transatlantic critics. It is indeed questionable, whether they have improved the play. He has in consequence of them, been obliged to change the hero of the drama. Rolla, is Kotzebue's hero; Pizarro is Sheridan's. The liberty taken with historical truth, in the circumstances attending the death of Pizarro, is so glaring, that the mind revolts at it. We can admit the probability of the temporary repulse, which the Spaniards sustain in the second act; but not of their total defeat, which occurs in the fifth. On the other hand, the mind contemplates with satisfaction, the merited fate which overtakes the ferocious tyrant; and is soothed by the honors which are paid to the memory of Rolla. Perhaps there is no dramatic character more calculated to interest the feelings of the spectators, than that of the Peruvian chief. For these reasons, therefore, something may be said. But, it will be difficult, to find an apology, for the introduction of Elvira in the fifth act. This is a pantomimical trick, which bears too close a resemblance to the entrance of the Ghost, in the concluding scene of the Castle Spectre. It is unworthy the genius of Sheridan; which has in every other part of the play, purified the gold of Kotzebue from the dross which obscured its splendor, and bestowed upon it, the highest and most equitable polish.

Before I dismiss this subject, it may, perhaps, be amusing, to trace the coincidence of opinion, between a Philadelphia and a London audience. The character of Cora is so exquisitely drawn, that it should seem, that the spectators would in general, be satisfied with a less animated personification of Elvira, if they could, by this means, witness a perfect representation of Cora. The wish, that Mrs. Merry's pre-eminent talents had been displayed in that character, has been frequently expressed. In a file of London papers, which now lies before me, it is lamented, that Mrs. Siddons had not chosen it, in preference to the part of Elvira; although the latter was expressly adapted to her unrivalled powers. A new comedy, called The Votary of Wealth, was performed on Wednesday. It is the production of Mr. Holman, and contains some excellent situations. The picture of life and manners, which it exhibits, is, in general, far more just, than that which occurs in a great proportion of modern productions. They too often, depend for their effect, upon the ludicrous eccentricities of some prominent character. This play was well performed. The part of young Vilorio, found an able and correct representative in Mr. Wood. Miss Weltray, performed the part of Caroline, with a degree of accuracy and precision which conferred importance upon it, and excited a wish that she were brought forward more frequently. The play was received with general approbation. The musical entertainment of the Poor Soldier succeeded it, in which Mr. Darley, junr. made his second appearance. The improper opposition which was attempted at his former appearance, was not renewed. He sung his songs with his usual excellence, and was honoured with universal applause. A new performer was brought forward on Friday, in the character of Hassan in the Castle Spectre. It is difficult to judge of his talents from that night's representation. He appeared to enter into the scope of the character; but he does not seem to have attained that command of voice, which is necessary in an extensive theatre. Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Merry, sustained their parts, with their usual excellence. Mr. Warren's father Phillip, should not be passed over without remark. It was admirably performed. Perhaps it would be difficult to find in any part of Great Britain, a more accurate representative of Fallstaff. And it is evident from many of the turns both of thought and expression, that Mr. Lewis, in sketching the

character of father Phillip, had Fallstaff in his mind.

A new Musical Farce, called St. David's Day closed the evening's entertainment. The principal merit of this piece, as may be supposed, consists in the Music. This is entitled to the highest praise. But its excellence does not depend on the music alone. There are one or two sketches of character, that of Peter Plumblimmon in particular, which a little more dilated, would be productive of much comic effect. Perhaps however, the humour and allusions are too frequently local, to render this production a general favorite, unless the admiration which the Music must excite in every judge of musical composition, should supply these defects. In one scene, a little Welsh nymph in reply to a number of questions which are put to her, uses two words which, it is said, signify no English, or some think of similar import. But this part of the plot, to use an expression of Bayes in the Rehearsal, should have been "insinuated into the boxes," for without this explanation, the humour of old Townly's next speech and his allusions to Mounseur Noug Tong Paw—as he calls him, are almost unintelligible.

The Performers acquitted themselves with ability. Miss E. Wray, performed the character of Ellen, with the most captivating simplicity. Mrs. Oldmixon's vocal excellence is well known. She introduced the favorite song of the Blue-Bell of Scotland. We believe that no person who has heard this exquisite Scotch melody, will be surprised at the universal admiration which it has excited in Great Britain. Mr. Bernard, as might be expected gave full effect to the character of Peter Plumblimmon.

The Managers deserve praise for their exertions in bringing forward two novelties in the course of the same week. We doubt not that the liberality of the citizens of Philadelphia, will still continue to keep pace with the efforts which are made, to render the entertainments of the New Theatre, worthy of their patronage.

A Constant Reader.

Extract of a letter, dated Lancaster, Nov. 18, 1800.

"This morning the committee of conference made its report to the House of Representatives. It contains elaborate reasoning in justification of the House for the part it had acted, and calculated to impress on the minds of the people, that the fault is the Senate's, that we have no Electoral Bill; and it winds up with a resolution not to recede from the vote of non-concurrence. The question was instantly taken on the resolution and carried by a large majority. W. Penrose then read a new bill in his place, containing the principle of a joint vote, but to be modified, that the Senate should nominate 15, & the H. of Representatives 15 electors. That on Friday next (after such nomination and a mutual notification thereof) the members of the two Houses should meet together and choose 15, five whereof to be out of the Senate's nomination, and 10 out of the nomination of the House of Representatives. This bill was made the order for this afternoon, the usual rules being dispensed with.

At four o'clock, the House met, and the first session being under consideration, Mr Mitchell, from Cumberland, rose and for lemnly declared his opposition to it. No word was uttered on either side of the House. The question was put and to the amazement of all parties—was lost, thirty members only rising in favour of it. On the question being reversed 36 rose. The House directly adjourned.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the Petapico sloop of war, to his friend in this city.

On the 22d of September, we arrived off the island of Curracoa. Having previously been informed that a French force of 16 vessels and 1400 men from Gaudaloupe were besieging the city of Amsterdam, in that island, we reconnoitred, and discovered the privateers, 15 in number, laying close under two forts, which we thought too strong for us to attack, having only the United States ship Merrimack to support us. At the same time, spoke the British frigate Nereide, who had the governor of Curracoa, and the American consul on board. The latter informed captain Geddes that the enemy intended to take the town by storm that night, and that to preserve the property of the American merchants afloat as well as ashore, it was his opinion one of our ships ought to run into the harbour in order to prevent the enemy's entering. At 5 in the evening we stood in, when the French opened a quick and well directed fire upon us from a fort of two 18, one 12, and 2 nine pounders, within half pistol shot, and from the windows, roofs of the houses in the L'otra Banda, which was filled with the enemies troops—who kept up a constant fire of musketry, which was as warmly returned from the cannon and muskets of the Petapico, and those deluded people who escaped death, returned to their camps, but at intervals, engaged us all night, which we returned from our great guns. On the 23d they appeared to be more in motion than in common, but kept up a constant fire from their batteries, they embarked with great precipitation, leaving behind them eighty or an hundred men, all their guns, ammunition, provisions, &c.—with pleasure I am enabled to state we had but two wounded, one of which was Mr. Calder—the loss on the part of the French is computed about 150, with one General Officer.—We received considerable damage in our hull, rigging, and sails. On the 24th the British frigate Nereide entered and hoisted the British flag, agreeably to the capitulation entered into with the Governor previous to our arrival. All the American property is safe.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, November 17.

This being the day fixed by law for the meeting of Congress, Forty four members assembled in the Capitol, viz. Messrs. Foster, Freeman, Shephard, Reed, Varnum, Sedgwick, Wadsworth, Silas Lee, Williams, Bishop, John C. Smith, Davenport, John Smith, Cortland, Platt, Glen, Thompson, Baily, Lieb, Thomas, Heister, Brown, Muhlenberg, Woods, Smilie, Dent, Bear, Crank, Christie, John C. Thomas, Nicholson, Powell, Page, Nicholas, Dawson, New, Jackson, Holmes, Macon, Stanford, Allston, Sumpter, Huger, W. C. C. Claiborne.

The Speaker observed that it had heretofore been the invariable practice of the House to admit new members to take their seats previously to being sworn, though the Constitution directed directly the reverse. As there was a new member present, he suggested the propriety of administering the oath to him before he took his seat.

Mr. Macon, thought such a step premature. He was of opinion that no inconvenience would arise from delaying to administer the oath until a house was formed, and he thought great caution should attend an innovation opposed to all precedent.

Mr. Nicholas asked, whether it had heretofore been usual in the case of a new house to swear the members before the choice of a speaker.

Mr. Speaker, replied that it had not. Mr. Nicholas said that on though first thoughts, he was favorable to administering the oath at the present time, yet this precedent inclined him to think such a step improper.

The Speaker waved the question. The members present not being sufficient to form a quorum, the Speaker adjourned the body till to-morrow.

SENATE.

Thirteen members appeared, viz. Messrs Anderson, Baldwin, Brown, Chipman, Cocke, Foster, Hillhouse, Howard, Langdon, Livermore, Schureman, Tracy, Wells.

But not forming a quorum adjourned till to-morrow.

Massachusetts Legislature.

November 12.

After the reading of several private petitions, the two branches, agreeably to assignment, met in convention in the Representatives Chamber; and at 12 o'clock his Excellency, the Governor, came in, and addressed the Legislature as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, AS the welfare and prosperity of a nation, essentially depend on the character of their magistrates, and the wisdom, with which their government is administered; the object of your present Session must be highly interesting, not only to your constituents, but to the whole people of the United States.

The time approaches when, by their constitution and law, the election of their President and Vice President must be completed; and you are now assembled to take the measures that are previously necessary on the part of this Commonwealth, to accomplish that important purpose.—You will endeavor to select those who are to give the ultimate suffrage of the State, from the best informed citizens, and the friends of order and good government; may that wise and gracious Providence which has hitherto guided and sustained the American people preside in your deliberations, and direct the result of them.

Although I have the pleasure to observe that tranquillity generally prevails though this Commonwealth, yet it is my duty to state to you, that by letters and affidavits, which the Secretary will lay before you, it appears, that since the last session of the General Court, a number of persons in the county of Hancock, have, in a violent manner, obstructed the business of surveying land in that county by firing upon and dangerously wounding a surveyor and chain-men who were employed in that service. The necessity of suppressing disorders of such a fatal tendency is obvious. Indeed the persons guilty of these outrages were concealed or in disguise; but they are supposed to have been actuated by a spirit of resistance to the law; which would be increased and emboldened by an appearance of unconcernedness on the part of the government to restrain or punish it.

From the reports of several of the Major-Generals, I am happy to be able to inform you that the militia of the commonwealth, are in a state of unusual improvement. A large proportion of them are completely equipped and uniformed and in the course of the late reviews their discipline and subordination reflected honor on the officers and soldiers, and entitled them to peculiar commendation. With a militia thus trained, and animated with military ardor, through the Union, America will not hesitate to assert her national rights, or be unable to defend them when they are invaded.

I presume you will not be willing to protract a session at this unusual season of the year, by attending to business that may conveniently be postponed to the time when you will meet for the ordinary purpose of Legislature.

CALEB STRONG. Boston Nov. 12, 1800.

The Convention then proceed to the choice of a Senator for the county of Hampshire in the room of the Hon. D. Sexton, Esq. deceased; and the votes by tellot being taken, it appeared that Ezra Starkweather, Esq. was chosen. The Hon. Senate then retired to their chamber.

PRECIOUS LETTER, FROM A VERY MODEST MAN.

SIR, I came to New-York for the purpose of asking General Hamilton, in person, whether he was the author of an attack on the character of President Adams, which bears his name; and to say that I mean to use that information for the purpose of instituting against you, Sir, a prosecution under the detestable act of Congress, commonly known by the name of the "sedition law."

Under this law, passed through the influence of a party, of which you are (and I think justly) regarded as the head, I have suffered six months tedious imprisonment; and paid a fine of four hundred Dollars. I therefore, have a right to retaliate: I have a right to try the experiment, whether republicanism is not to be the victim of the law, which aristocracy can break through with impunity.—There have been many petty offenders in this respect among what is called the federal party; but I have nothing to do with the *Benno's the Wayne's* and the *Journeymen of Federalism*. You are worth trying the experiment upon. Your energy and your talents have rendered you a conspicuous object of praise and blame.

I, therefore, have determined that in one way or the other you shall be brought before the public on this account; and I did so far calculate on your character as to suppose, that you would not deny what you have already written and functioned with your name. I expect by your answer (directed to me, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania) the same information which I should have hoped for personally. I came to town last night between seven and eight, and sent to you immediately. I write this hastily at eight, this morning, to send by the stage. I shall purchase your pamphlet at Lang's; but make no use of that opportunity of prosecution till I hear from you, which I expect by return of the post. The answer, I have no doubt, will be such as becomes your character.

I am your obedient servant, THOMAS COOPER, of Northumberland. To Gen. A. HAMILTON, at Albany.

BY THIS DAY'S MAIL.

Territory of COLUMBIA, November 14.—The committees of arrangement, for celebrating the approaching session of Congress in the City of Washington, have adopted a plan of procession, which the recommend being formed in front of the Little Hotel, for the purpose of accompanying the President of the United States to the Capital, on the day he meets Congress to deliver his speech. The plan is calculated to embrace all classes and descriptions of persons who may attend.—It is requested of those who chuse to join the procession in their Corporate, Official, Military, Professional, or Mechanical capacity, to meet at 10 o'clock, A. M. when they will receive from the Marshals of the day, the necessary information as to the rank or station severally assigned by the order of arrangement adopted.—After the procession a respectful, and appropriate address, or communication from the inhabitants of the territory, to Congress, is contemplated.

AUGUSTA, November. The Legislature of this State were by law to have commenced their session on Monday last. The appointment of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, will probably be a subject of early consideration—the mode of these appointments is not yet pointed out, no doubt however exists, but the choice of the Electors will rest with the Legislature.—A concurrent resolution passed the Senate and House of Representatives last session, requiring the Electors of the several Counties in this State at the next general election for the State Legislature, to vote for four persons as Electors of President and Vice-President—but the law of the United States, requiring the Electors to be chosen within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday in December; and the general election in this State, being upwards of sixty days preceding that day, the resolution of the two legislative branches, was negatived by the Governor, and this negative being at the close of the session, no further proceeding was had on the subject.—The mode therefore of choosing Electors now remains to be pointed out, and the resolution which provides the mode, will without doubt at this late period, leave the election of Electors with the Legislature.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.

The following is a correct statement of the Electors chosen in Maryland, viz. Democrats.

Mr. Moore, G. Duvall, J. Gilpin, P. Spencer.

Federal. Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Dickins, Mr. Plowden, J. Doane.

Alleghany and Washington form one district, Caroline and Dorchester another, No certain accounts are received from either.

ALEXANDRIA, Nov. 15.

We are credibly informed that in each of the counties of Loudoun, Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Pendleton, Bath, and Augusta, the majority of votes have been in favor of the Adams Ticket.

NORFOLK, Nov. 11.

The Governor of this Commonwealth has issued a Proclamation revoking the injunction of quarantine on vessels coming from the ports of Baltimore and Norfolk.

RALEIGH Nov. 11.

Monday next is the day by law appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly of this State, in the City of Raleigh.

Returns from several districts of the Election of Electors, held on Monday the 3d instant, are as follow: The district of which Raleigh is a part, we have not accurate returns, but we believe Colonel Taylor, the Antifederal Candidate to be elected by a majority of 40 votes, over the Federal Candidate Mr. Henderson.

The district of which Halifax is a part, we have not all the returns, but from those we have seen, and the probably result of the remainder, Mr. Gideon Allston, the Antifederal Candidate has four votes where John Haywood, Esq. the Federal Candidate had one.

Fayetteville district except Sampson Federal Antifed. Tot. for W. Martin, 2024 J. Potts 266

Wilmington district, Bladen county, Gen. Brown, the Federal Candidate got 341 votes, and Samuel Ashe Esq. his opponent, 6.

Newbern district verbal returns from the counties of Johnston, Wayne, Jones, and Craven in parts leave a majority of 50 votes for Mr. Sheppard, Federal, over the Antifederal Mr. B. Whitefield.—Johnston gave Mr. S. nearly two votes to one. Mr. S. we believe is elected.

Hillsborough district.—In Orange Mr. Tatam, the Antifederal Candidate, got a majority of 186 votes, and Guilford gave the Federal candidate, Mr. Walter Alves, a majority of 241. Randolph gave a majority to Maj. Tatam.—From Caldwell we have no return. We expect Maj. Tatam is elected.

Gazette Marine List.

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

The following Philadelphia vessels were at Liverpool the 6th October.

Ships Rose, Jones, Philadelphia; Swazwick, Kirkbridge, do. to sail in 6 days; Mars, C. George, for New Orleans; Pomona, Merrill.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 13. Arrived yesterday, ship Perseverance, Norman, 48 days from Lisbon.—Left no Baltimore vessels here, and spoke nothing on the passage.

Brig Two Friends, Hart, 88 days from Jamaica—spoke several vessels, all which have since arrived.

The sloop of war Baltimore, Capt. Cowper, left from Norfolk. A schooner from New England.

NEW YORK, November 19.

Arrived the hermaphrodite brig the Sarah, Chapman, thirty-five days from New Orleans. Sailed with the following vessels:—Brig Fame, for Philadelphia; brig Harriet, do. and ship D. vid. for Havana. Left there ship Peggy, A. Brather, to sail in fourteen days for New York; ship Cleopatra, Waterman, for do. New York; brig Sally, Andrews, do. ship Fame, Goodrich, do. ship Active O'Driscoll, Baltimore; schooner Mississippi, Butts, Alexandria; schooner Polly, Wilington; sloop Befsey, Bismar, Charleston, condemned; brig Edwin, Knapp, Newburyport. Left in the River, schooner Fair American, Channings, of New York. In the Gulf spoke the English man of war York of sixty-four guns and the Apollo of thirty-six guns: detained a few hours, treated politely and suffered to proceed.

Sloop Maria, ten days from Newbern, (N. C.) On the 12th spoke the sloop Ann, Thomas, out nine days from Boston, bound to Norfolk.

Brig William, Hall, thirty-four days from Montego Bay.

Brig Venus, Stamen, sixty days from Dublin. Ship Flora, twelve days from Savannah.

Left there the ship Shepherd, brig Ceres, schooner Laurel, and schooner Sakey, all for this port.

Ship Jamaica, thirty-seven days from Jamaica.

Schooner Befsey, Harbin, six days from Plymouth, N. C. Off the Capes of Virginia spoke the brig Eagle, from Amsterdam. 5 and to Baltimore, out forty-eight days. On the 16th spoke schooner Dolphin, White, from Cadiz, bound to Philadelphia, out fifty-four days.

Captain White informs that on the 5th, in latitude 34, he saw a ship bottom upwards; could not learn her name on account of the great swell of the sea—no person on the wreck.

Brig Dorley, Samuel Ellis, sixteen days from Port-au-Pincee. Left there the ship Olive, Johnson, for New York; schooner Juno, Parker, do. brig Salamah, Cummings, Philadelphia; brig Mitchell, Thompson, and Fanny, Everton, Baltimore; schooner Governor Clinton, Allen, Philadelphia; schooner Indus, Salem, and schooner Regers, of New York, for Charleston. The schooner Lydia, of Hartford, Captain John Clap, sailed with the Dorley for this port.

British Packet Mary, thirty-five days from Falmouth, via Halifax.

Same day sloop Patience, Montgomery, thirteen days from Philadelphia.

New Theatre.

ON FRIDAY EVENING, November 21, Will be presented a much admired Comedy CALLED

RECONCILIATION;

OR, The Birth Day. To which will be added, Never performed here, a Musical Farce (in 3 acts) called

A Trip to Fontainebleau.

(Written by G. Keefe)

200 boxes

Havanna Sugar,

FOR SALE By the Subscriber GIDEON H. WELLS.

november 20

FRESH FRUITS AND WINE AT AUCTION.

To Morrow Morning, the 21st instant, at 10 o'clock, will be sold, at Public Auction, at Messrs. Wall's wharf, below the Draw-bridge; in LOTS to suit purchasers:

THE CARGO

Of the brig Mentor, arrived from Malaga, consisting of

Sweet Malaga WINE, Muscatel and Blom RAISINS, in boxes

FIGS, in kegs GRAPES, in jars, and Soft shell'd ALMONDS, in bags

Also, a few hundred weight SHEET CORK. SAMUEL YORKE, Aucr. November 20