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**Author**

Burwick, Frederick

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no.15 [ Journal 12 ]

**September 28, 1805-May 31, 1806.**

[ 18. October. 1805 ] Dryburgh

... Mr. & Mrs. Erskine called on them & asked them to their country house. Henry Erskine Jr. went with them to the plays &c. They saw only 2: Hamlet & Orestes were the parts played by the Young Roscius, who was as exquisite as ever, but A. Robson is afraid of the color in his face & thinks it hectic.

We had a very pleasant day at Dryburgh & were quite a free easy family party. -- Dinner, tea, cards, & supper -- & a great deal of lively talk.

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[ 9. November. 1805 ] Kelso

Got up at before 7. Paid my Men their 5/ each, and then drest, breakfasted at near 9. At 1/2 past 9, we paraded: -- but during breakfast the mail arrived; yesterday and the day before had brought bad accounts from Germany, where the French carry all before them. The Austrian General Mack is a prisoner & the army all killed or taken -- but today all at once & very unexpected arrived undoubted intelligence of Lord Nelson having fought the French & Spanish fleets near Cadiz -- his force only 27 smaller against 33 larger -- he took & destroyed

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19 sail of the line, and the Admiral (Villeneuve) is taken prisoner -- but alas! dearly is the Victory bought. Nelson was killed by a shot from the maintop of a ship after almost all the action was over.

I could not help being almost in tears for him!

At 10 we marched to the field, where Sir John made a speech to the Volunteers & alluded to the victory & Nelson's Death -- 3 times 3 Cheers were given with a mixture of joy & sorrow. We had no powder so did not fire. We were reviewed by Gen'l Dickson & then inspected by Col. Macmurdo. My Men were half of them sent off after the inspection to the West.

& I marched with the rest to Kelso where they were dismissed.

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[ 12. December. 1805 ]      Edinburgh

...Met Mosman who has been here some time. Walked with him, Capt. Renton, Lord Elphinstone -- We 4 went to see Bridewell: which is a large & well contrived stone building on the side of the Calton Hill. We went all thro' it. It is most admirably arranged -- well aired & well heated: and very comfortable. They are kept in silent work in separate small rooms, with grated rails of iron -- all these look into the chapel which is lighted from above by a skylight. They sit & spin all day, & at night they are locked into separate cells each with a little window to the open air

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and with a most comfortable & well arranged bed. They are well clothed & fed, but have no communication with each other by speech & only see each other in the day time. It is remarkably clean & neat & well arranged -- but it is impossible to avoid pitying the poor creatures doomed day after day for months & years to solitary confinement and hard labour.

[ 22. January. 1806 ] Sunnyside

Waldie: XII, 140

... Rode over to Sunnyside where had a kind reception from Mr. & Mrs. Maude ... after tea I went to the play with the 3 Ladies. -- The theatre is decent, & we had good places.

XII, 141

Saw Capt. Hodgson, Mr. T. Robson, & one or two more I knew. -- It was Kemble's Benefit. -- The company is almost entirely new since last winter. As you like it was the play. Jacques, Mr. Kemble -- Rosalind, Mrs. Kemble -- Touchstone, Mr. Brown, a coarse poor actor but easy & of some humor -- Audrey, Miss Manepier, very comical & an excellent figure for old ladies -- I dare say she will turn out well. Celia, Mrs. Carleton, a terrible disagreeable creature. Amiens, Mrs. Warwick, makes queer faces in singing, but has a sweet voice & sings well tho' rather frightened. Oliver, Mr. J. Faulknor, poor. Orlando, Mr. Barry, a very elegant but rather tame & effeminate man, but graceful & has much feeling -- a great acquisition. Adam, Faulkner -- his talents are in a different line but he played it very well: -- he has feeling. On the whole it went off extremely well.

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A foolish interlude followed, & after that the laughable farce of the Weathercock. Old Fickle, Bellamy, an actor by no means without humor. Tristram Fickle, whose changes are the life of the piece, was played with great spirit, but not with too much extravagance, by Faulkner, who, tho' not goodlooking, is a more gentlemanly actor than Betterton. Briefwit, the counsellor, by Terry was most admirably dressed & given with great force -- it was truly comic. A charming little woman who sings beautifully & plays with great taste & spirit, played Variella -- her name is Forbes, & she is both a charming singer & very animated, but being young & new to the stage is not quite perfect in the routine of the stage.

[ 17. February. 1806 ] Newcastle

... The Boxes were very full & Gallery also -- pit but poor. There was probably £80. -- by desire of Mr. Mayor. -- The Merry Wives of Windsor, which was well acted -- Slender, Mr. Brown -- Falstaff, Kemble -- Ford, Faulknor -- Page, J. Faulknor -- Sir Hugh, Chamberlain -- Caius, Wilkinson -- Fenton, Barry -- Bardolph, Terry -- Nym, Lindoe -- Mrs. Page, Mrs. Warwick -- Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Kemble -- & Mrs. Quickly, Miss Manepier -- Shallow, by Bellamy --

XII, 181[a]

Kemble, as I have complained before, has no subtlety in his representation of Falstaff, but as less is called for here, his pompous rant & foolery was well in part, and he managed more variety than usual. In the concluding scene, he gave "Now, the hot-blooded gods assist me! Remember, Jove" in a truly comic declamatory style -- his "Divide me like a bribe buck, each a haunch" was all a quiver with anticipation -- but his ridiculous mincing & wincing when surrounded by the chorus of fairies was Kemble's best, and a perfectly laughable & grotesque anti-masque.

XII, 182

Love laughs at Locksmiths the farce -- Mrs. Forbes sung & acted very prettily in Lydia. She sung Old Fowler capitally. Vigil, Bellamy -- Risk, Brown -- Totterton, Chamberlain -- Beldare, J. Faulkner -- Solomon Lob, Pritchard. On the whole they got thro' it better than I expected -- & both play & farce went off well.

[ 19. February. 1806 ]

... I went off at 1/2 past 7 to see Mr. Barry in Hassan, Mr. Eyre (from Bath) in Osmond, & Miss Logan from Liverpool in Angela --

XII, 187

... Barry played Hassan in a most admirable manner, & Eyre appeared to great advantage in Osmond. He is rather too puffing and his countenance is heavy: but he has very good ideas of acting & for the terrible parts is well adapted. Miss Logan is an elegant figure & speaks very well, but is not handsome & her action is a little affected. She has feeling & will be an acquisition in sentimental parts. --: but these 2 last appear to great disadvantage after Roscius in Osmond, & Mrs. Kemble in Angela.

[ 21. February. 1806 ]

... to the play at 7. -- It was Lady Collingwood's bespeak -- excellent house, £100. ...

The play was Know your own mind. Millamour, Mr. Chalmers, who is rather vulgar, but humorous & clever. Faulkner played Dashwould very well -- as did Eyre play Malvil.

XII, 190

Bellamy was very well in Old Bygrove -- & Barry middling in Sir Harry which does not suit him -- Mrs. Kemble in excellent spirits in Lady Bell, and acted charmingly. A Mrs. Pitt, disagreeable, acted Lady Jane -- Mrs. Bromley, Miss Manepier, coarse -- & Miss Neville by V. de Camp was very well (if only she was prettier & not so afraid).

After the play -- The Nation's Tears -- a beautiful thing in compliment to Lord Collingwood & to commemorate the Trafalgar victory. -- Mrs. Kemble spoke a Monody to Nelson & encomium on Collingwood so well as to make me cry completely. -- The Scenery was beautiful.

The Weathercock was the farce. Mrs. Kemble played Variella charmingly, tho' she was rather out of tune sometimes in the songs. I never saw her exert herself more or with greater success.

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Faulknor in Tristram was excellent -- & Brown in Sneer very well -- also Bellamy in Old Fickle, but Terry in Briefwit is inimitable.



[ 3. March. 1806 ]

... Went to the play. As you like it and Catherine & Petruchio -- by desire of the officers of the 21<sup>st</sup> -- Mrs. Kemble was charming in Rosalind. I never saw her to more advantage, especially where she speaks like a saucy lackey & plays the knave -- she really grows younger daily. The rest went off pretty well. Faulkner played Jaques tolerably, but there is a great sameness in his manner. Celia by Mrs. Pitt was poor -- flat & lifeless where she should be gay & jesting -- slow in her supporting lines with Rosalind.

In the farce, Petruchio by Faulkner was noisy but not spirited. -- Catherine by Miss Logan was far superior. I never saw it better played. In violent tragedy she will be admirable.

Sat with Lady Collingwood, Blacket, Griffith, my sisters, & the Herons, Cuthberts &c. Very pleasant evg -- the audience genteel -- about £50.

XII, 221

[ 12. March. 1806 ]

... Went to the play, as did Maria & Charlotte, who spent the afternoon at Ince O's. Mrs. Sheriff's bespeak -- very good boxes. Above £50.)...

The Heir at law -- Brown good in Zekiel -- Mrs. Kemble in Cicely -- Bellamy an excellent Lord Duberly -- Chalmers capital in Dr. Pangloss. He has much humour. Stedfast, Eyre -- Kenrick, Wilkinson -- Henry by Mr. J. Faulkner very poor -- also Dick by Faulkner, stupid -- Lady Duberly decent by Miss Manepier, but Caroline very bad by Mrs. Pitt. Miss Logan & Barry should have played Caroline & Henry. The play would then have been well got up.

[ 17. March. 1806 ]

Got up soon after 8. Practiced &c. Called on Griffith -- and walked about with him near 2 hours. This being St. Patrick's day, he had decorated his hat with a bit of shamrock -- & was going to celebrate it with his countryman, Colonel Rawdon. -- Walked with B. Plunket, who was also a 1'Irlandaise.

In the evg. went to the play, where met B. Plunket, Kit Blacket, John Clarke, &c. &c. The Clandestine Marriage, which on the whole was well acted. Fanny, Mrs. Kemble, charming -- Lovewell, Faulknor, stupid -- Sir John Melvil by Eyre, very well -- Canton by Wilkinson, overdone -- Lord Ogilby by Chalmers, good, but too great a contrast of strength & weakness in some parts. Sterling, Bellamy, decent -- Mrs. Heidelberg, Miss Manepier, poor -- but Miss Sterling by Miss Logan excellent. The company brought off the excitement & intrigue of the first act well enough, but there was certainly a lull in the second, where most of the wit & jesting fell flat -- the players seemed half-bored (the audience made up the other half). Act 3 picked up a bit; and the last 2 were sprightly enough to redeem the dulled pleasure -- the Garden Scene in the 4th Act was done with perfect precision of comic confusion.

The Tale of Mystery the farce -- Bornaldie, Faulknor, stupid -- Selina, Miss Logan, dull -- Nothing could be more dull or stupid -- the play went off extremely well & the farce as ill.

[ 19. March. 1806 ]

... Went to the play where met Griffith & Blacket. Thin house. The Regent -- most interesting tragedy. Mrs. Kemble charming in Dianora -- her distress in the last 2 acts is dreadful. Faulkner gave a wretched picture of the bloody Manuel -- he was cold, stupid, inanimate. Terry in Gomez was highly interesting & affecting. He played it admirably.

XII, 230

Barry looked well in Ansaldo, being richly dressed -- but there is a degree of effeminacy about him -- however in the quiet reflective part of Ansaldo he appeared to great advantage -- on the whole, tho' tame in some parts -- Solerno, Mr. Eyre -- Paula, Mrs. Pitt.

XII, 256

[ 11. April. 1806 ]

... Yesterday was at a Meeting of the Theatre -- where the Committee was chose for next year -- I am not one again -- being so much away.

The Proprietor's night is fixed for the 21<sup>st</sup> -- Wife of 2 Husbands & Youth, Love, & Folly.

XII, 258

[ 12. April. 1806 ]

... Went to the play -- ticket night -- sent servants. Good gallery -- rest thin. Grecian Daughter: it was very ill acted. Faulkner tolerable in some parts of Enander. Barry most beautifully dressed as Phocion. Pritchard execrable as Philotas & Eyre little better as Dionysius. His tragedy is horribly bad. Miss Logan exerted herself in Euphrasia, but she has not much power over the feelings. -- I prefer her in comedy.

[ 23. April. 1806 ] London

I went to the play after dinner to Covent Garden Theatre. It was King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> revived. I got a good place in the pit, tho' it was very full.

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King Henry, Mr. Pope

Buckingham, Mr. H. Johnston

Cranmer, Mr. Murray

Gardiner, Mr. Blanchard

Campeius, Mr. Hull

Lord Sands, Mr. Simmons

Norfolk, Mr. Farley

Cardinal Wolsey, Mr. Kemble

Lady Denny, Mrs. Davenport

Ann Boleyn, Miss Brunton

Queen Catherine, Mrs. Siddons

-- got up with amazing splendor. The Banquet of Wolsey -- the procession of Buckingham's death -- the Trial & death of Catherine & the christening of Elizabeth -- were most exquisitely beautiful: -- but no words can do justice to Mrs. Siddons in the Trial Scene. She was truly grand & affecting. I shall never forget it -- she moves with humble dignity across the stage, kneels at the King's feet, raises her eyes to his -- all amidst a prolonged hush. She speaks, first trembling & sobbing, as she appeals for right & justice or pity, but then with the words "Alas, sir, in what have I offended you" her voice raises in pitch & haltingly she declares in anguish her innocence, obedience, & devotion -- & as if excited by her own proud image of her wise and prudent prince, her voice rings in tearful praise, only to drop abruptly to a piteous plea. Yet her tears turn indeed to sparks of fire, when she turns in accusation on Wolsey: "You are mine enemy --

You shall not be my judge!" Kemble was admirable in Wolsey -- I never saw him to greater advantage. H. Johnston was most affecting in Buckingham. The venerable Hull looked well in Campeius.

XII, 281

Miss Brunton was beautifully drest in Ann Boleyn -- & Pope potrayed the passionate Henry admirably. Murray was very well in Cranmer. -- In short, the play was most inimitably got up -- but it is Mrs. Siddons & Kemble who are the life of it. She I shall never forget.

The farce of the Quaker followed -- in which I as well as the rest of the house was ready to die with laughing at Liston in Solomon. He is as comic as ever. -- Taylor is much improved. He sung well in Lubin -- as did Incedon in Steady. Floretta by a Mrs. Mayerum was poor. Mrs. Atkins has quite recovered her health & looks & voice. She sung most sweetly in Gillian -- & looked very pretty. Her mouth is the prettiest I ever saw.

XII, 282

[ 24. April. 1806 ]

... William & I called on J. Chatto after dinner. They walked home with me & went to the German Theatre. I dressed

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and went to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Weichsell & Ferrari's concert, at the Great Room in the Opera House. It was very full & most elegantly filled. About 800. I sat a great part of the evg. with Major & the Miss Mackenzies. They pleasant as ever. -- The music was delightful. An apology was made for Mr. Weichsell's non-attendance, as his wife died only a few days ago. Mr. Mountain led the band most ably, and Mr. Ashe played a flute concerto

most admirably -- far the best I ever heard -- he is most astonishingly improved. It was exquisite -- bu the duet "For thee I live" -- from Artaxerxes by Mrs. Billington & Mrs. Mountain, Braham's grand bravura, & his duet with Billington were inimitable. Imagination can form no idea of any thing so delightful -- the duet of Braham & Billington was encored & the second time was rapture.

XII, 284

A Grand Sinfonia by Beethoven began the second act -- it was beautiful -- & Mrs. Billington's bravura was beyond conception exquisite. It was exactly an instrument, but with all the taste & feeling possible. No description can give any idea of her tones & execution. She & Mrs. Ferrari then played a beautiful duet concerto on 2 piano fortes. Miss Griglietti is a very sweet looking girl and sung very prettily -- but her voice is thin in some parts. Lindley & Dragonetti played a duet on violin-cello & double bass -- the execution of both was astonishing. The last Terzetto by Morelli, Griglietti, & Billington was most delicious harmony. It was altogether the finest music I ever heard.

XII, 285

[ 25. April. 1806 ]

... Called at Miss Pope's. Saw Miss Susan, Miss Jane, & Mr. Pope. Miss P. was gone to the theatre.

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They were very glad to see me. ... After dinner left them & went to the play at Drury Lane. By a lucky chance, tho' late for the Pit, I espied my old friend Scotland & his friend Arthur Shakespeare -- they made room for me in an excellent place. Scotland & I had much chat. -- The play, Love for Love -- which

I never saw before -- some scenes of it are capital: Elliston in Valentine, Mathews in Foresight, Palmer in Tattle, Downton in Sir Sampson Legend, Bannister in Ben, Miss Pope in Mrs. Frail, Miss Duncan in Angelica were capital -- but nothing can do justice to Mrs. Jordan in Miss Prue -- her natural good humour & hoydenish airs are so diverting that I thought I should have died with laughing. It is exactly the Country Girl -- the play is good but certainly the 5th act is heavy.

XII, 287

The Grand Spectacle of the Forty Thieves followed. It is the dullest thing I ever saw in point of story -- Miss De Camp in Morgiana the slave has one charming scene. She looks & acts divinely & sings with great feeling -- a duet by her & Mrs. Bland is beautiful -- but the music on the whole is poor. Mrs. Bland in Cogia -- Mrs. Mathews in Lelia -- Mrs. Dormer in Cassim's wife -- Siddons in Abdallah -- De Camp in Hasencar, Mathews in the Cobbler, Kelly in Ganem, &c., did as much as possible -- but Bannister in the Woodman is the life of the piece. He & Miss De Camp support it. The Scenery is profusely splendid & in general very beautiful. It is deficient in interest, but the Robbers, dancing girls, &c., and all the dresses & scenery have a grand effect. -- The house was crammed. Got home at near 12.

[ 26. April. 1806 ]

... called & sat a long time at Miss Pope's. She as chatty as ever -- charming woman. Heard a long history of a quarrel last night between Barrymore & Elliston -- which was amusing enough. ... I staid tea & went to the German Theatre at 1/2 past 7. Saw Lovers' Quarrels -- by the English children, which was wretchedly done -- Master Herbert, Carlos, is a very fine boy -- is very

XII, 289

graceful & has a look of Roscius.

The German opera of The Three Suitors followed -- charmingly acted in German with the greatest spirit & humour, & quite perfect -- a very different performance to the English. Frederic Schirmer in the Schoolmaster was admirable, as was Gleissner in the Farmer, & Albert Schirmer in the Lover, Michel. Miss Schirmer is a good figure, but sings ill -- the rest all sung well & they keep time most inimitably -- the music is beautiful -- but Miss Schirmer sings wretchedly out of tune, tho' they all keep their parts most exact.

Miss in her teens followed. Miss Mudie played Fribble -- nothing could be worse -- but of course it is not a part fit for her -- in no part however could she excel, or come near the merit of Roscius. -- It was very poor.

XII, 290

The Germans far outdo the English -- their acting is admirably humorous, lively, & appropriate, and quite perfect & makes a complete ensemble -- & their music is beautiful -- & the singing admirable in point of time, tho' deficient in execution & voice. -- The Theatre is neat but small. It was well filled. It was formerly Dibdin's.



After Miss in her teens was an exhibition of aerial figures, dancing -- very beautiful -- something like the Phantasmagoria. The effect of it was most pleasing indeed. -- Altogether I was well amused.

Got home at 11 & to bed at 12.

Got a great deal of new Music & hired a piano today from Broadwoods, so shall begin to sing again if I have not got cold which I suspect.

XII, 294

[ 30. April. 1806 ]

Got up soon after 8. Practiced. Went to various places. Called & sat an hour at Miss Pope's. Went down to the city. Sat a while with J. Chatto. Dined at Phillips & Davidsons -- 4 milliners & their own large party. After dinner I went to see the Cabinet at Drury Lane -- for the benefit of Mrs. Mountain. House as full as it could hold -- a squeeze going into the pit -- but not much. Got a most excellent place. -- It was not altogether so well done as at Covent Garden formerly. Mrs. Mountain looked lovely in Constantia & sung divinely. Storace as playful as ever & lively in Floretta -- her songs suit her exactly. Mrs. Dormer much inferior to Mrs. Mattocks in Curiosa -- & Gibbon has not powers of voice for Lorenzo. Bannister was excellent in Whimsiculo, but certainly inferior to Fawcett -- the other parts were far inferior to Covent G.

XII, 295

Peter by Dowton -- Marquis by Mathews -- & Count by Wewitzer. But Braham was the attraction. I never heard him sing so admirably as he did The Beautiful Maid, the Pollacca, & the Bird Duet -- also a duet with Mrs. Mountain & Young Henry which were introduced. It was exquisite. His Pollacca is certainly the

chef d'oeuvre of vocal art -- such a swell, such spirit, such command of voice, & such exquisite rapidity of chromatic passages. Mrs. Mountain sung Blackeyed Susan after the play in a most charming style. Altogether it was a high musical treat.

The farce of the Honest Thieves followed, which was far from being well acted -- Mathews very well in Abel & Miss Mellon in Ruth -- but Downton in Obadiah very inferior to Liston. Johnstone admirable in Teague, which suits him exactly.

XII, 296

[ 1. May. 1806 ]

This is my Birthday and completes the 25th year of my age. I enter into my 26th year. How short the immense time of 25 years appears. I can hardly believe I have lived so long. I wish I may have live for any good -- but I hope for not much harm. ...

In the evening went to a party at Mrs. & Miss Rawlinson's.

XII, 297

... The great attraction to me was Mr. Elliston's reading. He read some scenes from Henry the 5th and some from King John most inimitably. I was delighted with his manner of reading, which was at once acting & reading -- & with the greatest spirit & feeling & animation. His manners & conversation uncommonly gentlemanly & modest. We had much theatrical converse.

XII, 298

He & I sung after supper -- & after I had handed the ladies to their coaches, we walked together as far as the Haymarket. He told me all the history of the quarrel with Barrymore last Friday evening during Love for Love: -- in which he was very ill used, but it is to be settled somehow as soon as Barrymore comes out -- he is confined at home by a death in the family. We had a great deal of theatrical conversation of various

sorts. He would like to have the Theatre at Newcastle if Kemble give it up. I hope I shall have the pleasure of keeping up his acquaintance, which is certainly pleasant, as his manners and information are very superior -- and he does not affect either the distant or familiar style, which are both so common among theatrical people.

Got home at 1 & to bed soon after.

[ 3. May. 1806 ]

... After dinner I went to see the Travellers at Drury Lane. The 26<sup>th</sup> Night of it, very full house. Got a good place in the pit.

XII, 304

As I have the play, I shall not write down its Dram. Pers. The Scenery is lovely & some parts of the music very fine, tho' it is not like Storace's. It is far superior as a spectacle to the Forty Thieves and much better as a play. Elliston & Mrs. Mountain are excellent, also Braham, Storace, Mathews, Johnstone & Mrs. Powell -- & Downton & Bannister. Altogether it is admirably acted. Mrs. Mountain was in most exquisite voice. She sung enchantingly. Braham had got a cold & did not sing so well as I have heard him.

... The dancing of the Divertisement by Parisot & Mrs. Sharp is exquisite. I again admired Parisot's Shawl dance.

The New Piece of the Invisible Girl in one act is played

XII, 305

entirely by Bannister, who in the person of Capt. All Clack assumes various curious disguises to cheat an old Baronet out of his daughter. He appears as a Jew, a Fop, & an old woman, & first & last as All Clack -- & he runs on with such an incessant volubility, that he does not cease until the curtain drops, and none of the rest ever get in a word: till the last line of the Finale. Mrs. Bland as the Invisible Girl never appears, but sings 2 songs at the wing, which is the only respite from chattering Bannister has during the whole piece. He played admirably well & I was highly amused both with play & farce.

[ 5. May. 1806 ]

... We went to the play at 6. Elliston's benefit at Drury Lane. ... The house crowded indeed, as full as Mrs. Mountain's. Play went off most capitally. I never saw Elliston & Miss Duncan to such advantage. Poor Collins was missed in Jaques. He died only yesterday. Downton played it very ill -- quite out of his line -- but they were all in such spirits that it went off admirably well.

XII, 310

After the play I went behind the scenes to speak to Mr. Elliston. I found him in his dressing-room; -- already dressed for the farce. Had a good deal of talk -- he very civilly took me up to Mr. Sheridan's box, 2 pair above the stage door, which some of his friends had for the night. I staid there during the dance of Terpsichore's return; and then descended. At the wing I met Jane Pope & had some talk with her & Elliston &c. Went round to my party when the farce began. The Three & the Deuce, in which Elliston pretends to be 3 brothers & personates their different dress & characters with remarkable degree of contrasting delineation in speech & gesture. It shews him off to great advantage, & is a very lively thing, tho' not much in it. The music is extremely pretty. We saw the Ladies to their carriages after a delightful evening indeed.

XII, 312

[ 6. May. 1806 ]

... Mr. Taylor sent me a polite card with an order for the opera for this or any Tuesday, & also offered me Winter theatre orders. Mrs. Dalrymple had sent me an ivory ticket so I kept my paper order for next Tuesday. -- Went to the opera -- scraped up my old acquaintance with Lord Galloway. -- It was thin: but soon became very full & looked as beautiful

Le due Nozze a un sol manito -- a comic opera by Guglielmi -- beautiful music indeed -- some parts of it most delicious. Signor Naldi is the great attraction of this opera. He plays a countryman -- most admirably.

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He is very ugly, has much humour, & is a capital buffo: He is a complete musician & evidently understands every note. His manner is very amusing & some of his turns unexpectedly beautiful -- but there is a want of steadiness in his notes -- he never sings sostenuto but constantly changes notes -- & his voice which is a fine bass has so very low a falsetto that the change seems from a drum to a whisper: they are not connected, & almost all his diversions are done in the false voice;-- but he is altogether very pleasant & his song of Che Sa is delivered with admirable effect -- also a duet with Storace, & the finale of the 1st act is capital. Storace looks remarkably well & sang most delightfully -- it just suits her; tho' her lower tones are a little like a bad violin. Miss Griglietti sung prettily, & looked pretty. Righi is improved & Morelli is as good as ever. On the whole the opera is uncommonly good -- far superior to any thing in the comic line I ever saw here before.

XII, 314

The Divertisement of the Jardiniers & the Ballet of La Fille Sauvage both shewed of Parisot & Mr. & Mad<sup>me</sup> Deshayes to great advantage.

XII, 316

[ 8. May. 1806 ]

... Called & sat a long time at Miss Pope's with her & Miss Jane. -- At various places. Mr. Schirmer of German Theatre promised to get several of their best songs & duets

arranged for voice & piano for me. He is very civil. -- J. Chatto & I dined at Robinson's Hotel, Maiden Lane, where we got a most excellent & cheap dinner. We went to Covent Garden Theatre & got good places in the pit -- tho' house was soon very full. -- Douglas, which was indifferently acted except by Roscius in Norval. Cooke is better in Glenalvon than any other part I have seen, but there is something very repulsive, course, & unpleasant about him.

XII, 317

Mrs. Litchfield is a very inadequate representative of Lady Randolph. She has little feeling & a face & person far from tragic: -- Every sentence put me in mind of Mrs. Siddon's tones & manner. How strikingly different! Murray played well in Old Norval. Lord Randolph by Chapman & Anna Mrs. Humphries.

Roscius was very great -- much more so than the last time I saw him in this part. His Scene with his Mother, his scene with Glenalvon, & his dying scene are most exquisite pieces of acting: -- the first & last drew tears from every eye. He is indeed most affecting: & plays with the same spirit, feeling, enthusiasm, elegance & grace as ever. -- His voice is getting more manly. It is now very loud & powerful, & his figure is improved. He is grown taller. He is, I understand, to leave the stage & study in private for 4 years & a half. He will then be 20, & improved by study & his health strengthened, he will then doubtless astonish the world as much as a Man as he does now as a boy.

XII, 318

We were highly delighted with the play. -- The Farce was The Turnpike Gate -- Sir Howard, Hill, who sung a song very well. Henry, Incledon, who was encored in Tom Starboard & sung it

beautifully. Emery in Joe Standfast, Taylor in Rob't Maythorn, & Mr. Hull, poor old Man, in Maythorn, were all that such stupid parts would allow. Miss Davies in Mary was cross looking & stupid & squalled 2 songs dreadfully. Miss Searle played Peggy. She is a most beautiful girl & was formerly as a child at Newcastle & called Miss Bew. She is a charming girl. But Munden in Crack is the life of the farce. His song of Humming is irresistible. O don't know when I've laughed more: -- Nothing can exceed the comicality of his faces: -- was it not for him it would be a stupid farce, but he makes it highly diverting. Upon the whole was extremely entertained.

[ 9. May. 1806 ]

XII, 320

... The Mackenzies called for us & we all went in 2 coaches to the theatre, Covent Garden, where we had a very hot box upstairs & met various people -- queer enough! The House was very full; for the benefit of Miss Smith & a very bad new play was brought forward, & wretchedly acted. Pope whined. His

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part did not suit him. H. Johnston was the best. Miss Smith was graceful & elegant, as she always must be, in Edgar, but a man's part does not suit her & tragedy is not her forte: -- & there is not much to be made of it. Mrs. H. Johnston, Miss Brunton, & Mrs. Humphries were each worse than the other. Mr. Chapman & Mr. Claremont were also tolerably bad. -- It is a tissue of improbable events -- with some good situations of which nothing is made either by the author or performers. Being a benefit play it was not objected to -- of course it



won't be acted again. The name of it was Edgar, or Caledonian feuds.

Miss Smith recited the Ode to the Passions very well, tho' not so well as Mrs. S. Kemble in the recitation -- but much superior in action. Her figure & action & attitudes during the music were inimitable. Grace is her chief merit. -- The Tale of Mystery followed which was very well acted, exactly as it used to be last season.

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[ 10. May. 1806 ]

... Miss Kell & I went with an order to the German Theatre after tea

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and saw Lovers' Vows -- Herbert in Count Cassel was very well, & little Dawson in the Butler was humorous. H. Pritchard, our Newcastle Roscius, is graceful in his action, but is noisy & ranting, and without a spark of feeling. Every line of Frederick recalled the tone, gesture, & looks of Roscius, who in this part shone superior even to himself. The reast all bad -- Miss Mudie execrable in Amelia. How she could ever be tolerated appears to be incomprehensible.

The Farce of the Sportsman's Wife followed -- it is too short -- but excellently acted by the 3 Schirmers -- & the music is very pretty indeed. They are extremely clever, & deserve better encouragement. The House was but thin.

Got home at 11.

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[ 12. May. 1806 ]

... After dinner I ran off to Braham's benefit at Drury Lane & after a very complete squeeze got an excellent place in the first row of the pit.

The Haunted Tower -- Braham played Lord William -- Baron by Downton -- Baron de Couray, Holland -- Edward, Bannister -- Elinor, Miss De Camp (Mrs. Mountain did not sing: of course not well or she would have played it) -- Adela, Signora Storace who was the life of the piece. She sung charmingly all her songs which were very numerous and "together let us range" with Braham. He sung, "From Hope's fond dream," "When time has from" & "Spirit of my sainted sire" -- also "The Pollacca," the "Death of Abercrombie," "Oft on a plat," "Sally in our alley" -- every one better than the last. He was in exquisite voice and sung divinely to a bumper. Catches & Glees were sung by Dignum, Kelly, & Welsh, & Braham and Dignum sung "All's well."

The farce was The Prize -- Bannister in Lenitive very comic & Mathews in Label. Braham sung in Heartwell but was then tired; no wonder. They had the charity however not to encore him but in the Pollacca. Storace is inimitable in Caroline. Her singing the Mock French Song is most exquisite.

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[ 13. May. 1806 ]

... I went to the opera -- where met & sat with Mr. & Mrs. B, Harman who were very pleasant: I also sat with Lord Galloway & had much musical talk. The opera was Gli Orazi ed i Curiazi, which was as delightful as ever. Braham sung the first song most exquisitely & both duets with Grassini were charming. Grassini sung & acted as delightfully as ever. Cimarosa's music is most beautiful indeed, far superior to any opera (taken as a whole) that I ever heard. The Divertisements of Les Jardiniers & the Ballet of La Fille Sauvage followed, but as I have seen the latter and was tired, I came home.

[ 15. May. 1806 ]

... Mrs. & Miss H. Rawlinson called in their coach & took up Miss Kell, Miss Mackenzie & me to D. L. theatre. Miss Pope's Night. Very genteel & full boxes & good pit, but upper parts thin. About £300, I should guess. Went behind after the play and walked about. Sat in Miss P's dressing room, and also in the Green room, where saw various people: Miss Duncan, Mellon, &c., but chiefly Roscius who looked most beautiful. He is growing so much more manly & his features more expressive. -- The play was the School for Friends, which is well acted but is rather flat on the whole. Miss Pope has taken it, I am certain, only because of her affection for Miss Chambers, for the play has nothing original & offers little more than another parade of characters all too frequently seen upon the stage. We had an excellent box, No. 14 -- Mrs. Selby, Capt. H[andasyde] & Bessy & Mr. Nolan & William met us there. I sat during half the farce in M. Private box with Jane Pope & Mrs. Duncan, Mother of Miss D.

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Bannister played the Invisible Girl -- & then the Romp by Miss Duncan was very good, but too coarse & very inferior to what Mrs. Jordan would have made of it. Elliston's is the best part in the play & he played it very well.

[ 16. May. 1806 ]

I was last night so stupid when I wrote my day's employment as not to mention the astonishment I felt at the performance of a young girl of 10 years old, who at the end of the second act, sung a bravura song in the most skillful style. It was a very difficult one by Shield -- written for Billington. Her voice is clear, loud, & powerful -- very like

played well throughout -- tho' Miss Tyrer, Liston, Munden, & Taylor are the best -- King Arthur, Munden -- Thumb, Master Benson -- Lord Guzzle, Liston -- Noodle, Taylor -- and Doodle, Simmons -- Queen D'ollalolla, Miss Tyrer -- Huncamunca, Miss Davies -- Glumdalca, Miss Leserve. Most laughable, especially Liston in his scene with the Queen, & his dying scene.

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[ 17. May. 1806 ]

... Tancred & Sigismunda -- Young Roscius's last benefit & last night of acting in town for some time: for 2 or 3 years at least. He played Tancred inimitably, & Mrs. H. Siddons was very good in Sigismunda: tho' tame in some parts & certainly inferior to Mrs. Kemble.

Miss in her teens was the farce in which Bentley, Loveit -- Pierser, Puff -- Miss Tidswell, Tag -- & Miss Mellon, Biddy were excellent -- but Russel in Tribble was admirable -- & Roscius drew down thunders in Flash. --

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He played it admirably -- and as a benefit trap it was very well, tho' I don't like him to lower his dignity. He spoke an address at the end of farewell -- but most of it could scarcely be heard, he was so much affected. He retired amidst thunders of applause, which indeed he received the whole night from a most crowded house -- above £600 I dare say -- near £700.

Miss Rawlinson set me down at 11.

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[ 21. May. 1806 ]

Miss Jane Kell & I went to the German theatre where we met the Miss Richards & some other ladies & Major Maclean -- it was for the benefit of Miss L. Schürmer, and all German. The first was a comic opera called the Dangerous Neighbourhood

-- very pretty music & well acted by the 4 Schirmers & Gleisner. There was then dancing &c. by Master Gorniet & Miss Pauline which was ver well, & a most comical song by F. Schirmer called the Music Masters. The last piece was a farce of Kotzebue's called Die Kleinstedter, the Little Gentry, which seemed excellent & was admirably acted, but we understood it very imperfectly and indeed got all tired as it was so long. It was half past 11 when it was over.

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[ 27. May. 1806 ]

... William came at 1/2 past 7. He & I went to the opera, as I had 2 orders from Mr. Taylor. It was very full for a Tuesday but I did not meet any I knew, except Lord Galloway & the other soidisant musical dilletanti of the Pit. The opera was La Clemenza di Tito: by Mozart -- delightful music. 3 duets by Braham & Billington, all which I well know, were exquisitely sung & all encored: Braham's solo was very fine & also Mrs. Billington's -- in the first act, but he cut out his song in the last act & hers, tho' very beautiful is not equal to the others. It is a fine opera but certainly heavy -- & except the 3 duets, there is nothing else which is very attractive. Righi, Ravedino, Braghetti, & Griglietti played the other parts. The Music is very original, but in many parts is too inverted & wants air. I must own, I expected more -- but the first time of hearing

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I might overlook many beauties. There was a divertisement at the end of the first act -- & Tamerlane & Bajazet was the Ballet. Nothing can be more exquisite than the dancing of the 2 Deshayes & Parisot. It is absolute perfection.

Miss Daniel's voice at Bath: it rather wants sweetness, but no doubt will improve -- & as to execution, Billington herself could not execute difficulties with more neatness, distinctness, rapidity, & correctness. She is indeed a complete prodigy: & is to be engaged by the House.

Elliot came after breakfast -- 2<sup>d</sup> Lesson. -- Went to Titchfield street about places for Roscius's benefit tomorrow evening -- & had a long interview with Mr. Betty who is not the most elegant person. He was however very civil to me & promised to let me have the box we wished, tho' he has numerous applications for boxes. Before he was ready, I had a long talk with Mrs. Betty & Roscius, who was most elegant, & uncommonly attentive. He is a most delightful boy.

Called at Mrs. Handasyde's with the tickets, &c. -- After dinner I went to the play.... Covent Garden theatre had full boxes & pit, but upper part not crowded, to see Isabella -- a great half price to see Tom Thumb. The play was not well acted except by Mrs. Siddons.

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Villeroy, Barrymore -- Carlos, Brunton -- & Baldwin, Murray -- all poor. Mrs. Siddons is great indeed in this her most celebrated character, but I have seen her act it with more force & spirit -- she was too much in undertone -- the fact is that her figure is too large for these tearing parts. In many scenes, however, she still displayed her wanted excellence: -- but certainly it was different to what it used to be when it made such an impression on me.

The farce was Tom Thumb, before which Incedon sung Black-eyed Susan & Mad Tom both very well especially the last. Tom Thumb is admirably got up & is irresistibly laughable. It is

[ 28. May. 1806 ]

... I went to Drury Lane theatre to the pit -- & found a very pleasant conversible man. -- Venice Preserved was the play, for the benefit of Mr. & Mrs. H. Siddons -- H. Siddons played Pierre extremely well -- Powell, Priuli -- & Jaffier was played by Wroughton: why I cannot conceive when Mr. Elliston is in the theatre -- unless it is that Pierre is his part -- & H. Siddons could not so well play Jaffier to his Mother.

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Wroughton was so heavy & dull that it took off from the effect of Mrs. Siddons's acting -- however 2 or 3 ladies had hysterics -- indeed the 5th act is almost too much to bear. Mrs. Siddons in Belvidera looked lovely -- she was most elegantly dressed & displayed every possible excellence of look, voice, & action & feeling. Her tenderness, scorn, agitation of fear, grief, rage, madness & death are beyond description. She exerted herself to the utmost & played it admirably indeed -- her dying scene is a most unequalled performance. I shall never forget it.

The Child of Nature followed in which Mrs. H. Siddons played Amanthis most exquisitely -- nothing could be done with more sweetness & simplicity, & she looked beautiful. The other parts, except Cherry in Duke Murcia, were poorly done by Powell, Palmer, Raymond, & Mrs. Ansell.

Don Juan followed in which De Camp played Don Juan inimitably, with the greatest force & effect. Degville an excellent Scaramouch.

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The rest of the parts performed as usual by the under set -- indeed they have nothing of consequence to do. Mrs. Scott is a good figure & looked well in Donna Anna. Mrs. Mathews & Miss

Holloway sung the Fishing Duet very prettily. The Scenery is good particularly the last Scene in which the lights are so strong & grand, that the theatre has a most magnificent appearance. The Infernal Regions, the Devil &c. have a grand effect. It was very well got up & is a very interesting spectacle. The music is so good & so well adapted, that it assists it greatly. It was not over till 12. I was much entertained on the whole.