THE new Opera of INKLE and YARICO, which was performed at our Theatre on on Tue day laft, is the production of Mr. Coleman, jun. and founded on a flory in Lignus account of Barbadges, related in the Spectator.

Were this piece chamined with the feverity of criticifm, it would, in many refpects, be found defective; at the fame time it poffelles *beauties* to compendate for those defects.—The original flory never failed to interest and affect—and the alterations and additional charafters for the flage being well 'adapted, aid the fuccels of its reprefentation. It was observable that great attention had been päid in preparing it for exhibition : the feenery was well chosen and dexteroully managed; 'nor were the performers (as is fometimes the cafe in a new piece) deficient in their parts?

Mr. Rowe's Sir Christopher was in his utual fille; his command of features is very confiderable; and his manner lof uting it always juft. Mr. 'Remington's Inkle was by no means unpleating.—Mr. Tyrell in Campley' could not offend. Mr. Lynch's Trudge afforded much entertainment, but his abilities are better adapted, to the characters of Darby, Pady Drifcol, &c.

Mrs. Freeman's Yaricp was affecting—in the laft fcenel particularly fo. Mifs Hofkin gave but a very faint colouring to Narcisfa, the way too languid; a point in which the is fometimes defective.

Mrs. Chalmers always appears to enter into the fpirit of her character; a circumflance to which every performer, who withes to arrive at excellence, thould be particularly attentive.—In Wowfkie her fuperiority was evident; her manner:pleating and fpirited, and her drefs fuch as to ftrike the fpectators with its charactereftic propriety. DRAMATICUS.

#### Belfast Newsletter, 26 Dec 1788:

The new Opera of Inkle and Yarico, which was performed at our Theatre on Tuesday last, is the production of Mr. Coleman, jun. and founded on a story in *Ligous* account of *Barbadoes*, related in the *Spectator*.

Were this piece examined with the severity of criticism, it would, in many respects, be found defective; at the same time it possesses *beauties* to compensate for those defects.— The original story never failed to interest and affect—and the alterations and additional characters for the stage being well adapted, aid the success of its presentation. It was observable that great attention had been paid in preparing it for exhibition: the scenery was well chosen and dextrously managed; nor were the performers (as is sometimes the case in a new piece) deficient in their parts.

Mr. Rowe's Sir Christopher was in his usual stile; his command of features is very considerable, and his manner of using it always just. Mr. Remington's Inkle, was by no means unpleasing.—Mr. Tyrell in Campley could not offend. Mr. Lynch's Trudge afforded much entertainment, but his abilities are better adapted, to the characters of Darby, Pady Driscol, &c.

Mrs. Freeman's Yarico was affecting—in the last scene particularly so. **Miss Hoskin** gave a very faint colouring to Narcissa, she was too languid; a point in which she is sometimes defective.

Mrs. Chalmers always appears to enter into the spirit of her character; a circumstance to which every performer, who wishes to arrive at excellence, should be particularly attentive. In Wowskie her superiority was evident; her manner pleasing and spirited, and her dress such as to strike the spectators with its characteristic propriety.

Dramaticus.

## THEATRE.

On Monday evening the tragedy of HAMLET was performed in the Belfatt Theatre with much and merited approbation. Mr. May, in the principal character, entered to well into the fpiri; of his great Author, as to give realonable hope that he will one day arrive at very confiderable eminence in his prote lion. His action was just, easy, and elegant,—his voice dirtinct and harmonious. He never funk below mediocrity, and in many paffages the most rigid criticism would not have called his dramatic genius in queftion.

Mrs. Coates, in Ophelia, both before and in her madnefs, acquitted herfelf with fingular propriety.

The old Court-Sycophant appeared with its usual advantage in the perion of Rowe : tho' we had to regret his omiffion of the excellent advice of Polonius to Laertes.

A better Ghoft has feldom appeared upon any flage: it might perhaps have been improved by Mr. Stewart's whining lets in tome of the leaft impaffioned of the Poet's lines; in thole which alluded to \* the fecrets of his priton houfe' it was impofible to withhold applaufe.

In thort, excepting those nights in which we have feen a Siddons, Holman, and Brunton, we don't recollect the time when the Tragic Mule afforded more rational entertainment in this theatre.

### THEATRE.

Mr. May, in his fecond appearance on Friday last in Hamlet (for his own benefit) did not forfeit the encomium on his former performance of that character. The reccipt of the house was  $f_{c}69$  3s. Irifh. Tho' rising merit, fuch as Mr. May's, in that favourite play of Shakespeare, defersed the reception it met with, we cannot avoid taking this opportunity of recommending it to the humane inh-bitants of Bellast to shew at least on equal zeal in promoting a benefit which, we hear, is within a few days to be given

# Belfast Newsletter, 9 Nov 1790: Theatre.

On Monday evening the tragedy of Hamlet was performed in the Belfast Theatre with much and merited approbation. **Mr. May**, in the principal character, entered so well into the spirit of his great author, as to give reasonable hope that he will one day arrive at very considerable eminence in his profession. His action was just, easy, and elegant,—his voice distinct and harmonious. He never sunk below mediocrity, and in many passages the most rigid criticism would not have called his dramatic genius in question.

Mrs. Coates, in Ophelia, both before and in her madness, acquitted herself with singular propriety.

The old Court-Sycophant appeared with its usual advantage in the person of Rowe: tho' we had to regret his omission of the excellent advice of Polonius to Laertes.

A better Ghost has seldom appeared upon any stage; it might perhaps have been improved by Mr. Stewart's whining less in some of the least impassioned of the Poet's lines; in those which alluded to 'the secrets of his prison house' it was impossible to withhold applause.

In short, excepting those nights in which we have seen a Siddons, Holman, and Brunton, we don't recollect the time when the Tragic Muse afforded more rational entertainment in this theatre.

### Belfast Newsletter, 28 Jan 1791:

Belfast, February 1. Theatre.

**Mr. May**, in his second appearance on Friday last in Hamlet (for his own benefit) did not forfeit the encomium on his former performance of that character. The receipt of the house was £69 3s. Irish. Tho' rising merit, such as Mr. May's, in that favourite play of Shakespeare, deserved the reception it met with, we cannot avoid taking this opportunity of recommending it to the humane inhabitants of Belfast to shew at least an equal zeal in promoting a benefit which, we hear, is within a few days to be given.

### THEATRE

On Monday evening laft was performed at this Theatre the comedy of the "Sufpicious Hufband." It muft be allowed in juffice to Mr. May, that his "Ranger" was an excellent performance ; he fupported the part of the rakifi Templar with an uncommon degree of animation, and feemed quite at home in that difficult character. Mrs. Coates, also, in Clarinda, well deferved those frequent plaudits which burk from a numerous audience : her manner, drefs, and elegant figure were perfectly well adapted to Ranger's Merry Coz. Mr. May and Mrs. Coates as performers, are well worthy the attention of the polite audiences of Belfaft ; yet if we may judge from the bad attendance on the theatre, they do not always meet with that degree of public favour which their excellence to well mer 't.

Benaft, 5th Jan. 1791.

B.

## *Belfast Newsletter, 3 Jan 1792:* Theatre.

On Monday evening last was performed at this theatre the comedy of the "Suspicious Husband." It must be allowed in justice to **Mr. May**, that his "Ranger" was an excellent performance; he supported the part of the rakish Templar with an uncommon degree of animation, and seemed quite at home in that difficult character. Mrs. Coates, also, in Clarinda, well deserved those frequent plaudits which burst from a numerous audience; her manner, dress, and elegant figure were perfectly well adapted to Ranger's Merry Coz. **Mr. May** and Mrs. Coates as performers, are well worthy the attention of the polite audiences of Belfast; yet if we may judge from the bad attendance on the theatre, they do not always meet with that degree of public favour which their excellence so well merits. Belfast, 5th Jan. 1792.