

NEW THEATRE.

For the BENEFIT of the UNHAPPY SUFFERERS

By the late Fire at Savannah,

THIS EVENING, Wednesday, December 28,

Will be presented,

A COMEDY, in four acts, called

The Child of Nature.

From the French of Madam Genlis, by the authoress of Every one has his Fault.

- Marquis of Almanza, Mr. Wignell
Count Valantia, Mr. Moreton
Duke Murcia, Mr. Warren
Seville, Mr. Warren
Grenada, Mr. Warren, jun.
1st Peasant, Mr. Cooper
Marchioness Merida, Mr. Mitchell
Amanthis, Mrs. Morris
Mrs. Merry

End of the Comedy (for the second time) a new Ballet Dance, composed by Mr. Byrne, called The BOUQUET.

In which will be introduced the favorite TAMBOURINE DANCE.

The principal parts by Mr. and Mrs. Byrne, Mr. Warren, jun. and Miss Milbourne.

To which will be added, A COMIC OPERA, in 2 acts, (written by the author of the Poor Soldier) called

The Agreeable Surprise.

- Sir Felix Friendly, Mr. Warren
Compton, Mr. Darley
Eugene, Mr. Barley, jun.
Chicane, Mr. Warren
John, Mr. Warren, jun.
Thomas, Mr. Mitchell
Farmer Stump, Mr. Morgan
Cudden, Mr. Blissett
Lingo, (first time) Mr. Moreton
Laura, Mrs. Oldmixon
Mrs. Cheshire, Mrs. L'Estrange
Cowlip, Mrs. Warren
Fringe, Mrs. Harvey

On Friday

The Wheel of Fortune;

To which will be added,

A celebrated OPERA,

By the FRENCH COMPANY of COMEDIANS,

Called,

La Melomanie,

Or,

MUSICAL MANIA.

There will be no performance on Saturday next on account of the preparations for some new pieces for the ensuing week.

Box, One Dollar twenty-five cents. Pit one Dollar. And Gallery, half a dollar.

Tickets to be had at H. & P. Rice's Book-store, No. 50 High-street, and at the Office adjoining the Theatre.

Places for the Boxes to be taken at the Office in the front of the theatre, from 10 till 1 o'clock, and from 4 till 4 on the days of performance.

Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to send their servants to keep places a quarter before 5 o'clock, and to order them, as soon as the company are seated, to withdraw, as they cannot on any account be permitted to remain.

VIVAT RESPUBLICA!

College-Hall.

READINGS and RECITATIONS,

Moral, Critical, and Entertaining.

MR. FENNELL

Respectfully informs the Public, that On THURSDAY EVENING, December 29, at 7 o'clock, will be repeated

AN EXPLANATORY ADDRESS.

After which will be recited an Allegorical Poem, in three parts, called

THE CAVE OF NATURE;

Or, A Picture of the Virtues, Vices, and Passions, of the Human Mind.

Occasional admission tickets to be had of Mr. Poulson, Jun. at the Library; at Mr. McElwee's looking-glass-store, No. 70, South Fourth-street; and at Mr. Carey's, Book-feller, Market-street.

This Evening, the 28th inst.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, will be held at public auction, (if not before disposed of at private sale) at the City Tavern,

All that capital manor-house, stables, out-houses, &c. and three contiguous tracts of land situate on the West-side of Schuylkill in the township of Blockley and county of Philadelphia, generally known by the name of Lansdown, containing 190 acres 141 perches more or less and a meadow plantation and tract of land in Blockley township aforesaid adjoining Lansdown, containing 64 acres one perch.

The premises are so well known as to need no particular description. Few seats in America can compare with Lansdown for convenience and elegance; it commands a variety of rich beautiful prospects and is remarkably healthy. Terms of sale will be made known by

- PHILIP NICKLIN, Attorneys in fact to
ROBERT E. GRIFFITH, James Greenleaf.

Territory of the United States, N. W. of the Ohio.

TURNER v. PARKER.

Foreign attachment.

Notice is hereby given,

To JOSEPH PARKER, late of Kaskaskia in the (now) county of Randolph, in the Territory aforesaid, Merchant, that in pursuance of the laws of the Territory in that case provided, a foreign attachment hath issued out of the county court of common pleas of the said county, against the lands and tenements, goods, chattels and effects, rights and credits of the said Joseph Parker, at the suit of George Turner, Esquire; and that unless the said Joseph Parker appear by himself, or Attorney, to give special bail to such suit, judgment by default will be entered against him, at the court to be held in and for the said county, next, after the expiration of twelve months from this date; and the estate or estates so attached, will be sold for the satisfaction of all creditors, who shall appear to be justly entitled to a demand thereon, and shall apply for that purpose. Dated at Kaskaskia, aforesaid, this twenty-ninth of March, 1796.

JOHN RICE JONES, Attorney for Plaintiff.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

[Debate on the Militia Bill continued.]

Monday, December 19.

Mr. Baldwin was in favor of striking out the section; but if gentlemen thought it was deciding upon an important principle too hastily, he had no objection to its lying over for the present. It might be recollected that this was one of the first great objects which engaged the attention of the present government; it was then discussed very fully, and a long and intelligent report had been made on the subject from the military department. It was at that time thought best not to decide hastily; but to lay the plan before the people that the public opinion of the system might be ascertained. He thought that opinion now fully appeared to be against the measure; they seemed to think the plan would be a laborious, expensive operation, not worth pursuing. He supposed the subject was now called up to see whether they were prepared to determine upon the principle. He acknowledged that he was ready to vote against it; if other gentlemen were not, the subject might be postponed. He believed the plan not worth pursuing, and that some other plan, perhaps the old one, might be so improved as to answer the end in view. He understood the mover meant the house to determine only upon the principle; he should vote for striking out the first section for the reasons he had given.

Mr. Rutherford said that the gentleman who had gone before him, had so narrowed the ground he meant to have taken, that he had little left to say. He believed the government of the United States had nothing to do with the militia of the individual sovereign states; this was the opinion of nine-tenths of the people. The constitution was express, it says: when the militia is called into actual service, they shall be under the direction of the general government. But, until that take place, the different states have the command of their own children—their own families. If, said he, the United States, continue to grasp and go so far, they will defeat the end in view; for, said he, as soon as individual states are told they are unequal to their own business, all is over. For if a farmer, said he, obtrudes his authority over his son, after he has entered upon a farm on his own account, and frustrates all his plans, no good, but probably much ill, will arise from this officiousness. So it is, said he, betwixt the Union and her children, the states.

With respect to the district he represented, they wanted no new regulations as to their militia laws. The law proposed, indeed, would go to cross out all the exertions of the individual states; and he hoped nothing farther would be done in it at house on the subject, than to recommend it to the several states to revise their militia laws, and to put their militia in the best possible state of defence.

Mr. Sitgreaves differed in opinion with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Baldwin) that the business might be postponed without inconvenience. He hoped the decision would not be delayed. He had his doubts on the subject; but it was desirable that a determination should be had, because those states which considered their systems as defective, waited to see what Congress would do. He knew this was particularly the case with respect to the state of Pennsylvania, and therefore he wished the subject to have an end. Understanding, however, that this plan had undergone much consideration, and was not likely to be successful, he should not say any thing more on the subject.

Mr. Harper said he wished not unnecessarily to protract the business, but he did not think it should be so lightly dispensed with. It had been the labour of two committees in two successive sessions, which consisted of men well versed in military concerns, & who had seen the defects of the present system; he thought, therefore, that a bill which had been formed with so much labour and attention, ought not to be kicked out of the house with so little ceremony. He wished gentlemen to say what they would give them in exchange for this bill. It was easy to make objections, but a substitute should be offered. Mr. H. again condemned the present system. The gentleman from Georgia had said the public voice was against this measure. He wished to know how this had been collected? the public voice, as far as he had heard it, (and he had had an opportunity of hearing it from one end of the continent to the other) was directly the contrary—for all seemed to condemn the present system.

The Gentleman from New-Jersey (Mr. Henderson) had complained that it would throw the military burden unequally upon the citizens. He believed the contrary would be the case, as every man in the course of his life would be called upon to perform his share of service. That gentleman had spoken of certain persons being exempted from service. The bill contained no such exemption; nothing but inability could exempt a man from service. The age fixed upon was a period of life before men generally entered into business; and every one passing through this military discipline, would diffuse military habits and discipline through the union, and form a nation of soldiers ready to defend their country whenever its necessity should call them. Not, he said, that the rich man should be exempted, but that all men, without exception, should be equally liable. So that every citizen would become a soldier, without which a free government could not be supported.

It had been said, if this bill were to pass, it would derange all the present military establishment. It would do no such thing, but would be grafted upon it. They were also told that volunteer corps had equipped themselves at great expence. This he did not approve, because the public defence, which should be general, fell upon volunteer corps who might be more rich or more patriotic than others. He hoped, therefore, the motion to strike out would not pass.

Mr. W. Lyman observed that the gentleman who condemned the present system in toto, allowed that it was practicable in some parts of the union, so that it could not be quite so bad as he represented it. He believed it was capable of improvement. The greatest objection to the system now in force was, that it did not fall equally upon all classes; if an improvement was made in it, in this respect, one of the greatest objections to it would be removed. In every free nation, the citizens must be ready to defend their country when in danger from attacks from without, or disturbances from within; but if the principle of a select corps was introduced, you introduce a distinct principle, which will war against the other parts of the system. In a military point of view, it was impossible he said,

to carry this principle into operation, for the moment you introduce it, you will have no other corps. He differed from the gentleman from S. Carolina (Mr. Harper) in speaking of the opinion of the people on the bill proposed; he believed they were wholly dissatisfied with it. Before this bill was committed, he would propose amendments to other parts of it.

Mr. Hartley said there were several new members in the house who had not been present at the former discussions of this subject; and he thought it best not to hurry the business, but to give a little time for these gentlemen to make themselves acquainted with the subject. If they now agreed to strike out the first section, it would put an end to the plan proposed. He believed the select corps proposed was not a new thing; there was such an establishment in Switzerland, and such a corps had frequently been under consideration in the state of Pennsylvania; but the greatest objection to it was, the great number of conscientious people in that state who refuse to bear arms. The people of the Eastern states, he said, were armed before this government was erected; but this was not the case in Pennsylvania and in the South. This select corps, he said, were to be armed at the public expence; if this difficulty was got over, he thought there would be few left. He suggested the propriety of the committee's rising, in order to give time for consideration of the subject. For his own part, he should vote for it.

Mr. Gilbert hoped the committee would rise; for he believed this subject had not been discussed during this congress, and many members were, of course, unacquainted with the business.

The motion for the committee's rising was put and carried 37 to 31.

Mr. Livingston said that there had been a committee appointed last session on the subject of improving the penal code; but for want of some necessary information, no report had been made. That information being now arrived, and doubting not, the house was still desirous of ameliorating the penal code, he should beg to lay the following resolution on the table.

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what alterations are necessary in the penal laws of the United States, and that they report by bill or otherwise." Agreed.

Mr. Gallatin presented a petition from Stephen Moylan, of this city, commissioner of loans, praying for an increase of salary.

Mr. Gallatin obtained leave of absence for ten days.

Mr. A. Foster, from the committee of enrolled bills, reported that the bill for the more effectual promulgation of the laws of the United States, was truly enrolled, and it received the signature of the speaker accordingly.

Mr. Harper enquired if it would be in order to move that the committee of the whole be discharged from a farther consideration of the militia bill; and, on being informed it was in order, he moved that it be discharged for the purpose of recommitting it to a select committee. His object was that the bill might be so modified as to stand a better chance of passing; because if this was not done, and the first section was determined to be struck out, the plan would be lost, which he thought of great importance.

After some objections urged against the motion by Mr. W. Smith, Mr. Hartley, Mr. W. Lyman, Mr. Kitchell and Mr. Heath, and in favour of it by Mr. Harper and Mr. Craik, it was put and lost.

Mr. Heath said, owing to a want of sufficient energy in the revenue laws of the United States, considerable sums of money had been lost by revenue officers, as was seen by the report from the treasury department. He thought it possible for the laws to be so amended as to prevent similar defalcations in future. For that purpose he wished the following resolution to lie on the table:

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what alterations are necessary to enforce the payment of money due from the various revenue officers of the United States." Agreed. Adjourned.

Mr. Williams's observations on the Militia Bill.

Mr. Williams said, a well regulated militia must be acknowledged as the best support in a free republic; and as every man must be interested in carrying into effect such a system, it became us to pay every possible attention to this very important subject. He thought the present system very exceptionable; and the one proposed and now under consideration, appeared to him compulsive, arbitrary, and not agreeable to the spirit of a republican government. The annual encampments would be very expensive and injurious to morals and industry. The regiments thus composed would extend over a great surface, and would want that compact solidity which military corps should possess. In the bill, all (except those exempted) between 20 and 25 years of age, are to do duty. This was a period, he said, that the purest morals ought to be inculcated in youth, instead of which we might reasonably expect that a greater part of them would in consequence of their being encamped, imbibe immoral principles, which would be exceedingly difficult to remove. Besides, this is a period that young men take upon themselves an active part in life, and begin the world for themselves.

As the clause now read, the public must be at a very great expence, such as in our present circumstances, we are unable to bear. To agree to the first clause would be legislating in the dark, as it was impossible to know what number of citizens there were within that age, and of course we cannot form an estimate of the expences. If such a system was to take place, he said, we ought to have been furnished with the number as near as circumstances would admit. But as a gentleman observed the other day, that before gentlemen negatived the present mode, they would do well to propose a better, Mr. W. said, he was of opinion, that a legionary system would not only be far preferable to the one under consideration, but more agreeable to the minds of the people; fully as efficient, and would call for little aid from the public.

A legion, he said, was the most efficient corps in every point of view. A select legion might easily

be formed from every brigade of militia, agreeably to a certain rule of appointment which should be fixed by law. Most brigades could form one troop of horse, one company of artillery and a battalion of infantry. The regiments which compose this brigade of reserved militia should be divided into infantry, cavalry and artillery classes. These classes should be determined by lot, or by the arrangement of the commandant of the brigade. Every regiment should furnish a certain proportion of infantry, artificers and cavalry. The classes should be obliged to furnish the men for these corps completely equipped with arms and accoutrements, with a military hat or cap, with a coat, and a pair of overalls. The classes which furnished these legionary soldiers to be exempted from the present military regulations. They shall be denominated the Reserved Corps, and shall only meet on the regimental parade once in three years, to be inspected and to recruit the legion. The classes, in case of desertion or expulsion, should be obligated, by pecuniary penalties, to replace the man who deserts or is expelled.—If the classes refuse to raise the men directed by law, or the by-orders of a superior officer, every individual of such class should be fined with severity.

The term of the legionary enlistment to be for years. During their service in the legion they might be exempted from all works on the road—from all civil duties as jurors, and from personal tax. Every three years of service to be distinguished by some honorary badge, and that period of service to exempt the legionary soldier from all military duties except when the country was in danger.

The legionary soldier, when his time expires, to receive a military diploma, expressive of his patriotism and attachment to law and order.—The legionary cavalry and infantry to be inspected and exercised in squads convenient to their residence times in the year by the legionary adjutant, who should be liberally rewarded by government for his military services. The artillery should be encamped days, and should be exercised and inspected by some able artillery officer in each division. This service to consist in practical experiments, and government should provide for this expence. This corps to be entitled to a superiority in point of pay, and military honor.

The legions of each state to be inspected yearly by the adjutant-general of each state, whose rank and emoluments should be respectable. He should make yearly reports of the legionary corps, of the legionary adjutants, and of the defects of the law, to the commander in chief of the state, and to the secretary of war. He should be responsible for the good appearance and discipline of the legion, and therefore every legionary adjutant should be recommended or appointed by him. The first day the artillery should be inspected, the second day the cavalry, the third day the infantry, and the fourth day the legion should be exercised in mock engagements. The officers and soldiers of the legion to receive a compensation for loss of time.

In order to accomplish a uniformity in arms, government might furnish them, and charge them to the classes at first cost. He believed most of the states could furnish the legion with arms.

The legion should bear the name of the county or brigade district, and should be officered in the first instance from the present officers of the militia. The brigadier-general of the reserved corps should always command the legion, and superior encouragement should be given to the non-commissioned officers. The brigadier-general to be responsible for the raising of the legion, to apportion the requisition to each regiment, and the commandant of each regiment to apportion the requisition to each company. Any neglect or disobedience of orders to be punished with severity.

The penalties of non-attendance and other offences would deserve consideration. He believed no system would be efficient, if the fines were not given to the officers commanding the companies, for their use and equipment, and no system will be so just as to determine every species of guilt by a court martial.

The court members should receive the same pay as if on any other duty.

When the legion was collected, to be subject to the articles of war, except as to corporal punishment. It would be best to arrange a system for the legion, from the annual reports of the adjutant-general to the secretary of war, who should report annually the defects of the law.

Mr. Williams said, it appeared to him that there was a certain proportion of our citizens better calculated and more disposed for military duty than others. The principles here laid down would give them an opportunity to distinguish themselves according to their genius; but in the clause in the bill before them, all were to be considered as forming the militia, let their genius or abilities be ever so much at variance with the service. Of what use could it be, said Mr. W. to discipline men who disliked the service? In his opinion, it was only a loss of time.

Mr. W. concluded by saying, that he had thrown these ideas together, and submitted them to the consideration of the house. They appear to him to obviate many objections which had been urged against the bill before them, and to remedy existing evils. The house would perhaps think differently; if so, they would of course reject them. He should at all events vote for striking out the first section of the bill before them.

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. FENNO,

I HAVE just returned from a rational and elegant entertainment, in which my feelings have been so overpowered with enjoyment, that I am impelled to express the delightful impressions I received, and which still remain upon my mind. I attended this evening, with a numerous and respectable audience, at Mr. Fennell's first "moral, critical, and entertaining reading," delivered in the Hall of the University, with the common expectation of entertainment, which novelty generally excites; but those expectations were so greatly exceeded by the varied, exquisite, and refined pleasure, which, with the rest of the audience, I received, in the course