

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

For the month of February.
FRANCE.

The present period is a period of singular anxiety and suspense. Reflection on past is lost in conjecture and anticipation of future scenes. Every where we behold preparations for war, and negotiations for peace. France, faint from the loss of blood, and apparently without the means of restoring her strength & reviving her spirits, yet assumes the attitude and language of a conqueror and dictates the terms of an insulting peace with a firm voice, and an imposing countenance. She insists, or pretends to insist, on the possession of conquests that shall bound her dominion only by the Rhine, the Alps and the ocean. The courts of Vienna and London, indignant at such arrogant and dangerous claims, prepare to push the war with the utmost vigor. The French send armies, to the number of three hundred thousand, to the Rhine; the emperor under the necessity of making war on a similar scale, opposes above two hundred thousand regular forces, and a kind of militia, consisting of the armed peasantry of the provinces nearest to the scene of action. Never since the irruption of the Franks into Gaul, did the Rhine witness such numerous hosts; never was his stream threatened with so deep a tincture of blood. It would seem that there is a sort of revulsion in the progress of society: a gradual return to that state in which our barbarous ancestors were all of them armed. The armies and the expenses of the contending parties have been regularly increased, for the last two hundred years, in an arithmetical progression.

After all, it is not impossible but the present truce may, as truces almost always do, terminate in peace. The unheard of slaughter that must follow an appeal to arms, between armed nations of men, in a contest exasperated, and rendered more obnoxious by the fruitlessness of negotiation, is surely enough to make the stoutest heart tremble, and the most callous, even among the ambitious rulers of nations, to feel. We are, therefore, not without hopes that the armistice will be prolonged, that the spirits of the belligerent powers will gradually be calmed, and that though regiment may be added to regiment, by way of counters, for the purpose of displaying resources and strength, peace will ultimately follow, without farther bloodshed, increased military preparation, and protracted negotiation.

There are many questions to be considered in calculating the probabilities of war and peace; but they may all of them be reduced to the three following:

First, how far the contending parties have, on either side, attained their original objects in going to war.

Secondly, how far those objects, in the course of the war, have been changed.

Thirdly, whatever their objects may still be, how far the farther prosecution of the war offers a reasonable hope of their attainment.

Which party was the aggressor in the present war, it is now useless to enquire, and it would be difficult to determine. The French tyger grinned, the English lion growled: both darted forth their claws into action. The rulers of France had, doubtless, for their first wish, their principal object, the establishment of the revolution. The practicability of this they doubted, without effecting a change in the system of Europe: they acquired the free navigation of the Scheldt, in violation of the treaty of Munster, and they entertained thoughts, which they were at no great pains to conceal, of forming the ten provinces of the Austrian Netherlands into an independent republic; and, in the natural progression of pride, of democratizing all neighbouring nations; though this project was formally disavowed, afterwards, and perhaps, for the sake of peace, would have been abandoned.

The allies wished to maintain the established system of Europe, to protect the Stadtholder and the Seven United Provinces, to present an iron barrier against the contagion of innovation; and they too, in the progress of pride, and ambition, meditated the dismemberment of France, and individually their own aggrandizement.

But in these objects, on either side, there has been, in the course of the war, a considerable change. Neither has the internal administration of France been such as to invite her neighbours to follow her example, nor have the arms of the allies been so successful as to justify any hopes of conquest, or of subduing the power, and the inconvertible will of liberty—even liberty run mad—by force of arms. The spirit of ambition, one would imagine, would now be pretty much abated on both sides. But, whatever their object may still be, how far does the farther prosecution of the war offer a reasonable hope of their attainment? The great hopes of the grand mover of the alliance, the British government, are founded, avowedly, on the depreciation of the French assignats, or paper currency; but the resources of a country are nothing else than its physical resources, viz. its population, means of subsistence, capital, and the industry, genius, and valour of the inhabitants. Money, in fact, is only a mark or sign of the value of labor. Productions of art, and reproductions of nature, may be carried on without intermediate signs of wealth. It is possible for a great nation, with an immense and fertile country, to go on without them: and if it be possible, the French nation will make the attempt. It is vain, there-

fore, to suppose that the resources of France will not survive the existence of their assignats. On the other hand, the resources of the confederates are great, particularly of Great Britain, whose commerce is extended far beyond its utmost extent in any former period, and is still increasing, stimulating and flourishing at the same time an increase of manufactures, and also, though in an inferior degree, an advancement in agriculture. It is to be presumed, that both France and England will take the advice of the apostle Paul, "Look not every man on his own things, but also on the things of others." If they do this with due reflection and candour, they will be disposed to meet each other half-way, in the road of peace; unless, indeed, they reconcile themselves to the idea of waging perpetual war against each other, as was formerly the case between the Christians and the Turks.—But this is not to be supposed; & therefore it may be concluded, that France will give up her conquests for peace, and England also hers, with those from Holland, and those also to be made hereafter in the West Indies, into the bargain.

But ought peace to be made with France on the supposition that she insists still on retaining her territorial conquests, although she should consent to grant an equivalent to the Emperor on the right side of the Rhine, and to Great Britain in commercial and maritime aggrandizement? On this important question the opinions of men are divided, though, to use the phraseology of the House of Commons, the noes, (and in our judgment with reason) seem to have it. There is one consideration (tending at least to a temporary pacification) that will naturally occur to a political and quick people, not very much restrained by treaties; namely, that, although they should consent to the restitution of the Netherlands, the barrier being destroyed by the improvident selfishness of Joseph II. they might embrace an opportunity of taking possession of them afterwards. All these motives for peace on the part of France, must be seconded by the present aspect of the great powers of Europe.

SPAIN,
indeed, they have nothing to fear, but as little, perhaps, to hope. There is an apparent imbecility and indecision in the Spanish court. The nation is in some danger, it is said, of internal dissension and contest.—In

ITALY,
according to the latest accounts, the kings of Sardinia and Naples have determined to adhere to the confederacy.—

THE EMPEROR
makes the most vigorous preparations for war. Most of the principal states and princes of Germany have agreed to furnish their quotas for carrying on the war; and as to the

KING OF PRUSSIA,
although he be more disposed, by hook and by crook to catch money, rather than to give it away, having drawn all that he can from France as well as from England, he is now at liberty to follow his interest as well as inclination to restore the Stadtholder. From

THE TURKS
the French have but little to expect at the present moment.—and

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA
becomes more and more in earnest in her profession of good will to the allies, in proportion as she finds that they stand in need of her assistance. With the co-operation of the Russian fleet, we shall be able to cope with that of the French and Dutch in the north seas, even though they should have the advantage of being favored by

SWEDEN AND DENMARK;
whose powers, however, will probably adhere to their present system of neutrality.

CONNECTICUT.

The following **SPEECH** was delivered by His Excellency Governor **WOLCOTT**, at the opening of the Session.
Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

THE uncertain and very recent event of my being appointed to my present office, will, I presume, be an adequate excuse for me in my new and inexperienced situation, if I be not able to address you relative to such objects as may more especially require legislative attention; with the knowledge and in the judicious manner in which you have been accustomed to be addressed upon similar occasions. My solicitude, indeed, is much alleviated by the confidence I have in the candour of the Legislature, and by finding the State, upon my accession to my present office, in the possession of a highly improved Jurisprudence;—and, also, in the enjoyment of great and unusual prosperity; and that such is the prevalence of the private and social virtues of our citizens as disposes them to the greatest order, harmony and peace. In reflecting upon the present happy and prosperous condition of the State, we cannot but be excited with the most fervent gratitude to our Almighty Parent who has given us the blessings we enjoy.—We have, also, abundant reason to felicitate ourselves that the dark cloud which has been suspended over our country, and which presented itself with the most portentous aspect has been dispelled; and that the firm and virtuous conduct of the Executive of the Union, has preserved the National Constitution from encroachment and violation. We may now flatter ourselves that the wife measures he has pursued, to avert from our country evils the most calamitous and distressing, will finally prevail.

By advertising to our Treasury Department it will be found that a considerable portion of our public debt has not yet been disposed of and cancelled; and that there are large credits in favour of the State, which, however they shall be ultimately arranged, must first be subject to a fiscal operation. Under these circumstances, I believe it will be difficult to predict the period, when the office of Comptroller can be dispensed with. The great benefits which have resulted to the State by constituting this office, and the public confidence it inspires, induce me to submit to your consideration the expediency of making permanent rather than a temporary establishment of this office.

The very important objects of facilitating the communications through the state, by locating roads which will be most extensively useful, and providing that they be placed and kept in effectual repair; and also by rendering water conveyances more practicable and facile, have lately occupied much of the attention of the Legislature. I trust that the objects so highly interesting will be pursued, until, by their execution they shall be completed.

How far any extensive encouragement can profitably be given to our manufactures, I feel myself incompetent to judge.—The happy encouragement which agriculture receives, the great emigrations from the state, and consequent enhanced price of labour, must affect our manufactures unfavourably, and retard their rapid improvement.—But, as they are objects of much importance, if any particular encouragement can properly be afforded them, I doubt not they will be regarded as meriting your attention and patronage.

I believe we need not carry our enquiries beyond the present period to ascertain the great utility resulting from general information and knowledge, both as they give security to the public, and conduce to private virtue and happiness.—They enable us to become acquainted with our rights and liberties, and justly to estimate their importance, and render us less liable to be deluded by an affected patriotism and to misplace our confidence.—General knowledge, and a sound morality, founded upon a religion which teaches man, that he is responsible for his conduct to his righteous Creator, are essentially necessary to ensure public order and peace.—Upon these principles alone are we to account that the late popular and feverish agitations which prevailed in various parts of the Union (which were founded in delusion) made no perceivable impression upon the people of this State. Happy, indeed, are that people who are proof against the arts of hypocrisy and seduction! To establish in the rising generation habits derived from a virtuous education, is an object of the highest importance, and has always been thus regarded by the State. I trust that institutions productive of such happy effects, and in consequence of which the State has acquired a very honourable distinction, will never want their support.

Public exigencies will frequently occur which will require legislative interposition and aid, when they shall be found to exist, I doubt not but they will be attended to by you.

A letter from the Vice-President of the United States, accompanied by an order of the Senate, will be laid before you, by which you will learn the Hon. Oliver Ellsworth has accepted the Office of Chief Justice of the United States. In consequence of which his seat as Senator has become vacant.

This vacancy you will probably think it expedient to supply the present session. The other vacancies in the Offices of the State will, also, doubtless be attended to by you.

Whatever assistance Gentlemen, I can give by co-operating to advance the interest of the State, you will be assured will be most cheerfully rendered.

Council Chamber, May 13th, 1796.
OLIVER WOLCOTT.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18.

Messrs. D. Foster, Thatcher, S. Lyman, Glen and Reed presented petitions in favor of the British treaty, which were laid upon the table.

Mr. Gills hoped the house would consent to take up the resolution which he laid upon the table yesterday relative to a clove of the present session. He had conferred with some gentleman of the Senate, upon the subject, and it was their opinion, if Wednesday the 25th instant was inserted instead of Saturday the 21st, all the business of importance might be got through. He proposed, therefore to make that alteration. The resolution was agreed to.

The bill providing passports for ships and vessels of the United States was read a second time, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

As the bill in addition to an act to establish Post Offices and Post roads in the United States was about to be read a third time, Mr. Murray proposed to re-commit the bill in order to strike out a clause which would considerably affect the morning papers of this city, as it required that they should be dried before they were sent by the post, which (as it would be next to impossible to do it before 7 o'clock in the morning, the time at which the papers were to be put in the post-office) would have the effect of keeping those papers from their readers a day longer, and by this means give an advantage to the evening papers, which might copy whatever was valuable from a morning paper, and stand upon the same ground with it when they get to the places to which they were destined. This motion occasioned some debate. It was supported by Messrs. Murray, Giles & Macon, & opposed by Messrs. Harper, Thatcher, Williams, Kittera, and Jackson, partly on account of the expediency of the clause for the purpose of preserving the papers, and partly that no time might be lost, and by that means endanger the passage of the bill (which contains regulations for many new post roads) this session.

The motion was at length negatived 40 to 34, read a third time and passed. It was afterwards sent to the Senate, and, in the course of the sitting returned from thence, with information that they had postponed the consideration of it till the next session of Congress.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill entitled an act for making provision for the payment of certain debts of the United States, were read, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

The order of the day was called for on the bill for providing for the expense of intercourse with foreign nations, and continuing an act in force for a limited time for providing means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations; the house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole thereon, Mr. Bourne in the chair.—This bill proposed an additional sum in addition to sums already granted for carrying on foreign intercourse. Considerable debate took place about the

sum with which the blank should be filled, and for what purposes the money should be expended. It was suggested that considerable expenses would attend the suits to be carried on in the British Courts to recover the amount of spoliations committed by British vessels upon American property; and, on the other hand it was contended that if this expense was paid at all, it should be specially provided for, and could not come under the general head of foreign intercourse, after a long discussion, the question was taken on 30,000 and negatived 40 to 36; it was then taken on 25,000, and negatived 38 to 37. The sense of the committee was then taken upon 20,000 dollars, and carried, their being 52 in favor of it. The remainder of the bill was then gone through, the committee rose, the house took up the subject, and having agreed to it, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Leave of absence was granted for the remainder of the session to Mr. Page.

Adjourned.

Sale postponed.

ON account of the rainy weather, the sale of the estate (late Mayo's) at Germantown, advertised to be sold the 18th, is postponed till Saturday next, the 21st instant, when it will be sold on the premises at 12 o'clock. May 19] **JOHN CONNELLY,** Auctioneer.

GEORGE HUNTER,

CHEMIST,
No. 114 South Second Street.

HAS for these two years past introduced a new species of **PERUVIAN BARK**, called **YELLOW BARK**, which after repeated trials by the principal Physicians of this city, is now preferred in all cases of importance that require it, to the best Red and Pale Bark. It is a powerful Astringent Bitter, fits well on the stomach, is certain in its effects, and requires only half the usual quantity for a dose.

Many of the citizens of Philadelphia are now acquainted with its virtues, the knowledge of which ought to be extended over the Union. He has a large supply of the Yellow Bark, and a general assortment of **Drugs, Colours, Glass, Dye Stuffs, &c.**

Salt Petre, Jalap, and Camphor,
By the Quantity.

May 19. * 1aw71

By an Artist resident at Mr. Oellers's Hotel,

MINIATURE LIKENESSES

ARE taken and executed in that elegant and delicate style, which is so necessary to render a Miniature Picture an interesting jewel.

He will warrant a strong and indisputable resemblance; and he takes the liberty to lay before the public of this place his most earnest intention to deserve their patronage by his best endeavors to please.
N. B. Specimens are to be seen.
May 12. §

Mrs. Oldmixon's Night.

New Theatre.

On **FRIDAY EVENING, May 20,**
Will be presented (never performed here)
A NEW COMEDY,
called

SPECULATION.

Written by the author of 'The Dramatist',
The Rage, &c. and performed at Covent Garden,
London, for fifty nights, with unbounded applause.

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| Sir Frederick Fainly, | Mr. Francis. |
| Project, | Mr. Bates. |
| Vickery, | Mr. Blisset. |
| Alderman Arable, | Mr. Whitlock. |
| Jack Arable, | Mr. Marshall. |
| Tanjore, | Mr. Moreton. |
| Captain Arable, | Mr. Green. |
| Promptly, | Mr. Morgan. |
| Meanwell, | Mr. Beece. |
| John, | Mr. Warrell, jun. |
| Waiter, | Mr. Mitchell. |
| Lady Project, | Mrs. Shaw. |
| Emmeline, | Mrs. Whitlock. |
| Cecilia, | Mrs. Marshall. |

End of the Play, by particular desire, and for that night only, Mrs. Oldmixon will sing the celebrated Cantata of

MAD BESS.

In character.—The Words by Milton.—The Music by Purcell.

After which a Pantomimical Ballet, composed by Mr. Francis, called

THE MIRACULOUS MILL;
Or, **THE OLD-GROUND YOUNG.**

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Callier Thoughtless, | Mr. Francis. |
| Old Rowly Powlly, | Sig. Doctor. |
| Mealy, the Miller, | Mr. Rowson. |
| Bob, his Son, | Mr. Warrell, jun. |
| Goody Benion, | Mrs. De Marque. |
| Patty, | Mrs. Milbaine. |
| Lucy, | Mrs. Gilaspie. |

Lads and Lasses, Messrs. Darley, jun. Mit'ell and T. Warrell.—Miss Willems, Miss Oldfield, Miss Rowson, Mrs. Doctor, Mrs. Bates, and Mrs. Leje.

After which will be exhibited
Signior Doctor's Performances in
Tumbling, Balancing, Postures, &c. &c.

To which will be added,
(never performed in America) the favorite Comic Opera, called

The Doctor & Apothecary.

As performed with universal applause, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London.

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| Thomas, the Apothecary | Mr. Green. |
| Sturmwald, | Mr. Bates. |
| Carlos, | Mr. Marshall. |
| Juan, | Mr. Francis. |
| Guffman, | M. Darley. |
| Doctor Bilioso, | Mr. Morris. |
| Perez, | Mr. Blisset. |
| Anna, | Mrs. Oldmixon. |
| Isabella, | Mrs. Marshall. |
| Theresa, | Mrs. Rowson. |

Tickets to be had at the usual places, and of Mrs. Oldmixon, corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets.

On Monday a Comedy never performed here, called **FIRST LOVE**; with a comedy in two acts, never performed here, called **The MAID of the OAKS**, for the benefit of Mrs. WHITLOCK.

Mr. MORRIS'S Night will be on Wednesday next, **BOX, One Dollar—PIT, Three-Fourths of a Dollar—and GALLERY, Half a Dollar.**

Places for the Boxes to be taken of Mr. WELLS, at the Front of the Theatre.

No money or tickets to be returned; nor any person, on any account whatsoever, admitted behind the scenes.

Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to send their servants to keep places a quarter before five o'clock, and order them as soon as the company is seated, to withdraw as they come not, on any account, be permitted to remain.
VIVAT REPUBLICA.

—Et mille spumantem sanguine Rheum.
Lucan.

† The folly and madness of such an attempt was predicted at the outset of the war by Mr. Fox and other gentlemen, on the general grounds of history and human nature; and by General Macleod, on these grounds, and also, more particularly, on that of the general principles of war in the present age.—To the want of such generalization it is that we are to ascribe our late public failures and disasters. This is the language of conviction, not of party spirit; which we totally disclaim.—It is on the basis of impartiality alone that we hope to establish this journal.—The pro and con is to the best of our ability given on every subject.