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The Journal of John Waldie Theatre Commentaries, 1799-1830

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1799-1800 & 1801.

John Waldie. Newcastle.

**The Journal of John Waldie
1799-1808**

Journal of the life & adventures
of John Waldie in the year 1799.

[1. Jan. 1799] Edinburgh

Called on Capt Scott at his lodgings with J. Chatto. Walked Princes Street and about the town with J. C. About 7 o'clock in the Evening went to Sir James Pringle's to a dance. There were about thirty people. We drank tea and then danced till past 12 o'clock, when we had a most elegant supper. I danced with the four Miss Pringles, Miss Mackye, Miss Creigies, &c. The young ladies sung the Mariners, several Glees, & Jockey, a beautiful Scots song, & we concluded the evening by singing God save the King, and Rule Britannia in full chorus. We all separated at a little past two o'clock in the morning, after a delightful Evening.

[2. Jan. 1799]

All the Classes began to day again after the vacation of 10 days which the literary, but not the medical ones have had. Dined and drank tea at Miss Chatto's, with Mrs. Pringle & two of their children, Miss Jessy Trumbal, & J. C. Spent a very pleasant day.

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[18. Jan. 1799]

Lewis, Tucker, Chatto, & I went to the Queen's Assembly. Rooms as full as they could hold. About 1200 people squeezed, stewed, & pummelled to death. Saw the Duchess of Buccleugh & her 2 daughters, Lady Dulkeith & Lady Charlotte Campbell -- two most beautiful women. Saw the Comte D'Artois & many of the French Nobility. Came away between 2 & 3 o'clock.

[19. Jan. 1799]

Walked with J. C. in the Meadow, Princes Street, &c. Went to the Play with him & Lewis & Tucker. It was The Stranger and a Trip to Scotland. Siddons & Mrs. Kemble were delightful. Never was so affected as at the last scene. The Epilogue was spoken by a Miss Fisher, a child about 6 years old, & she acted Cupid in the Farce in a most charming manner. Was entertained most charmingly altogether. Must go to see the Stranger again.

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[28. Jan. 1799]

No lecture at Stewart's. Did not go to Laidlaw's. Walked with J. C. Subscribed to Symington's Library. Went to the play with Miss C. Chatto & J. C. It was delightfully acted. Mrs. Kemble looked better than on the 1st night. I never laughed so much at any farce as at Tom Thumb. Miss Fisher, Mrs. Rock, Mrs. Bramwell, & Mrs. Bew did well in it. The play shockingly acted except Siddons & Mrs. Kemble, & Mr. Wilde. Supped at Miss Chatto's.

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[22. March. 1799]

A Holiday at the College. Took a violent cold in my head. Had a headache. Walked with Tucker. Walked with Lewis & J. C. Wrote a long letter to my Father & Mother in which I informed them of the loss of the 2 pounds which has happened to me by the villainy of that jade, that Maid who is now dismissed. Sent it by Mayor Mosman who is going to Newcastle to-morrow.

[23. March. 1799]

In addition to my cold which is still very bad, I have got that abominable pain in my right side which I had at Kelso last summer, but it is not yet so bad as it was then. It went

off in the evening, when I went to the play with J. C., Lewis, & Tucker to see Mr. J. Kemble for the last time. I was highly entertained.

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[27. April. 1799]

Walked with Tucker & J. C. Walked with Lewis & J. C. from 11 till near 4. Hope concluded the course of Chemical Lectures today. Went to the play with J. C. in the Evening. Got a letter from my Father & Mother.

[28. April. 1799]

Walked with J. C. in Princes Street and to the top of Arthur's Seat. Went to hear Strothers with J. C. Heard a most excellent sermon. Drank tea and supped at Miss Chatto's. Miss Agnes C. is in town at present. Two Miss Sommervilles drank tea there.

[1. May. 1799]

I completed the eighteenth year of my age.

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[24. June. 1799] Newcastle

The first day in the race week. Went to the race with J. Chatto.-- very good one. -- The Theatre was to have opened on Friday with the Stranger, by Mrs. Kemble's breaking her arm prevented it -- & we are disappointed of Mrs. Siddons, as the theatres at London have been kept open longer on account of the great run of Pizarro. They are to act plays all the race without the assistance of Mrs. Siddons or Mrs. Kemble, but they will be so ill performed that it is not worth the while keeping a list.

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[3. July. 1799]

... Walked to Whitley sands & Cullercoats' with Jane & Betsy Chatto. Dined & drank tea at Cousin Anderson's. Aunt

Chatto, Jane & Betsy drank tea there. Uncle Chatto came down in the evening & took Jane & Betsy home with him -- in order to see Mrs. Siddons who is to begin to act at Newcastle to morrow for four nights only -- at every one of which I shall be present, unless I die before they are completed.

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[4. July. 1799]

... Came up to Newcastle in a coach with 6 great fat people. Wrote to my Mother -- got a letter from her -- they are all got safe to Kelso -- and my Father is tolerably well -- and bore the account of my Aunt's decease better than was expected. -- Dined, drank tea & supped at my Uncle Chatto's. Went to the play with Jane, Nancy, Betsy, & J. C.

Mrs. Siddons made her first appearance in the character of Lady Randolph in Douglas. Douglas, Mr. Siddons -- Old Norval, Mr. Kemble -- Glenalvon, Smith -- Lord Randolph, Bew -- and Anna, Mrs. Bramwell.

The manner in which Mrs. Siddons performs Lady Randolph exceeds all description -- in the scene with Glenalvon, her acting was most capital -- the scorn, contempt, & commanding dignity with which she treats him were so naturally & excellently done, as it is impossible to conceive --

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her figure & countenance are particularly fitted for expressing the passions -- throughout the play, she seemed solely occupied by her grief for her lost husband & her anxiety for the fate of her child -- when she discovers him -- & first when she is questioning Old Norval about him -- and says "Was he alive" -- in a half whisper of the most dreadful suspence -- Old Norval says "Not many days ago he was alive" -- after that, before she knows it is her son, her acting was the very image of fear, hope, anxiety, maternal affection, & every passion which could be

curse him -- the tender tone of her voice, her eyes thrown up to Heaven & the blessing she pronounces are almost too much to bear -- but the look of fixed horror & dispair which she has while kneeling near his dead body is beyond every thing -- & when she is borne off the last

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parting look which she takes of him is so full of agony & dispair that it is reall too much -- but it is the most affecting play in the world -- as far as it regards Mrs. B. -- but he is so silly in not seeing the design of Stukely, nor suspecting Bates &c., that he hardly deserves pity -- especially as for them & their vices he leaves such a charming wife in misery -- however the play is an excellent warning against gaming. I wish all gamesters had been there to see it -- it would surely have cured them of their passion for gaming.

Siddons performed Beverly in a very feeling & impassioned manner -- and in the scene where he swallows the poison & dies, was particularly excellent -- he improves daily. Bew in Stukely & Smith in Lewson were execrable. Mrs. Bramwell made the insipid Charlotte more insipid.

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[6. July. 1799]

Dined, drank tea, & supped at my Uncle Chatto's. Went to the play with Dr. Clark. Had an excellent front seat.

Mrs. Siddons performed Isabella in the Fatal Marriage tonight. Biron, Siddons. Carlos, Bland. Count Baldwin, Smith. Villeroy, Bew. Sampson, Scriven. Nurse, Miss Biggs.

In the character of Isabella, Mrs. Siddons surpassed in acting all that I have yet seen, tho' on recollection I was

more gratified by the two former nights than as the play is so shocking it is disagreeable to see it -- -- the most touching and tender scene is in the first act, when with her child she vainly endeavours to move Count Baldwin for her & her child. -- Her "Then Heaven have mercy on me!" as she goes off is so natural & so affecting ~~that~~. The scene in which she consents to be Villeroy's -- her reluctance. The scene where she gets the ring & when the shocking idea first suggests itself to her --

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and above all, the mingled horror & joy when she recognizes Biron which are expressed in the dreadful shriek which she utters when he throws off his disguise -- the dreadful manner in which she cries "Murder, Murder!" when she [discovers] Biron is dead -- her madness -- all are masterpieces of acting & such as it would be impossible to conceive without having seen them portrayed by her -- all these are nothing to the dreadful & horrible yelling kind of mad laugh which she utters when she stabs herself and says "Now I defy you all and laugh at you": these scenes are too shocking, & do not affect one by tears -- her manner of dying and the pain of her wound were so exquisitely expressed by her features & the motions of her body as it is impossible to describe. This is certainly the character in which she shews her acting to the fullest extent, but the play

is so shocking that it is not so pleasing to witness as the two former ones.

Siddons acted Biron very well, tho' not so well as he performed Douglas and Beverly. Bew & Smith were execrable as usual in Villeroy & the Count -- & Bland made so contemptible a figure in Carlos that one could hardly believe he had been the cause of the misfortunes of the piece, especially as he missed half his part -- which however was an improvement to it.

[8. July. 1799]

Wakened at 4 o'clock in the morning, very bad of the pain in my side -- worse than ever -- all wrong -- sick -- threw up with warm water -- threw up my breakfast -- very bad all day, but the sickness went off at 12 o'clock. Got up -- dined, drank tea, and supped at my Uncle Chatto's. Sick again after supper. Went to the play with the Chattos, and had an excellent seat.

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Mrs. Siddons' last night -- & her benefit -- she took the character of Jane Shore. Lord Hastings, Mr. Siddons -- Shore, Mr. Kemble -- Gloucester, Mr. Bew -- Belmour, Smith -- Alicia, Miss Biggs. £135 in the house; the other nights £90 & 100 & 120.

Mrs. Siddons was certainly most capital in this character, but I liked it less than any of the others. The play is not a pleasant one to see, tho' beautifully written. -- -- The scenes in which she most excelled were when Lord Hastings declares his passion, and the dignified scorn she shewed was only checked by the idea of her having deserved such an insult -- when she hears that Hastings supports the cause of Edward's children, her noble manner of invoking heaven to bless

him for it was most admirable; the scene with Alicia was spoiled by Miss Biggs -- and it was too plaintive & not dignified enough for Mrs. Siddons. She is (tho' excellent in representing all the passions) more particularly happy in portraying the scornful, the noble & dignified, & the turbulent

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passions of the mind. Her dying scene was most affecting, yet still not so much so as that in Isabella, for as a great deal of her sufferings must have corporeal & arising from hunger; one is not so much affected at what one has never felt, as one is at mental sufferings -- which even if they have not been felt in reality, we are made to feel by her capital acting. Her manner of dying in this character was quite different from that in Isabella, for there she seemed to die in the climax of horror, despair & pain; here her death was longer protracted & she died in a languid drooping & every now [and then] seemed to experience a spasm in her frame & started -- while her hollow eyes & pale cheeks made it dreadful to look on her. -- Her figure is too large for the character, but one is so absorbed by her countenance that I did not think of that small objection till long after it was done.

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On the whole, of these four characters, Isabella is the finest, tho' I would not see it again; whereas in any of the others, particularly the two first, it would be delightful -- because the manner in which they affect one is not so horrible as the other.

Kemble & Siddons played Shore & Hastings tolerably -- the latter ranted too much. Bew was worse than ever in Gloucester. Miss Biggs, when she was upbraiding Jane Shore, looked like a gnat stinging a lion. -- The characters in which I saw Mrs. Siddons four years since are -- Desdemona, Sara (in Mourning Bride), Euphrasia, Jane Shore, Belvidera, Palmira, & Catherine (in Catherine & Petruchio). She was not then in such good health as now -- & tho' I was old enough to be much affected by seeing most of them, yet I was not old enough to perceive her many excellencies.

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Yesterday I met Mr. & Mrs. Kemble & Mr., Mrs., & Miss Siddons in the Street and 2 or three good looks at them. Mrs. S. was not much painted & looked very handsome, her daughter still more so as she is younger looking, with smaller features, yet very like her mother. Mrs. Siddons looks just the same off as on the stage as she paints very little. Her husband is an intelligent looking man -- & looks at least twenty years older than she does.

[26. July. 1799]

Read up Pizarro (which Mrs. Hopper has sent us) to the two Mrs. Maudes & Mrs. Lynn. It is a most beautiful play & extremely affecting. The character of Rolla is that of a most perfect hero. The character of Elvira is much improved from Kotzebue by Sheridan, and Cora is most charming except where she suspects Rolla of deceit which she should not have done. The language is most elegant, and the catastrophe is greatly improved from Kotzebue's by killing Pizarro & saving Elvira. Mrs. Tom Maude wept much. She is of so mild & sweet disposition that she is easily moved, but this would be very affecting in the hand of J. Kemble, Mrs. Siddons, & Mrs. Jordan, who perform Rolla, Elvira, & Cora, besides what he has as a proprietor of the theatre (which is a great deal, as it brought such houses & will bring next season about 4000 -- which is a monstrous sum -- as a proprietor he has made 10 or 11, 000 besides). He sold the copyright for 800. I would give any thing to see it acted in London.

[29. July. 1799]

After breakfast came to Newcastle with Mr. & Mrs. Lamb, a live pig, & a dog in their chaise -- & Mrs. Lamb, the pig, & the dog sung the whole way, & it was hard to tell which had the finest voice -- the three voices made such a delightful trio. Called on J. Chatto -- all the rest of the family are gone to Mainhouse a week since. Dined & drank tea at Dr. & Mrs. Clarke's. Supped with J. Chatto. -- Went to the play with him. Got a good seat -- last week was the Assize week and Inckdon has been performing here all that time, but as I was at Sunderland, I have not had an opportunity of seeing him nor of keeping a list of his characters & songs. -- This is his benefit night & last night but Wednesday, when he acts again for Kemble's own benefit -- there was about £100 in the house.

Lionel & Clarissa

Lionel, Mr. Incedon -- Sir John Flowerdale, Mr. Kemble -- Jessamy, Mr. Scrivener -- Harman, Mr. Bland -- Colonel Oldboy, Mr. Rock -- Lady Mary Oldboy, Miss Biggs -- Diana, Mrs. Bew -- & Clarissa, (for only one night she acts) Mrs. Atkins (one of the principal vocal performers of Covent Garden who is on her way to Edinburgh.)

Incedon sung, besides the songs in the opera, Death of Admiral Benbow, Sally in our Alley, A bravura Song, Blackeyed Susan, Cease rude Boreas, Bottle of La Logese, & Mrs. Atkins sung a bravura Song.

The Quaker -- the farce

Lubin, Mr. Incedon -- Solomon, Rock -- Hendy, Cooke -- Floretta, Mrs. Bramwell -- Gillian, Mrs. Bew.

He is the finest singer I ever heard -- his false voice is most beautiful -- & his strong, deep, natural voice is very fine. He sings with great taste now & is lately much improved. He is nothing of an actor.

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Mrs. Atkins acts with modesty & feeling & has a very sweet, fine toned, powerful voice. Rock was most capital in Colonel Oldboy. Miss Biggs did Lady Mary very well, and Mr. Kemble did Sir John in a feeling manly manner. I never saw him act better.

Rock in the farce was excellent. Cooke & Mrs. Bramwell sung very well. I was highly entertained with the play & delighted with the singing

on Wednesday The English Merchant & Rosina -- Belleville, Mr. Incedon -- Rosina, Mrs. Atkins -- for Mr. Kemble's benefit with plenty more Songs.

[21. October. 1799]

... The Theatre here opened this Evening with King Richard 3rd.
Richard, Kemble -- Buckingham, Bland -- Tressel, Smith -- Richmond,
Bew -- York, Miss Bew -- P. of Wales, Mrs. Bramwell -- Duchess
of York, Miss Biggs -- Queen, Miss Kemble -- Lady Ann, Miss Smith
-- We have got no new ones.

A farce called the 'Deserter'. --

Fanny Kemble has left the Stage -- much to my sorrow, for
she promised to become an ornament to it. Siddons is not come
yet.-- -- The only good ones are Rock & Mrs. Kemble, all the rest
are shocking. -- -- Bluebeard is to come out soon.

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[13. November. 1799]

Breakfasted at Miss Chatto's with Mr. Pearson & J. C. Went
to Chemistry & Natural Philosophy as I shall do every day. Walked.
Called on Tucker, with J. C., who looks shocking ill. J. C. has
got his hair off & his wig on & he looks very well in it. Called
at Lambs. Went with them to Hutchinson's. Dined at Mudie's for
the first time [this sentence crossed out]. Went to the History
class at 2 o'clock with the Lambs -- first lecture a very fine
one.

[31. December. 1799]

... Finished the year 1799, which has been a very pleasant one to me, more than [last two words crossed out].

Began 1800 in a New Book.

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[1. January. 1800]

There are no classes to day. Took a long walk; practiced music. Called at Miss Chatto's with the papers. Dined, as usual, at Mudie's. Called at Mr. Smith's office for letters from home, but there were none. I am reading Browne's Travels in Africa, Egypt, & Syria, which I like pretty well, tho' he seems rather atheistical. He gives a good account of a country's, in Africa, interior, called Dar-fur, where he was forced to stay nearly 3 years, being detained by the King -- it contains a good deal of information, & throws some light on the unknown parts of Africa, but it is not written in a very agreeable style -- not contains so much information as might be expected from the Author's long residence in the principal places he describes.

[2. January. 1800]

A very violent snow storm has been all last night & continued all to-day. Went to Mr. Smith's to enquire for letters, but the packet from Newcastle has not arrived either yesterday or to-day. No lectures at History class. Practiced music an hour & half. Read Browne's Travels. Called at Lewis's who lent me to read, "Vie et Amours du Chevalier de Faublas," by Louvet der Couvray -- it is, I suppose, a very licentious, tho' a very witty & amusing work -- it is in 13 volumes, but very little ones. -- Called at Wright's & Hutchinson's after dinner. Expected Thomson, who did not come.

[24. January. 1800]

Fine day. Took a walk for an hour & a half. Called at the Theatre to know if Kemble is come, that I may take a ticket for the Season -- but he is not yet come & they don't know when he will, so I don't know what to do; -- & they begin to-morrow. Terrible long lecture at History to write.

[25. January. 1800]

Walked. Called on Harry Gray. Finished reading "Faublas," which is a most charming book, tho' not a very moral one; but it is related in so diverting a style that it

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may be called one continued comedy -- almost always humorous -- but varied with some beautifully pathetic scenes -- the story is very interesting -- & the incidents ingenious, well connected, & well related -- the characters are most admirably delineated: upon the whole, I have never received more entertainment from any book of the kind, tho' the scenes are sometimes of a kind which would have been well suppressed.

This Evening went to the Theatre, which was to have opened with the Brothers & the Miser, but a man with a torch declared to a numerous audience, who were waiting for door opening, that there was no play -- for the performers, being stopped on their road from Newcastle, had not arrived -- so the people were forced to go off. Quick, from London, is here -- with some of the new ones. They were lamenting this awkward business at the box door -- one said, "The Mail Coach has not arrived these two days, so I don't know when Mr. Kemble & Siddons with the women will come." Says Quick, who is a capital punster, "Yes, there are two Males due and a great many females."

The entertainments for this Night were deferred till Monday, & notice sent to the Ladies who had boxes.

I expect much pleasure from seeing Quick, as he is a most capital actor in the droll way -- indeed his face has the drollest expression I ever saw. If Kemble comes tomorrow I will take a ticket for the Season on Monday.

This Evening, being disappointed of the play, read out the last volume of Clarissa. It is really a capital production, & the most instructive book I ever read -- there is more morality & sound sense in it, delivered in an easy way, than are contained in 50 volumes of stupid sermons. The characters of Lovelace & Clarissa are admirably supported -- & I have received the highest pleasure from reading it -- particularly the 6 last volumes, the two first are the most tedious, but necessary to build the rest on -- long as it is, there is very little which could be left out without loss.

[27. January. 1800]

After Robinson's Class, went to the Playhouse, & went to call on Mrs. Kemble to take a ticket for the Season -- found her in her parlour with Madame Frederick's little girl, whom she has brought her. The Room was very elegant --

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hung with pictures of John Kemble, Mrs. Siddons, Stephen & Mrs. Kemble, Miss Fanny, & all the family, & also -- Garrick, Shakespeare &c. All very fine prints, and a fine medallion as large as life of John Kemble in Coriolanus, moulded by Mrs. Siddons. I sat about half an hour, & talked of Newcastle &c. -- she said John Kemble will not be here till Summer, to my sorrow. She is a very pleasant woman, & had a bundle of papers by her on the floor -- of an immense size -- which she

told me were all the parts she had acted -- & she was looking for one of Lisette in Animal Magnetism which she has to act to-morrow night. Mr. Kemble will be here in 10 days -- Quick is engaged for 12 nights.

Mrs. Kemble is a very pleasant, conversable woman, & looked very well, for she was neatly drest. She said -- she & the rest had had a most dreadful journey thro' the snow -- the Mail stuck fast & was detained all night -- in the road from Alnwick to Felton. She in a chaise was forced to stay at Alnwick two days.

Called on Lewis who is rather better to-day than yesterday.

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Went to the play in the Evening -- a very full house -- more than 100.

The Brothers -- Sir Benjamin Dove, by Quick -- Belfield Sen^r, Egerton -- Belfield Jun^r, Woods -- Paterson, Bland -- Skiff, Kelly -- Francis, Noble -- Goodwin, Cooke-- &c., & Ironsides, Swedal -- Lady Dove, Miss Biggs -- Sophia Dove, Miss Perry -- Violetta, Mrs. Swendal -- Lucy Waters, Mrs. Egerton -- Fanny Goodwin, Mrs. Bland.

Quick most capital -- most comic phiz & voice I ever saw -- he performed the part in a most admirable manner. Egerton is better than Bew whose characters he will have -- he speaks plain -- is stiff -- & tolerable -- but a good figure. Woods was not sprightly enough for Belfield. Miss Biggs played Lady Dove very well -- pity she had not a stronger voice, & a more commanding figure -- she is too young for those characters, but does them with great judgement. Miss Perry is 6 feet high, good looking, & of a most elegant figure -- she is sprightly & may

be a good actress, but she does not speak distinct. Mrs. Swendal is very insipid, & too much motion in her arms. -- Swendal performed Ironsides very justly, & I am glad he is returned to the stage, after an absence of 6 years.

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The Miser, the farce -- Lovegold, Quick -- Ramilie, Noble -- Frederic, Egerton -- Mrs. Wisely, Mrs. Egerton, (a stupid creature) Mariana, Miss Perry, & Lappet, Miss Biggs.

Quick excelled in Lovegold far more than in the other. I never shall forget his faces, & his lamentations for the loss of his money, & his misery at the picture Lappet draws, first, of Mariana's prudence &c., & then of her extravagance -- it was most capital. I thought I should have expired with laughing. Miss Biggs did Lappet with great spirit -- better suited for her than Lady Dove, which requires more weight. Noble, who is a good figure, did the impudent footman very well. The rest have nothing to do. Miss Perry looked handsomer in Mariana than in Sophia. Upon the whole, was charmingly entertained -- will make a full list of the company soon.

Came home -- got tea -- wrote -- played & went to bed.
[28. January. 1800]

Called on Lewis -- who is rather better & up to-day. Got a letter from my Father & Mother which was brought me by Miss Perry, & a card from her, apologizing that she did not send it yesterday, but was so hurried by theatrical concerns.

Went to the Play -- there I was very well entertained -- house not nearly full -- not above 50 or 60 pounds -- I never saw a play better acted than the Way to get Married on this Evening.

Tangent, Mr. Macready -- Faulknor, Mr. Egerton -- Macquery, Mr. Rock -- Caustic, Mr. Swendal -- Toby Allspice, Mr. Quick -- Dashall, Mr. Kelly -- Clementina Allspice, Miss Biggs -- Lady Sorrel, Mrs. Egerton -- & Julia Faulknor, Miss Perry.

The play well acted throughout, except by Mrs. Egerton, who had only a trifling character. Macready is really a most excellent actor -- he shone equally in the humourous & pathetic voices of the difficult part of Tangent -- he has a good figure, but not a good face -- but takes great pains -- & is a great acquisition to us. Egerton is very stiff, but has both feeling & judgement. Miss Perry played with great feeling, & spoke better than last night. The pathetic scenes between her & her father were much better than I expected. Swendal, in Caustic, was just at home -- he played it most capitally. -- Kelly did Dashall well -- he has the broad impudent humour necessary for the dashing trader, & would be an acquisition, if it were not for a defect in his speaking. Rock, in Macquery, the villainous Irish attorney, was capital -- he was greeted by loud bursts of applause on his first appearance. Miss Biggs was very good in Clementina -- she takes great pains, but instead of

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crying, she is sometimes like to laugh at her griefs. It is impossible to do justice to the merits of Quick -- his look, voice, action, & all his manner of acting the character, are

so truly just, comic, & in character. He was the fine little retailing grocer -- imitating the dashing Dashall. It is a very amusing comedy in representation -- & went off with great applause. I never saw it before.

Animal Magnetism was the farce -- & a most laughable one it is. Quick had here a longer part than in the play. He was the Doctor. Macready, who seems to act everything well, was the Valet, who teaches, under his disguise, the Doctor, Magnetism.

Doctor, Quick -- La Fleur, Macready -- Jeffery, Bland -- Marquis, Egerton -- Constance, Miss Perry (Mrs. Bramwell was advertised) and Lisette, Mrs. Kemble -- who was received on her first appearance with great applause -- it is a sprightly character of a waiting maid, which she did in her usual charming manner. Quick was capital. Macready acted the Valet very well -- he seems to be a capital general actor -- & if so, will be a great acquisition. The rest of the characters had little to do. Upon the whole, was charmingly entertained both with play & farce. What can be become of Mrs. Bramwell? She [was] advertised in both titles, & has in neither acted. I hope she is not ill.

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[29. January. 1800]

Walked, &c. Called on Miss Perry at Mrs. Simpson's, Shakespeare Square. She is a most agreeable girl. I sat near an hour, & we talked of Newcastle &c., where they have had a good Season. She is really a sensible girl, & of elegant manners, & very modest in her behaviour. She asked me to go frequently & see her, a permission of which I shall avail myself.

Went to the play -- well entertained -- most capitally acted throughout, both play & farce -- about 80 or 90 pounds. The acting of Every one has his Fault was more correct, & well done, than the Way to get Married, as it is certainly a more legitimate & sterling good play.

Solus, Mr. Quick, which he originally played at Covent Garden -- Harmony, Mr. Swendal -- Sir Robert Ramble, Mr. Macready -- Placid, Kelly -- Lord Norland, Egerton -- Captain Irwin, Woods -- Edward, the child, Miss Jones -- Mrs. Placid, Mrs. Egerton -- Miss Spinster, Miss Biggs -- Miss Woodburn, Miss Perry -- & Lady Eleanor Irwin, Mrs. Kemble -- a most capital cast. Quick in Solus was excellent. I liked him better than last night. He is the epitome of drollery -- the solemnity of his countenance when he sees the miseries of marriage, & the joy of it, when he sees its pleasures, were truly ridiculous. His face & his figure animated the absurdity when he came in with Miss Spinster as his wife -- both in white -- finely drest out. Miss Biggs did Miss Spinster very well. -- Kelly was tolerable in Placid. Mrs. Egerton did Mrs. P. better than anything she has yet done. It is impossible to do justice to Macready's Sir R. Ramble; it was a most excellent piece of acting -- both in serious, sprightly, & impassioned scenes. Miss Perry looked elegant in Miss Woodburn, & played it with feeling -- how infinitely superior, she & Macready to Melvin & Miss Kemble, who used to do these characters. Macready has all the sprightliness of Melvin, far more feeling & judgement, & none of his vulgarity -- he is indeed a very gentlemanlike man, is always well drest, & has his part off to a T. Miss Perry & Miss Biggs both dress well. Swendal played Harmony with great justness, as he does everything, for he has great judgement, & is a good general

actor in comedy or tragedy. Egerton did Lord Norland very well, but he did not appear in it to so much advantage as last night in Faulknor, for it is not so favorable a character. Woods acted Irwin with great feeling & judgement -- & it is impossible to do justice to Mrs. Kemble in Lady Eleanor -- the scene with her, the child (who spoke well), & Lord N. drew tears from the whole house -- it was most delightful -- & also when Lord Norland blesses his Son, Daughter, & Grandson -- it is a charming play & was most admirably supported. During the representation, the audience were twice all in tears, & a dozen times, at least, in roars of laughter, for no one can withstand the comicality of Quick.

Lovers' Quarrels, the farce --

Don Carlos, Mr. Macready -- Sancho, Mr. Quick -- Leonora, Mrs. Bramwell -- Jacintha, Miss Biggs -- Pedro, Mr. Noble.

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Quick appeared in this to great advantage, particularly in the laughable philosophical soliloquy -- & in the reconciliation with Jacintha. Miss Biggs did Jacintha with great spirit -- she is a clever actress. Macready did Carlos well -- he accented very much, as was proper for a Spanish Grandee, deeply in love & very jealous, & enraged at infidelity of his Mistress. Mrs. Bramwell has recovered her fatigues, & looked beautiful, & spoke with spirit in Leonora. -- Cooke gave us a good Sea Song between play & farce. -- Upon the whole, the best night yet -- better than last night, as it is a better play.

[31. January. 1800]

After Robinson, walked for an hour & a half -- came home -- went to History, there was no lecture -- took the opportunity to call on Miss Stewart's, where I spent a tolerable half hour -- they are very good women.

Went to the Play. Fullerton was next to me -- I like to have somebody to make my observations to, and hear theirs. [30. January. 1800. VIII, 156: "Walked with Fullerton, with whom I have struck up a great intimacy at the Play, as we have twice sat next each other in the Pit. ... He is a good theatrical judge (at least I think so, as his sentiments agree with mine)."] I saw the Davidsons in a near box, but I am sorry they are here to-night, for I was less entertained on the whole than on any of the former nights -- the second & third nights on the whole were the best as yet.

The play was the Rivals, which I have seen before 3 or 4 times, and I did not like Quick's Acres as well as any of the other characters he has played -- perhaps it might be owing to my having seen Knight perform it so well before.

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The play does not suit the company so well as some others, tho' on the whole it was certainly well acted. The parts were thus -- Acres, Mr. Quick -- Faulkland, Mr. Egerton -- Capt. Absolute, Mr. Woods -- Sir Lucius O'Trigger, Macready -- Fag, Kelly -- David, Noble -- Sir Anthony Absolute, Mr. Rock -- Mrs. Malaprop, Miss Biggs -- Julia, Mrs. Swendal -- & Lydia Langdish, Mrs. Kemble. -- Quick was excellent in Acres, but I like Knight in it better -- it is too boisterous for Quick, who does solemn humour best. Egerton was tolerable in Faulkland, but I like Siddons in that character better -- why didn't he act it? -- Woods played Capt. Absolute very well, with great ease

& sprightliness. Kelly is impudent enough for a footman, but he does not speak well. Noble has got Stock's part of David -- & Rock, Kemble's of Sir Anthony -- & tho' he did Sir Anthony very well, yet, as I have been accustomed to Kemble in the part, I like him better. It is Kemble's best part in comedy. Rock was excellent in the angry scenes, but he did not look like a Gentleman. Miss Biggs played Mrs. Malaprop very well -- she has greatly improved herself in it. Mrs. Swendall played Julia with more feeling than I thought her possessed of, but how inferior it is to Mrs. Kemble's Julia -- & how very inferior Mrs. K's Lydia is to Mrs. Knight's. Lydia does not suit Mrs. K., but she makes a charming Julia. She has taken Lydia, as there is no one else here who can act it. -- They want another Lady -- if we had Mrs. Knight this Winter she would be a great acquisition. Macready played Sir Lucius very well, but

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it [is] not a character to show off excellence. & he certainly did not shine in it, as he did in Tangent & Sir Robert Ramble.

The Farce was "Who's the Dupe?" -- a good farce of Mrs. Cowley's, which I never saw before. I was much pleased.

D'Oyley, Mr. Quick -- Gradus, Mr. Kelly -- Grainger, Mr. Egerton
 Swendall -- Sandford, Mr. Bland -- Miss D'Oyley, Mrs. Swendall -- Charlotte,
 Miss Biggs.

D'Oyley is a rich, illiterate citizen, who has a great veneration for Learning. Gradus is a learned man, quite stiff & formal, & full of the classicks, Grainger is the lover of Miss D'Oyley. Charlotte, her Maid. D'Oyley is determined to give her to a learned Man -- wants her to have Gradus -- a ridiculous interview between them -- then a trial of Learning

between Grainger & Gradus. Gradus is metamorphosed into a fox before this -- he speaks in the trial a Greek Epigram -- & Grainger, who knows nothing of these matters, speaks a rhapsody of English hard words-- these latter D'Oyley declares much finer than Gradus's, so gives him his Daughter -- this was the scheme of the Maid -- & Miss D'Oyley.

Quick was most capital in D'Oyley. Egerton was Grainger -- which he did tolerably. Gradus should be well done -- Kelly spoiled it -- he has none of that stiff solemnity necessary -- he is only decent in sprightly impudence. Mrs. Swendall & Miss Biggs both did well. Mrs. Swendall, in the scene where she makes a fool of Gradus, did very well, & shewed more spirit than I thought her mistress of. I liked Quick in this farce better than any of the farces except the Miser & Doctor.

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[1. February. 1800]

Terrible bad day -- which is a pity as I wished for exercise. Walked to playhouse, &c. Called at Miss Chatto's. Sat there an hour. Hutchinson came for an hour before dinner. Went to the Play in the Evening, where I met Fullerton.

The Way to Keep him -- Sir Bashful Constant, Mr. Quick -- Lovemore, Woods -- Sir Brilliant Fashion, Macready -- William, Noble -- Sideboard, Kelly -- John, Mills -- Mrs. Lovemore, Mrs. Kemble -- Lady Constant, Mrs. Swendall -- Widow Belmour, Miss Perry -- Muslin, Miss Biggs -- Mignonet, Mrs. Egerton -- Furnish, Mrs. Bland.

Quick was capital in Sir Bashful. He represented this difficult character very well -- it is a very curious character, one which is seldom met with in plays. Woods was most excellent

in Lovemore. I never saw him shine so much in lively comedy. Macready went thro' Sir Brilliant with great spirit & ease -- he is an excellent actor & seems suited to every thing. Mrs. Kemble played Mrs. Lovemore as well as it could be done, but it is not a favorable character for her, except in the last act, where she was most excellent. Mrs. Swendall was more animated than common in some of Lady C. -- I wish I could say much for Miss Perry's Widow Belmour, but she has not that genteel air necessary -- & in every thing, the defective & low manner of her speaking & articulation are much against her. She sung a song sweetly & with taste, but she has no power or compass of voice, tho' a sweetly modulated one. Miss Biggs was quite at home in Muslin -- the rest of the Servants are nothing -- upon the whole, I was very well entertained -- it was on the whole well acted -- is an excellent comedy, & one I never saw before, but it does not suit the cut of the company, particularly of the women, so well as some others. -- Lovers' Quarrels (for the second time) is the farce -- it went off as well as before -- Macready in Carlos was very elegantly drest. He dresses in his own clothes, as does Quick, Mr. & Mrs. Swendall, Woods, Mrs. Kemble, Miss Biggs, Mrs. Bramwell, Miss Perry, & also Siddons.

The full list of the company are --

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Mr. Kemble | Mrs. Kemble | |
| ✓ Mr. Swendall | Mrs. Swendall | Mr. Quick |
| Mr. Rock | Miss Perry | |
| Mr. Wilde [crossed out] | Miss Biggs | |
| Mr. Woods | Mrs. Bramwell | |
| Mr. Siddons | Mrs. Egerton | |

Mr. Macready

Mrs. Bland

Mr. Egerton

Mrs. Woods

Mr. Kelly

Madame Frederick

Mr. Noble

Miss Jones -- a child. --

Mr. Bland

Miss Frederick

Mr. Mills ←

Mr. Cooke

Mr. Seymour

Mr. Mills ran away about a week after

he got here.

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[3. February. 1800]

Took a long walk, as it was a very pleasant day, on the Calton, in Princes Street, &c. Took J. Lamb's & my own letters for the packet to Mr. Smith's.

In the Evening went to the play -- where I was better entertained than I have been since last Wednesday [29. January. 1800]. It was -- She Stoops to Conquer -- which on the whole -- was well acted.

ms. Tony Lumpkin, Mr. Quick -- Hardcastle, Mr. Rock -- Young Marlow, Mr. Macready -- Hastings, Bland -- Sir Charles Marlow, Kelly -- Diggory, Noble -- Miss Hardcastle, Mrs. Kemble -- Miss Neville, Mrs. Swendall -- Mrs. Hardcastle, Miss Biggs -- Dolly, Mrs. Bland.

Quick was most excellent in Tony Lumpkin -- it suited him much better than either Acres or Sir Bashful Constant. He was capital in the scene with his Mother about the Jewels. Rock was very well in Hardcastle -- particularly in the directions to the servants & the passionate scenes. Macready was excellent in every part of Young Marlow. It used to be Woods' character --

I am glad he gave it up to Macready -- he wouldn't have done it half so well. Macready always has his part off, & acts with spirit & animation, & yet with the greatest correctness. -- He was excellent in the bashful scene with Miss Hardcastle. Bland was stupid -- Egerton should have played Hastings. Kelly & Noble had little to do. Mrs. Kemble, I liked better in this, than in Lydia Languish, but genteel comedy is not her forte -- she did the barmaid part very well. Mrs. Swendal improves upon me [?] every time I see her. Some of the scenes of Miss Neville were excellent & she has an excellent articulation & manner of speaking, which makes her superior to Miss Perry. Miss Biggs, as usual, was good in Mrs. H. -- she & her son supported their comic parts most capitally.

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I never saw the play before, so was highly amused. The Miser for the second time was the farce. This is the best character I have seen Quick act. I am glad it was repeated. The house was in a roar of laughter all the time he was on the stage. He excels greatly in the grimaces & tricks of old Men -- to make them appear ridiculous -- the scene where he gives out the notes to Mariana was capital. It is a most excellent farce. The house was not full -- pit & galleries almost quite full -- very few Ladies in boxes -- not above 6 boxes filled with them -- rest had gentlemen -- there could not be above £60 in the house.

[4. February. 1800]

Took a long walk on Calton Hill &c. Went to Crichton & Field's to enquire about a chaise for my Father -- will have an estimate of one made when I call again on Thursday -- saw Mr. Field himself -- some beautiful carriages. Wrote lectures &c. -- Expected Thomson. He did not come. J. Hutchinson came at 8 -- drank tea -- & we played & sung till 12 -- then read the tragedy of Agis -- which is on the whole a good one -- the plot is well managed -- but the language is not near so beautiful & harmonious as Douglas -- the versification is often harsh & lame -- but here & there are some beautiful passages. None of the characters are very highly finished. I think it would be rather confused in representation -- the place of action &c. is so frequently changed.

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[5. February. 1800]

Walked &c. -- as usual -- went to the Play: -- where I was well amused. It was The Beaux Stratagem. Scrub, Mr. Quick -- Aimwell, Egerton -- Sir Charles Freeman, Bland -- Sullen, Cooke
 nsp. ✓ -- Boniface, Swendall -- Foigard, Rock -- Gibbet, Mr. Kelly -- Archer, Macready -- Mrs. Sullen, Miss Perry -- Lady Bountiful, Mrs. Egerton -- Gipsy, Mrs. Bland -- Dorinda, Mrs. Swendal -- Cherry, Mrs. Bramwell.

Play upon the whole well acted -- Quick was most admirable in Scrub. I like it as well as any of his parts -- he was particularly capital in the scene where he is waked from his sleep
 drest ✓ by the thieves &c. -- & comes in half drest, half asleep -- he seemed as if he did not know whether he was dead or alive. Egerton was very decent in Aimwell. Cooke made Sullen into tragedy -- it was most shocking. Swendall made a good Boniface -- he always pleases -- he was rather too dry & not jovial enough for a landlord. Kelly did Gibbet tolerably. Rock was most

admirable in Father Foigard -- it just suits him -- the fine Irish brogue -- & every thing in his style. Macready made a very good Archer -- in the lively scenes with Cherry he was excellent -- & did it all very well -- but he is more suited to play whimsical characters than the genteel vivacity of men of gallantry -- yet he has the genius of adaptability -- Upon the whole he acted very well. I was afraid for Miss Perry in Mrs. Sullen -- for she spoiled the Widow Belmour by speaking to low -- which is a character like this -- but she spoke a great deal better -- & I had not the least difficulty hearing her -- indeed she went

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thro' the part with a spirit & gay vivacity I didn't think she possessed so much of: -- her manner of speaking was so much improved that I was quite astonished -- but Fullerton told me he wrote her an anonymous letter, desiring her to mend that fault &c. -- & she has taken the hint. I will call on her & see if she says anything about it. Mrs. Swendal was tolerable in Dorinda. & Mrs. Eramwell was most excellent in Cherry -- in the catechising scene she was capital -- if she would take pains she might act well in lively comedy -- as her handsome face helps her greatly -- but she did Cherry with great spirit. Pity that Mrs. Egerton could not bring more presence to the character of Lady Bountiful. -- Upon the whole was extremely pleased with the play which I did not expect to go off so well -- it is a very licentious play -- ingenious in plot, but full of wit. I never saw it before.

The Farce was the Commissary -- Zachary Fungus, Mr. Quick -- Gruel, Mr. Kelly -- Bridoun, Egerton -- Young Loveit, Bland -- Isaac Fungus, Swendal -- Widow Loveit, Mrs. Egerton -- Dolly, Mrs. Bland -- Jenny, Mrs. Bramwell -- Mrs. Macklin, Miss Biggs.

Quick was very amusing in his oratorical & fencing lessons. Gruel was pretty well in his scene. Swendal was good in the citizen Isaac, who holds his brother's genteel accomplishments in contempt. The Ladies not much to do, except the Widow Loveit -- which was stupid. Zachary is the life of the farce & Quick was admirable. I never saw it before -- it is a good farce.

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[6. February. 1800]

Walked &c. as usual. Mr. George Macpherson called on me. He came from Newcastle yesterday, where he saw all at home very well. My Father has been ill of periodical pain in his head, but is better. He brought me a letter from my Mother, another from Maria in French, & one from J. Chatto. --

Went to the play -- The Drummer -- in 3 acts -- a thin house -- only £ 40. -- very well entertained. --

William, Mr. Quick -- Sir George Trueman, Mr. Egerton -- Tinsel, Mr. Macready -- Fantôme (the Drummer), Cooke -- Coachman, Bland -- Butler, Noble -- Gardner, Mills (the run-away).

m.s.p. ✓ Abigail, Miss Biggs -- Lady Trueman, Mrs. Swendall.

Very amusing Comedy. Quick capital in the solemn methodical humour of the Steward. In the love scene with Miss Biggs he was admirable. Miss Biggs was very well in Abigail, but she put too much grimace into it. The Servants were stupid, but their parts, as it is curtailed to 3 acts, were much shortened. Mrs. Swendal

was decent, but I wish she had a little more animation. Macready was capital in Tinsel. In the scene where he talks to the Lady & to the Conjuror -- & that with the Ghost drew effectively upon the comic absurdity in fear. In every character he has played, I have been pleased with him -- this, I think, comes after Tangent & Sir R. Ramble. Egerton was but stupid in Sir George. It is only a short part, so he might have got it off a little better.

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The Lying Valet succeeded -- excellent farce. Gayless, Egerton -- Justice Gutter, Mountfort-- Beau Triplet, Kelly -- Mrs. Gadabout, Mrs. Egerton -- Mrs. Triplet, Mrs. Bland -- Melissa, Mrs. Bramwell -- Kitty Prig, Miss Biggs -- & Sharp, Mr. Quick.

Sharp was a most excellent performance, but it requires more an air of brazen impudence, than laughable faces & dismal looks which Quick gives -- upon the whole not so good as dumb. Miss Biggs was very well in Kitty Prig -- she always [has] her part off, which is wonderful as she has so many of them to act. Mrs. Bramwell was very well, & looked beautiful in Melissa. She is a charming figure in Man's clothes.

I never saw either the Drummer or the Lying Valet before, so was well pleased with them. To this was added Animal Magnetism, for the second time -- it is the best farce they act on the whole, tho' Quick does not share in the Doctor quite so much as in the Miser -- but Macready & Mrs. Kemble were most admirable -- it kept the house in a roar of laughter all the time. Upon the whole was well amused with the Evening's entertainments.

[8. February. 1800]

Walked &c. -- Miss Chatto sent a note for me to come & drink tea, & go with her & Miss B. Stewart to the play. -- Called on Miss Perry with whom I passed a pleasant hour. She showed me Fullerton's anonymous Epistle to her, at hearing of which I appeared very much astonished -- it was a very good critique on the faults of her acting, and she has taken the hints -- she said she was much obliged to the Author, whoever he was. It is curious that both the writer & the receiver should tell me of it. I kept quite mum to Miss P. as in honor bound to Fullerton. I saw him at the play, but as I was with Miss Chatto & Miss Bea Stewart, I could not [get] near enough to speak to him.

Miss Perry is really a nice girl. She

asked me to come & drink tea to-morrow evening, which I accepted with pleasure.

Drank tea at Miss Chatto's. Went with her & Miss Stewart to the play, where we were well amused. Miss S. went home in a chaise. I set Miss Chatto home & supped with them.

Play was Love Makes a Man -- Antonio, Kelly -- Charino, Swendal -- Carlos, Woods -- Clodio, Macready -- Sancho, Rock -- Duart, Egerton -- Don Lewis, Quick -- Louisa, Miss Biggs -- Elvira, Mrs. Swendal -- Angelina, Miss Perry. -- well acted on the whole.

Quick was capital in Don Lewis -- in the passionate scenes admirable -- he is truly gifted in exposing the comic without losing all pathos. Kelly, very stupid in old Men -- he is so in any thing, but an impudent footman, or tradesman, & then he is but middling -- he has a defect in his speaking & never has his part off. Swendal was very well in Charino, tho' not exactly suited to him. Woods was excellent in Carlos, but I think he has lost a tooth, for he did not speak so distinctly as he commonly does: -- he was stiff in some of the love scenes. Macready was capital in Clodio -- I never saw it done so well before. Rock was excellent in Sancho, but he has not much to do. Egerton looked swaggering & braggart in Don Duart, which was all that was necessary for the character.

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Miss Perry was a charming Angelina. The letter has greatly improved her. She looked well, & was drest most elegantly. Mrs. Swendal was decent in Elvira -- but Miss Biggs was but very bad in Louisa. She has some excuse, for she acts in every play & farce, & has all the old women, ladies of quality, & chambermaids to do -- & she always has her part off -- in old

women she is capital -- in chambermaids, very tolerable -- in ladies of fashion, very bad. The play went off very well. Who's the Dupe was the farce -- which went off as well as before -- but I wish they would act some others. Macready should act Grainger instead of Egerton, who is but stupid in it.

[9. February. 1800]

Wrote to my Father & Mother -- bad cough I have got -- pain in my breast much better. -- Lewis, Walrond, Booth & Bryan, not at dinner to-day -- they are gone off on some wild goose chase or other. -- Went to drink tea with Miss Perry -- staid from 6 till 9 -- she is really a pleasant woman. She asked me to stay [for] supper, but I thought it would be as well to go. I am to attend her to the play to-morrow night, as she has no part in play or farce & wishes to see it.

Wrote to J. Chatto in the Evening.

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[10. February. 1800]

Walked. Called at Lewis's, for the Wise Man of the East, which I got to lend to Miss Perry -- found him at breakfast, tho' near two. -- Got a card to ask me to Mr. Haldane's on Saturday next. Called at Miss Perry's -- and attended her to the Pit -- --

The Play was Wives as they were, and Maids as they are -- and excellent play of Mrs. Inchbald's -- which on the whole was well acted.

Lord Priory, Mr. Quick (he was the original at Covent Garden) -- Mr. Norberry, Mr. Kelly -- Bronzely, Macready -- Sir George Evelyn, Egerton -- Sir William Dorillon, Woods -- Oliver, Noble -- Lady Mary Rattle, Miss Biggs -- Lady Priory, Mrs. Swendall -- Miss Dorillon, Mrs. Kemble.

Quick was capital in Lord P. -- Macready was the same as usual in Bronzely -- all those characters suit him. -- Norberry only requires the performer to look like a Gentleman, which Mr. Kelly cannot do. Egerton was but a stiff lover, but he has feeling. Woods was an excellent Sir W. Dorillon. He should keep to those older characters now -- he makes but a stiff & tedious lover -- in the last scene -- with his Daughter in the Prison -- he was excellent. Mrs. Swedall was a decent Mrs. Priory. Miss Biggs was only middling in Lady Mary -- the ladies of quality don't suit her. She acted it with spirit, but, tho' drest very fine, she looked like a waiting Maid in her Mistress' clothes.

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Mrs. Kemble has sprightliness enough for Miss Dorillon -- & in the pathetic scenes she was most charming. The scene between her & her Father in the Prison was a most admirable piece of acting on both sides, but especially on hers. Woods is always stiff, tho' often excellent. On the whole was much pleased with the play, which I never saw before. Mrs. Bramwell sung Crazy Jane sweetly between play & farce. -- The farce was Barataria -- or Sancho tricked Governor -- taken from Don Quixote -- all the characters of it, which are numerous, are stupid & of no consequence, except Sancho, Quick -- his wife Teresa, Miss Biggs -- & their daughter, Mrs. Bramwell. Quick was excellent in Sancho, but in my opinion it is a stupid farce -- & the account of the government, &c., of Sancho in Don Quixote is far better. -- It was a very thin house. After the play, set Miss Perry home, but did not stay supper, tho' she asked me, as I thought it as well, not.

[12. February. 1800]

Walked &c. Went to the play -- where met Fullerton -- & told him how Miss Perry took his letter &c. -- and what were to be acted for this fortnight &c. The play was the Belle's Stratagem, an excellent play of Mrs. Cowley's, which I have not seen for a long time -- very full house, £100, at least. Hardy, Mr. Quick -- Sir George Touchwood, Mr. Woods -- Duricourt, Mr. Macready -- Villars, Mr. Egerton -- Flutter, Noble -- Saville, Kelly -- Courtall, Cooke -- Lady Frances Toughwood, Mrs. Swendal -- Mrs. Racket, Miss Perry -- Miss Ogle, Mrs. Woods -- Kitty Willis, Mrs. Bland -- Letitia Hardy, Mrs. Kemble.

All the principal characters well acted -- Quick was excellent in Hardy, which is one of his original characters, but it is not long enough for him to be seen to much advantage. Woods was spirited, & full -- he made almost excellent Sir George. Macready in the lively scenes was excellent -- in the feigned madness, his voice is not of power enough to rant. There is a monotonoy in his face & his manner of speaking & the tones of his voice, which is more apparent in the serious scenes, than in the lively. He is always pleasant, however, has off his part, & generally acts with great judgement. -- Villars has little to do. Egerton should have been Courtall, which Cooke spoiled. Noble was but a bad Flutter & Kelly stupid in Saville. These are but subordinate characters to the 3 first. Mrs. Swendal in Lady Frances was barely decent. She is so lifeless & unanimated, & is so often in need of the prompter. I liked Miss Perry very well in Mrs. Racket. She spoke with spirit

and animation -- what a pity that she need a better voice! She looked well, & had her part off, as she always has. -- Mrs. Woods I never saw before. She is a silly looking woman -- her part was trifling & she was decent in it. -- Mrs. Kemble's Letitia is by far the best character in genteel comedy she has yet played. Miss Dorillon alone can compare to it -- upon the whole I prefer this -- her silly scene was admirable. The effect of the Masquerade is lost by her omitting the Minuet. -- In the sprightly parts (in her own character, & not that of the hoyden), she spoke too slow -- on the whole I was much pleased with the Play. -- The farce was St. Patrick's Day, or the Scheming Lieutenant. -- Justice Credulous, Mr. Quick -- His original character. Lieutenant O'Conner, Macready -- Serjeant, Kelly -- Dr. Rosy, Mr. Rock -- Mrs. Credulous, Miss Biggs -- Lauretta, Mrs. Bramwell -- very amusing farce which I never saw before. Quick was most capital -- his faces, &c., when he supposes himself favoured were irresistably ludicrous. Macready was excellent in the Irish Lieutenant, in disguise of a country man, & of a quack Doctor. Rock was excellent in the moralising Dr. Rosy, lamenting his Dolly & his lost wife, who diéd by mixing too much rum with her Spa Waters. Miss Biggs was very good in Mrs. Credulous -- a character suited to her. Mrs. Bramwell was very decent in Lauretta.

Miss Perry told me Miss Biggs was to act Miranda in the Busy Body

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to-morrow, which will be ridiculous -- she is horrid in genteel comedy. Fullerton & I are both to write her an anonymous epistle about it, which tho' it won't prevent her from acting, as now too

late to be changed, will warn her for the future -- put the letters into the post office a little after the bills of the Day are put up -- to-morrow.

Wrote & sealed the letter, which I signed X. Z. -- expressed my surprise at her taking the part -- supposed it was forced on her as I never could believe that a Lady who so much excelled in other walks of the drama, should wish to leave them for a line for which she was so incapacitated, as that of genteel comedy. --

This was the chief contents, only a compliment &c.

[13. February. 1800]

Put my letter to Miss Biggs into the post -- it cannot change the part for it is now too late, but it may hinder her taking the same sort of parts again. -- Tucker dined at Mudie's to-day. -- Walked, &c. -- Went to the play, where met Fullerton, who had also sent his letter. --

The Busy Body was the preciosus, for which Quick spoke an entertaining address to a very thin house in the character of Mother Shipton. House about £50.

Sir Francis Gripe, Quick -- Marplot, Macready -- Sir George Airy, Egerton -- Charles, Bland -- Sir Jealous Traffic, Swendal -- Whisper, Kelly -- Isabinda, Mrs. Swendal -- Patch, Mrs. Egerton -- Scentwell, Mrs. Bland -- Miranda, Miss Biggs.

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Quick was most capital in Sir Francis -- he shewed so admirably in every motion his love for money & for Miranda. -- I like him in this character better than almost any I have seen. Swendal was very good in Sir Jealous, & Macready was admirable

in Marplot -- there is a vacancy in his countenance just fit for this part -- he was the exact bustling, blundering fool the author meant -- this is the best character [he] has played in Comedy, except Tangent, & I think it equal to it. Fullerton says he likes him in it better than Bannister, who plays it often. Egerton was decent in Sir George -- Bland stupid in Charles -- Woods should have been Sir George, & Egerton, Charles. Miss Biggs was but middling in Miranda; in the scenes with Sir Francis, decent; the rest very bad. Miss Perry should have played it, & Miss Biggs should have been Patch, which Mrs. Egerton spoiled. Mrs. Swendal was decent in Isabinda. It is a charming play. I never saw it before, tho' often read it -- it went off well -- Quick & Macready carried it thro'.

Modern Antiques -- the farce -- a most laughable one. Cocklelop, Quick -- Frank, Kelly -- Joey, Noble -- Mrs. Camomile, Mrs. Woods -- Belinda, Mrs. Swendal -- Mrs. Cocklelop, Miss Biggs. Quick excelleny -- Kelly very bad -- Macready should have played it, just in his way, but he has done so much lately. Miss Biggs very good in Mrs. Cocklelop. Noble most excellent in the Yorkshire servant -- he is a far better clown than Scriven.

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[15. February. 1800]

Walked &c. -- Got the Travels of St. Leon to read -- by Godwin. Dined at Mr. & Mrs. Haldanes, with Miss Haldane, Mr. Mrs. & Miss Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Rupel & Miss Simpson, & 3 other gentlemen -- stupid -- got away at 7. Got to the play as the curtain drew up -- house very full -- got only the seat next to the Music in the Pit.

The play -- The Double Gallant, or the Sick Lady's Cure.
 Sir Solomon Sadlife, Mr. Quick -- Careless, Mr. Woods -- Clerimont,
 Mr. Kelly -- Old Wilful, Mr. Cooke -- Sir Harry Atall, Mr. Bland
 -- Supple, Mr. Bland -- &c. -- Atall, Mr. Macready.
 Lady Sadlife, Mrs. Kemble -- Lady Dainty, Miss Perry -- Sylvia,
 Mrs. Swendal -- Clarinda, Mrs. Bramwell -- Wishwell, Miss Biggs
 -- Situp, Mrs. Bland.

Play very well acted, and an excellent one -- extremely laughable -- by Colly Cibber. never saw it before.

Quick was admirable in Sir Solomon. I like him in this as well as any thing I have seen. As in Don Lewis, he makes much of Cibber's characters. Woods was very well in Careless. Kelly excessive stupid in Clerimont (Egerton should have played it). Old Wilful & Sir Harry Atall have nothing to do. Macready was most capital in Atall -- it is just in his way -- he is by far the best actor in genteel comedy we have ever had since I remember. Mrs. Kemble was very good in Lady Sadlife, tho' such parts don't exactly suit her -- however nobody else would have done it so well.

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Miss Perry was an excellent Lady Dainty, tho' it don't [sic] suit her style of acting, & it is not a pleasant part. Mrs. Bramwell looked pretty in Clarinda, in men's clothes, & acted it not amiss. Mrs. Swendal was decent & insipid in Sylvia. Miss Biggs excellent in Wishwell. It is an excellent play, full of plot & business. -- I must go to the Duenna for Quick's benefit on Monday, tho' it will cost 3/--.

The farce was the Author, a good farce of Foote's, in which Quick shone very much. Cadwallader, Quick -- Governor Cape, Cooke -- Robin, Mountfort -- Sprightly, Kelly -- Young Cape (Author), Egerton -- Mrs. Cadwallader, Miss Biggs -- Arabella, Mrs. Bramwell.

Quick was most excellent in Cadwallader -- it is just suited to him -- he has the talent to save the satire in the silliness. I liked him in it very much. Kelly & Egerton barely decent. Mrs. Bramwell tolerable. & Miss Biggs excellent. Upon the whole was well entertained.

Met Oliver there. Met Fullerton, who came late, as like me, he had been out dining. Instead of the Stranger, on Wednesday, we are to have Lovers' Vows, in which a young Gentleman appears for the first time on any stage, in Frederick. I hope Siddons won't give up that character, as it is one of his best. Mrs. Kemble, Miss Perry told me, has given up Agatha, which is most ridiculous, as it is far more suited to her than the parts she has lately been playing. I fore see (as Hardy says in The Belle's Stratagem) that all these changes will spoil the play, which was excellent last Winter.

IV, 179

[16. February. 1800]

Walked. Called on Miss Perry -- sat an hour with her & played & sung &c. Mrs. Kemble sent a civil message to me by Miss P. to say she should be happy to see me, &c. In the Evening went to the play -- paid admission as it was Quick's Benefit -- met Fullerton: -- who has written an anonymous letter to Mrs. Kemble about her resigning the character of Agatha in Lover's Vows, which we see by this day's paper she has done, as it is

advertised for Wednesday, & Mrs. Swendall to play the part, which will be dreadful. -- Took my letters to Mr. Smith's to go by packet.

The house was very crowded, £120, at the least. The Duenna was the play, in which Quick performed Isaac Mendoza, the original of which he was the first Season at Covent Garden when it was acted more than 70 times. He was most capital in it, especially in the mock love scenes with the Duenna. Miss Perry was Carlos, the chief singing man's character, but nothing to act. She sung with great taste & spirit, & looked very well in an elegant Spanish dress -- but her legs, tho' not ill proportioned, are large for so small a body -- however she is what may be called a good breeches-figure; so not so good as Mrs. Bramwell. --

Carlos, Miss Perry -- Isaac Mendoza, Mr. Quick --

IV, 180

Ferdinand, Egerton -- Antonio, Cooke -- Father Paul, Swendal -- Father Francis, Mountfort -- Lay Brother, Mr. Bland -- Lopez, Kelly -- Don Jerome, Rock -- Clara, Mrs. Bramwell -- Duenna, Miss Biggs -- Louisa, Mrs. Kemble -- Servants, Mrs. Bland & [Mrs.] Egerton.

Egerton was very good in Ferdinand. He looked well, & acted decently, & that was all that was necessary. Cooke sung well in Antonio -- he had little to act, & the less the better. Swendal was a capital Father Philip. Bland looked the picture of famine in the lay brother. Kelly was decent in Lopez. & Rock was capital in Don Jerome -- in the passionate scenes, he was most admirable -- & while he & Isaac dispute on Louisa's beauty: that was a most excellent scene. He & Quick sung the comic songs with great effect. Mrs. Bramwell looked pretty in Clara, & sung

charmingly. Mrs. Kemble was excellent in Louisa. There is an archness in some parts of it, that is just in her line. She sung tolerably well. Miss Biggs makes an excellent Duenna -- it is one of her best characters -- the first scene between her & Quick was played with engaging strut & vivacity. Never was better entertained at a play -- & I never saw it before: it is full of business, fun, & charming Music. -- A Trio -- of Mrs. Kemble, Miss Perry, & Cooke, was the sweetest melody of chords I ever heard.

IV, 181

Quick, after the play, made a long soliloquy in the comic style -- in which, as a drunken cit[izen] reading the papers, he made much fun -- & read that "Quick now had a benefit at Edinburgh, graced by much beauty & fashion, & that he intended to deliver an address of thanks, but could not find words strong enough to express his gratitude --" This was strongly applauded -- he concluded by a good comic Song. -- The farce was St. Patrick's Day, which went off as well as before.

[19. February. 1800]

Walked. Called on Miss Perry with some music -- Scots Songs, Siege of Belgrade, &c. We sung for 2 hours & she played &c. She is a charming girl. She told me Mrs. Kemble had received a letter about her giving up the character of Agatha which had made her resume it. Thus again I heard of Fullerton's letter from the party concerned on both sides.

IV, 182

Got a letter from my Father & Mother. Got one from John Chatto, & one from B. Ormston -- all well at home, nothing particular. They came by the Packet.

Went to the play -- met Fullerton -- told him of the good effects of his letter -- a tolerable house -- about £40 or 50. Lover's Vows. The part of Frederick by a young Gentleman, being his first appearance upon any Stage. Baron Wildenhaim, Woods -- Count Cassel, Noble -- Anhalt, Egerton -- Cottager, Mountfort -- Landlord, Kelly -- &c. -- Verdun (the Butler), Rock -- Amelia, Mrs. Bramwell -- Cottager's Wife, Miss Biggs -- Country Girl, Mrs. Bland -- Agatha Friburgh Mrs. Kemble.

Play well acted on the whole -- the cast of it is a little changed since last year, but not for the better.

The young Gentleman rather afraid at first, but soon got boldness -- he has a very good expressive face & a tolerable figure -- & great feeling -- but he wants judgement & has a most unfortunate method of pronouncing his words -- also a wretched bad gait on the stage -- but these might be easily improved, for he speaks distinctly enough, but wants voice to carry him thro' the impassioned scenes. His voice is very weak & on a low key, & when he is to be pathetic he has a dismal whine -- on the whole I was in great pain for him all the time, however he displayed promise of great merit in some of the scenes, especially those with his father, & by time & practise he may be an acquisition -- he got great applause thro' the whole part, & the play is to be repeated on Monday in the same manner.

IV, 183

Woods was most excellent in the Baron, so manly & impressive. I think it is one of his best characters. Egerton was a much better Anhalt than Bew last Winter -- he played it decently. Noble played Count Cassel very badly -- he seemed like a footman

in his master's clothes -- he was only better than Lewis last Winter by our hearing what he said, which before could not be done. Rock retained his accustomed excellence in the Rhyming Butler -- it is certainly a chef d'oeuvre of his acting. Miss Biggs a good cottager's wife. Mrs. Kemble is a most charming Agatha -- it is just suited to her powers of pathos -- how she could think of giving it up to the inanimate Mrs. Swendal is to me quite incomprehensible. Mrs. Bramwell was only decent in Amelia -- not near so good as Fanny Kemble last Winter -- her simplicity was just fit for it. Mrs. Bramwell makes it pert & impudent, & utters the sentences in a hoydenish manner, instead of the lively yet modest simplicity Fanny Kemble used to shew. It was her best character -- it does not suit Mrs. B. at all, but it is written so as to be sure to please, if not rendered absolutely ridiculous. The play passed off pretty well, but as I have now seen it 4 times, I think I shan't go on Monday next to see it again -- by the same performers.

IV, 184

The farce was No Song, No Supper -- a most excellent musical farce which I have not seen for long.

Robin, Noble -- Endless, Kelly -- Frederic, Bland -- Thomas, Stuart -- Cross, Cooke -- Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Bramwell -- Nelly, Miss Perry -- Louisa, Mrs. Bland -- Margatetta, Mrs. Kemble.

Noble was rather decenter in Robin than in the play -- he would have been tolerable if he could sing, but they are forced to leave out all the songs of Robin & Frederic. Kelly was decent in Engless. Bland stupid in Frederic, & has not the usual excuse for stupidity, that of not singing well, for he wisely left out all the Songs, except joining in trios, quartets, &c. Cooke was

excellent in Cross -- he sung the songs well, & was the homest English farmer. Mrs. Bramwell was an excellent Mrs. Cross, & quite at home -- she sung charmingly. Mrs. Bland was decent in Louisa. She sung one or two of the songs, & with taste & intonation more so than Mrs. Kemble, but her voice, tho' sweet, is very weak. Miss Perry looked very droll in Nelly, & sung well, but she should have played Frederick, & Miss Biggs Nelly. Both do well in men's clothes. Mrs. Kemble's Margareta is a most delightful piece of acting. Her simplicity & naiveté is just fit for the ballad singing. Thro' the whole piece, she is most charming in this character. The last scene -- of the supper, the song, & the lawyer in the poke -- set the house in a roar -- it is an excellent farce. Cooke & the women acted & sung well -- the rest very bad.

IV, 185

[20. February. 1800]

Walked &c. Called at Miss Perry's. She [was] at rehearsal, but left word her music master would not be with her to-day. We are to sing Trios, which will improve me perhaps, tho' I am afraid it will [not] be of much benefit to her--tho' she is too polite to say so--because I shall make but a lame hand of it -- however it is only to try.

Tytler did not lecture to-day--as he had fixed it, it is not to begin again till Monday. -- Read St. Leon &c.

Went to the play, where met Fullerton as usual -- thinnest house by much we have yet had, not more than £20: -- which shows what little taste people have, as a better play & farce, & better acted, never can be seen in Edinburgh. The play, the Inconstant, by desire of Lady Charlotte Campbell, who of course was present & filled a few boxes.

Old Mirabel, Rock -- Young Mirabel, Macready -- Duretête, Woods -- Dugard, Egerton -- Petit, Stuart -- Oriana, Mrs. Bramwell -- Lamorce, Mrs. Woods -- Bisadre, Mrs. Kemble.

The play was very well acted indeed. Rock is a most excellent Old Mirabel. Macready is a good Young Mirabel -- in the lively scenes, he was admirable -- in the small part of it that is serious, Siddons used to be better, but on the whole, Macready exceeds Siddons in this character. Woods is a most capital Duretête -- it is, I think, the best piece in comedy I have seen him act.

IV, 186

Egerton was as good as necessary for Dugard. Noble should have been Petit. Mrs. Bramwell looked handsome in Oriana, but it is a character beyond her powers -- she played it much better than Amelia last night, which was not at all suited to her, but in the serious scenes & the affected madness it is far beyond her powers of voice & action. Still, she was decent & looked handsome in the page's dress. Mrs. Woods was all that was necessary for Lamorce except being handsome -- that he has no pretensions to. -- Mrs. Kemble is a charming Bisadre. People think because she excels so in the pathetic, or in low comedy, that she can act nothing else, but they have only to see her in this to be mistaken, for nothing can be played with more ease & spirit than she did this. It is a most excellent play.

Catherine & Petruchio. Baptista, Mountfort -- Petruchio, Woods -- Biondello, Kelly -- Taylor, Egerton -- Hortensio, Cooke -- Bianca, Mrs. Bland -- Curtis, Mrs. Egerton -- Catherine, Miss Perry -- Gusmio, Rock.

Woods' Petruchio is as good as his Duretête -- he is famous for both. Rock was an excellent Gusmio. Egerton looked stupid & made a good Taylor. Miss Perry played Catherine with great

spirit, butther voice is not powerful enough for scolding. It went off very well, both the play & farce, & I was well entertained, as I have not seen them for a long time. --

The other characters in the farce are mere cyphers.

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[21. February. 1800]

Walked &c. Called at Miss Perry's. We played & sung &c. for 2 hours. Thomson came at 6 -- & I got my 9th Lesson. Went to Miss Chatto's, with whom I supped: -- carried them the 2 first vols. of St. Leon to read. Written by Godwin. Finished reading it -- the first vols. are very interesting, but it falls off in interest towards the end, & the story is so ridiculous, the sentiments so high-flown & odd, that it is not at all a pleasing book. St. Leon's chusing such a wretch as Bethlem Gabor for a friend is completely ridiculous -- however some parts of it are very fine & the character of Marguerite is most highly drawn. Charles is also a noble character.

[22. February. 1800]

Walked. Called on Macpherson -- he not ⁿ it. Called at Mr. Pringle's, saw Mrs. P. Walked down to Leith. Walked with Bryan & Boote. Walked with W. Lamb, Wright, & Hutchinson. Hutchinson came & we played & sung an hour before dinner. Went to the play, where met Fullerton -- a good house, £80. The Stranger, the play: first time this Season.

The Stranger, Siddons -- his first appearance this Season -- Baron Steinfort, Egerton -- Count Wintersen, Kelly -- Francis, Bland -- Solomon, Rock -- Peter, Noble -- Tobias, Cooke -- Young Wintersen, Miss Jones -- Children, Miss Egerton & Miss Frederick. The Countess, Miss Perry -- Charlotte, Miss Biggs -- Annette, Miss Bramwell -- Tavoyard, Mrs. Bland -- Mrs. Haller, Mrs. Kemble.

The cast of this play is changed from last Season, & on the whole for the better.

IV, 188

Kelly is equally stupid, & looks worse in Count Wintersen, than Smith used to do. -- Egerton is a much better Steinfort than Bew -- he played it very decently. Bland plays Francis better than any other character. Rock is a most excellent Solomon. I wonder he did not do it last Winter -- he does it with far more humour than Wilde did. Noble is a much better Peter than Scriven used to be -- it just suits him -- a silly clown is the only thing he does well. Cooke is too young & his voice too tedious & monotonous for Tobias. Swendal should have played it. Miss Perry makes a much better Countess than Miss Kemble did. Miss Biggs is as good as Miss Smith was in Charlotte. Mrs. Bramwell sung the Songs much better than F. Kemble did last Winter.

Siddons, I think, is greatly improved, even since last Winter -- he grows more and more like John Kemble -- about the upper part of the face -- he plays this character with great judgement & spirit, & it is not beyond the power of his voice, as there is but one ranting speech in it -- his Swene with Steinfort & the last Scene were most admirable-- he pays the greatest attention to his part, & never loses sight of it an instant. This shews how much may be done by study, for he has few natural requisites for the Stage. Mrs. Kemble, tho' much has been said against her Mrs. Haller, is, I think, excellent in it -- it does not require that great power of voice, nor majesty of figure, which Mrs. Siddon has, as she is supposed to be only 19 years old -- & indeed it

is almost all the pathetic, in which Mrs. Kemble so much excels -- her voice may be too monotonous for some impassioned scenes, but she does them with great justice -- & whatever faults may be found with either her or Siddons in this play, they act so as to reach the heart -- & that was what was by the author intended. It is wonderful how any body can call this an immoral play. I think any woman of common sensibility who has erred like Mrs. Haller need only to see this play to bring her to repentance -- tho' perhaps the impression might not be very lasting. Mrs. Kemble spoke an appropriate Epilogue, written by someone in Edinburgh, which was a kind of moral, or apology for the correlation -- it was well written & she read it with propriety -- it was a serious epilogue.

Farce was the Irishman in London, written by Macready. Murtoch Delany, Rock -- Seymour, Bland -- Colloony, Egerton -- Frost, Kelly -- Cymon, Noble -- Edward. Macready -- Louisa, Mrs. Swendall -- Cubba, Mrs. Bland -- Caroline, Mrs. Bramwell.

A good broad farce. Rock's Irishman is most capital -- he was the original at Covent Garden -- & it is impossible for any thing to be better acted. Bland has little to do in Seymour. Egerton but a poor Collony -- he can't speak Irish. Kelly a decent Frost. Noble a good Cymon. Macready a most capital Edward -- he & Rock are the support of it. Scriven used to do it, & spoil it. Macready is most admirable in this. I never saw any thing better.

IV, 190

Swendall Mrs. Swendall very well in Louisa -- a genteel lively character suits her best. Mrs. Bland is an excellent Cubba -- her simplicity (which is the only thing she has, for she is so inanimate) is suited for this. Mrs. Bramwell was stupid in Louisa [Caroline], for she can't be sentimental. upon [sic] was well entertained,

tho' in a totally different manner, with the play & farce. Came home with Hutchinson, who drank tea, & sat & played & sung an hour.

[24. February. 1800]

Walked &w. Tucker called on me. Tytler lectured to-day, for first time since Friday week. He has been detained by Court Martial.

IV, 192

[27. February. 1800]

... ...

The Play, the Birthday -- 3 acts -- a new play from Kotzebue by J. Dibdin -- beautiful play, very affecting & so natural. The 2 brothers & Jack Junk are most capitally drawn -- especially the gouty captain & Jack Junk. Mrs. Moral is well done, & Emma is a charming character. Harry is not much.

Captain Bertram, Rock -- Mr. Bertam, Cooke -- Jack Junk, Swendal -- Harry, Egerton -- Lawyer Circuit, Kelly -- William, Bland -- Anne, Mrs. Egerton -- Mrs. Moral, Miss Biggs -- & Emma, Miss Perry.

Rock excellent in the Captain -- in the gouty scenes quite at home. I never saw him try the pathetic before, but the pathetic of this is so mixed with the ludicrous that it went off very well. The scene with Jack Junk & the tobacco box, & the last scene, Rock did with much feeling & sense -- also that with Emma. Cooke is decent in an old Man, but he has very little to do -- only one long scene with Harry. Egerton was a decent Harry -- he has not much to do. Kelly has little to do in Lawyer Circuit but was very good in it. Bland little to do in William. Miss Biggs was a most excellent Mrs. Moral, a little overcharged or so, & the humour of the character is but poor. Mrs. Egerton has hardly anything to do. Miss Perry was a charming Emma.

I like her much better in these pathetic characters than in lively or declamatory parts -- her scene with Rock was delightful -- by both of them.

IV, 193

Swendal was a most admirable Jack Junk. I don't think it could be better done, either in the honest hearty humourous speeches to Mrs. Moral, or in the pathetic ones with his master -- he greatly excelled. He is certainly an actor of good sense, & excellent judgement. His character, Rock's, Miss Biggs', & Miss Perry's are the chief instruments of satire. The play went off well & received with great applause.

Peggy's Love -- a grand ballet, long performed at Drury Lane. Jemmy, Miss Perry -- Old Man, Kelly -- Villagers, &c. -- Old Woman, Miss Biggs -- Lady of the Manor, Mrs. Swendal -- Peggy, Madam Frederic -- she looked most beautiful -- this her first appearance -- it is a good dance -- & Miss Perry is a charming Jemmy -- & she [Madam Frederic] is an excellent Peggy. It went off very well, but I hope they won't act it every night or I shall be quite sick of it.

The Devil to Pay -- Jobson, Rock -- Coachman, Kelly -- Conjuror, Mountfort -- Butler, Bland -- Cook, Stuart -- Sir John Loverule, Cooke -- Lady Loverule, Mrs. Egerton -- Letlice, Mrs. Bramwell -- Lucy, Mrs. Woods -- Nell, Mrs. Kemble.

Never saw this truly laughable, yet very ridiculous farce before. O was much pleased with it. Rock's Jobson is a complete piece of acting. I defy it to be matched. -- his singing the comic songs at his stall, scenes with his wife & Lady L., & the whole from beginning to end is most admirable.

Mrs. Kemble's Nell is as good as Rock's Jobson -- the simplicity & naiveté which she has are just fitted for it. I think it is her best farce, & she has many excellent characters of the same kind. I don't believe Mrs. Jordan can equal her in this. She may have more archness, but has not, I have heard, the simplicity of Mrs. B. which is so charming. Lady Loverule is Mrs. Egerton's best character -- she scolds & runs about very well, but she has her part very imperfect always. Cooke has some good Songs in Sir John. It is, I think, the best acted farce I have seen on the whole, & went off in great style & with much applause.

[27. February. 1800]

Called on Mr. D. Balfour, with a letter about some Kelp from my Father, which was inclosed in mine yesterday. Saw him, very civil, took my direction & hope to see me some day or other, which day I hope may never arrive. I hate visiting here -- it only interrupts my business & hinders me going to the play -- and then never knowing any body one meets is extremely stupid. Walked. Called on Miss Perry. She not in; at rehearsal. Went to the play, where met Fullerton. It was a Cure for the Heartache, which I have not seen for 3 years, since Ryley, Melvin, Rock & Mrs. Ryley, &c., performed the Rapids & the Vortexes at Newcastle. Miss Kemble & Scriven were then Jessy Oatland & Frank--& Mountfort & Siddons, Sir Hubert & Charles Stanley.

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The play was now cast quite in a different manner -- in some parts it was much better, in others not so good.

Young Rapid, Macready -- Sir Hubert Stanley, Woods -- Old Rapid, Kelly -- Frank Oatland, Noble -- Charles Stanley, Mr. Seymour, from Windsor, his first appearance on this stage

(I wish it may be his last) -- Farmer Oatland, Cooke -- Bronze, Stuart -- Heartly, Mountfort -- Vortex, Rock -- Ellen Vortex, Mrs. Swendal -- Miss Vortex, Miss Biggs -- Jessie Oatland, Mrs. Bramwell. -- it is a most diverting play -- not above \$30 in the house. Macready was a very good Young Rapid, tho' not as good as Melvin was -- it was by far his best character. Macready went thro' it with great spirit -- his figure is not light enough, nor has his face vivacity for it, however he was very well. Ryley used to be a most capital old Taylor -- Kelly made a very bad one after him -- he was not so bad as he generally is. Noble was a very good Frank, especially in the humorous scenes -- he was much better than Scriven. Cooke was a most wretched Farmer Oakland -- in the first scene -- but in the last pathetic one was decent. Woods was an excellent Sir Hubert -- the scene with his son was capital -- this at least was a great improvement from Mountfort, who did it when I last saw it. Stuart was a wretched Bronze. De Camp used to do it well. Rock is admirable in Vortex -- the Scene with the Rapids when he makes his speech is most capital. Mrs. Swendal was decent in Ellen. Miss Perry should have played it, & Mrs. Kemble Jessie. Miss Biggs was decent in Miss Vortex -- Mrs. Ryley was excellent in it. Mrs. Bramwell was only decent in Jessie -- it is a short part.

IV, 196

As to the New Performer from Windsor, Mr. Seymour, he is very young -- he can't be 20 -- he is a very genteel figure, but a wretched stiff stupid speaker -- he will never be an actor, but I see that he & Egerton will have all the Lovers & Siddons will never act. I wish he had staid away. The play went off well on the whole. Peggy's Love followed -- same as last night. Knight's new musical farce of the Turnpike Gate was performed for the first time, which I could not stay to see, being

capital, & he seemed to have studied it with great care. Woods could not have done it better -- especially the ranting speech, when he finds his brother & sister are alive. Noble was very decent in the Drunken Tutor. Rock was most capital in the one scene he had, when he comes drunk to deliver the letter from his brother to Sir Rowland. Cooke in Lord Alford was very bad when he found his children, & Miss Perry did not scream very well -- the parents are trifling characters. Cooke sings one good song.

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Siddons has one good song -- in the comic style, which he got thro' with tolerably, tho' too solemn. Miss Biggs was an excellent old Winifred -- Mrs. Bramwell, a very good Josephine. She & Noble have a good duet, & she sang the ballad very well. The children both did well, & were much applauded -- it is an excellent farce. The house was very well, the boxes particularly -- £80.

[2. March. 1800]

Wrote to my Father & Mother. Took a long walk. Called on Miss Perry, sat an hour with her. Pizarro comes out on Wednesday with new scenery, painted by Naesmith, Cooper, Kelly, Noble, &c. They are very busy at it to-day. Drank tea with Miss Perry -- while I was there, Mr. Seymour & Madame Frederic came in, this but to ask for a play Miss P. had, & the latter to ask her to play Clara in the Adopted Child -- which she won't do, so Madame Frederic must play it herself. Madame F. looked most beautiful, but has a vulgar way of speaking. Had some music with Miss Perry, & spent a pleasant 3 hours. Mrs. Bland has left the company here to go & be Fatima at Sunderland.

[3. March. 1800]

Took a long walk. Met Mrs. & Miss Haldane, with whom I walked a short way. Henry Lundie called to ask me to a dance next Monday -- at a Mrs. Brown's.

IV, 200

Went to the play, where met Fullerton -- a very thin house, at most £20. Laugh when you can -- first time in this theatre -- good laughable play, but most of the characters very bad, tho' some very good.

Gossamer, Macready -- Delvile, Seymour -- Mortimer, Egerton -- Bonus, Noble -- Gregory, Kelly -- Costly, Bland -- Farmer Blackbarck, Mountfort -- Young Mortimer, Miss Egerton -- Jambo, Siddons ^{Biggs} -- Miss Gloomy, Miss Miggs -- Dorothy, Mrs. Egerton -- Mrs. Mortimer, Miss Perry.

Macready most capital in Gossamer -- one of his best characters. Seymour very bad in Delvile. Egerton, but poor in Mortimer. Noble shocking in Bonus. Woods should have played Mortimer, & Egerton Delvile. Rock should have been Bonus. Siddons excellent in Jambo -- it is a fine feeling character without rant. Miss Biggs only tolerable in Miss Gloomy, Mrs. Egerton a very bad Dorothy. Miss Perry an excellent Mrs. M., particularly in the scene with Delvile, when there was a noble air of hauteur in her manner -- & her figure is just suited to ^{Swendall} that. Mrs. Swendall read the part of Emily, which spoiled it. Mrs. Bramwell was to have acted it -- but took a whim. In the middle of a speech she was reading, somebody hissed -- who I suppose had not heard the apology made at the beginning of the play -- but it was ungenerous to hiss

IV, 201

without knowing the reason of her reading the part. She spoke & said she was sorry they should hiss her, as it was not

by her own choice that she read the part -- they gave her a loud applause, & also the next time she came on, but it was a very disagreeable thing for her.

The farce was the Adopted Child. Michael, Mr. Siddons -- the Child, Miss Jones -- Sir Bertram, Bland -- Le Sage, Cooke -- Flint, Stuart -- Spence, Seymour -- Record, Rock -- Nelly, Miss Biggs -- Lucy, Miss Perry -- & Clara, Mrs. Bramwell-- Madame Frederic played the latter. Siddons was most capital, tho' he made it rather too tragic, & looked like a gentleman in disguise, instead of a country man -- however he played it with great feeling -- it is a farce entirely without humour -- the pathetic parts are pretty enough. Miss Jones did the child very well. Cooke sung 2 good songs. Miss Biggs very decent, Miss Perry very well, & Madame F. looked very well -- upon the whole was very well entertained. Rock was a capital steward.

Wrote an anonymous letter to Siddons about Bland's playing Valverde in Pizarro rather than Seymour who will spoil it -- but it is too late now -- & I could not send it till bills are put up tomorrow.

IV, 202

[5. March. 1800]

Walked with Fullerton, accompanied him to his lodgings -- he making out casts of some good plays -- to send anonymous to Stephen Kemble when he comes. Got a letter from home -- all well. Went to the play -- met Fullerton -- house as full as it could hold -- £150, fullest this year -- Pizarro -- first time -- most beautiful scenes: -- Pizarro's tent -- very fine -- first act -- Temple Inn -- Grand Scene -- Priests & Præstesses, procession -- Warriors -- trophies & banners -- very splendid indeed. 3rd act, wild retreat among rocks, where women wait -- which has fine effect. Act 5th, Romantic view, very fine -- also all thro' this play,

a beautiful landscape of Peruvian camp with Ataliba's tent in front, painted by Naesmyth, & very fine -- both the dresses & scenes are very splendid, & upon the whole most elegantly got up. Ataliba, Egerton -- Rolla, Siddons -- Alonzo, Macready -- Cora, Mrs. Kemble -- Pizarro, Woods -- Elvira, Miss Perry -- Gonzalo, Bland -- Davilla, Stewart -- Almagro, Oliver -- Valverde, Seymour -- Old Blind Peruvian, Noble -- Las Casas, Swendal -- Orozembo, Cooke -- Crane, Kelly -- Peruvian women, all the rest as many as could muster -- only 6 -- did very well with children -- Child of Cora, Miss Frederic -- Peruvian Boy, Miss Jones.

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Upon the whole, well acted -- Egerton was decent in Ataliba -- it requires nothing great. Siddons capital in Rolla -- he plays it with spirit & judgement -- better than I expected -- it is a noble character & he got great applause. Macready but middling in Alonzo -- he is a bad figure for it, & tragedy is not at all his forte, however he was decent. Mrs. Kemble is a most charming Cora, & it is just fit for her. Miss Perry looks beautiful in Elvira -- her fine figure just fit for it, but her voice fails in declamation. Seymour a bad Valverde -- he is excessive stupid in his proclamations to Elvira. Swendal an excellent Las Casa -- he declaims well -- he has but one scene. The children did well. Cooke was only decent in Orozembo. Kemble, when he comes, will play it, & Cooke will take the Old Peruvian, which is spoiled by Noble. Woods is an excellent Pizarro -- he would be the better of less stiffness & more animation. Upon the whole the play went off well -- & the scenery is beautiful. The Music is good, but there are few Singers (Cooke is the High Priest) -- it is a charming play.

The farce, the Rival Soldiers -- or Highest Laurel -- Sinclair, Bland -- Lennox, Cooke -- Serjeant, Egerton -- Nipperkin, Rock -- Capt. Cruizer, Kelly -- Mary, Miss Perry. Rock most capital -- his drollery is just fit for the drunken scene, which he plays in so natural & comic a manner that it is irresistible, tho' the farce is complete nonsense. Miss Perry excellent in Mary -- she sung well, & looked handsome -- she has little to act.

[6. March. 1800]

Called on Miss Perry. Walked with her & Mrs. Kemble in the park & Calton Hill -- spent a pleasant hour with them. Mrs. K. asked me to dine there on Sunday next, with Mr. Siddons & Miss Perry, which I accepted. Called on Mr. Laing with a letter from my Father in St. Andrew's Square -- about some kelp, 100 tons he had disposed of to Hull -- but shall write to Hull, & if he can spare any of it, we shall have it, & he will send it &c. Got home just in time for Tytler's lecture.

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Went to the play -- Pizarro -- was much more pleased with it than last night -- they acted with more spirit -- in particular, Mrs. Kemble, in the scene with Rolla after Alonzo's loss -- she was most capital in that. Miss Perry also was greatly better than last night. She spoke louder & did the part with more spirit: in particular the scene with Pizarro after Alonzo is gone. Macready was better to night, but he does not do it well. Swendall was excellent. Woods also good, but he has not the voice for it, & it is the cool villain he plays well -- the sneering taunting parts were excellent. Siddons was capital in Rolla -- he may perhaps rant rather too much, but it is a ranting

Swendall ✓

→ character, & the badness of his voice makes it more apparent -- he introduces many pauses, generally right -- one I don't like -- after starting on seeing Alonzo's child, in 5th act, he makes a long pause. I think he should speak immediately & involuntarily, "Gracious heaven! it is Alonzo's child!" -- for had he stopped to consider where it was, he never would have said it at all. He acts it on the whole with great judgement & feeling -- the play got great applause. Ataliba was better tonight -- the scenery was better managed -- indeed the whole play was better -- & the Music better also, thb' they want Mrs. Bramwell's voice, who is really very ill. The scene in the Temple of the Sun in the second act has a very solemn effect. Upon the whole, was much better pleased than last night. Must have been £120, every place quite full, but pit, which wanted first row.

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Recruiting Serjeant -- interlude -- silly -- good song of Oh what a charming thing's a battle -- by Cooke, who is a good Serjeant. Mrs. Bramwell was much wanted to be the Countryman's wife. Mrs. Egerton is a sad creature. Miss Biggs is a good old Mother, & Bland decent in Countryman.

[7. March. 1800]

Walked. Wrote Lectures. Walked with Fullerton -- he called here. Thomson did not come. Went to the play at 1/2 after nine -- saw 2 last acts, & Peggy's Love. All went off well. Met Fullerton, who said there is a very severe letter in the Scot's Chronicle by Timothy Plain -- particularly against Siddons. I shall read it to-morrow. At the end of the play, Siddons came forward to make a speech. He said that for 4 years some Gentleman had perpetually attacked his acting in a public paper. He begged the pardon of the audience for intruding upon their

patience, but merely wished to say that he had bestowed the greatest pains on the Character, & that if he had not succeeded in pleasing them, which was his first wish, he should be very sorry -- roars of applause twice interrupted before this -- It should always be his pride, & always had been, to endeavour to merit their approbation, & as the season of his stay here was but short, he hoped they would pardon his failings, & would at least [grant] him credit for using all his endeavours to study every part he played as well as he could, &c. He was loudly applauded. This severe criticism has hurt him much, particularly as he has taken so much pains with the character.

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[14. March. 1800]

... ..

Got letters from Newcastle which came to Mr. Smith's by the Packet, late on Wednesday. Got one from my Father & Mother, one from B. Ormston, one from J. Chatto, & one from Maria -- all well. Been to see Quick, much pleased with him. He has acted at Newcastle: Scrub, Lovegold, Toby Allspice, Old D'Oyley, Don Lewis, Acres, Barnaby Brittle, &c. -- & J. Chatto has seen them all.

Went to the play at 1/2 past nine. Saw last act, & farce. A good house -- must have been £60, which [is] very good for 8th running night. Farce -- Fortune's Frolic, which was very well done, tho' neither Rock nor Macready are in it, & Miss Biggs has a part of little consequence, but Noble was capital in Robin -- it is the only thing which he has done well, but he does this with great spirit & humour. Seymour is barely decent. Egerton is but decent -- Macready should have played it. Miss Perry is very good as the simple Dolly. Mrs. Swendal & Miss Biggs decent.

Kelly is a bad actor, but if he does any thing well it is a silly old man, & in Snacks he is very tolerable. It is a most amusing farce, & goes off very well.

[15. March. 1800]

Walked. Called at Miss Chatto's. Read Dramatic Censor, &c. Went to the play. Saw 3 last acts -- a good house, £80. Pizarro -- farce, Old Maid. Mr. Harlow, Mr. Bland -- Clerimont, Mr. Egerton -- Captain Cape, Mr. Swendal & Mrs. Harlow, Miss Perry -- Trifle, Mrs. Egerton -- Miss Harlow, Miss Biggs.

Egerton decent in Clerimont, & Bland in Harlow. Swendal is a most excellent Captain Cape -- there is a chastity of humour in his action, which we don't often see -- his corpulence & ugliness are no way against him in this character. Miss Perry makes a good Mrs. Harlow, which is not of much consequence, & Miss Biggs, tho' she overacts it a little, is certainly an excellent Miss Harlow. Upon the whole was much pleased with the farce, which is excessively laughable, & was well acted -- indeed no great acting is required except in Miss Harlow & Captain Cape. Met Fullerton there -- we could not get a seat in the pit, as came too late -- walked home with him for the Dramatic Censor -- staid, to eat some bread & cheese -- he is the author of the Critique on the Edinburgh company, which is in No. 47 of the Monthly Mirror -- & has one ready to send, of this year's company.

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[18. March. 1800]

Walked. Called on Miss Perry -- sat 2 hours with her, playing & singing. ... No play this evening.

[19. March. 1800]

Read letter of Crito's in Scot's Chronicle, which praises Pizarro & its actors up to the skies, in opposition to Timothy Plain, who decries it -- both equally wrong in my opinion.

... ..

Taylor (a devout Mudie's dinner-man) called on me, to ask me to go & hear Moore, the music master, play on a new upright Grand Piano. Sat after dinner with Gate, who played to me on the fiddle, of which he is perfect master -- never heard such delightful sounds, taste & execution -- he is certainly equal to Itabibiri. Went with him & Taylor to Moore's -- heard him; most delightful -- he is an excellent player & played some beautiful pieces -- the instrument is the same as mine at home, but upright & like a bookcase -- it is a fuller tone & has more stops. -- After that went to the play with Taylor. Fullerton was not there -- he being out to dinner -- house was wretched -- not \$15, could not be more -- the 1st night of the Wisemen of the East, which was

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decently acted. Ava Hoanoa, Swendal -- Mr. Metland, Woods -- Ensign Metlan, Egerton -- Lawley, Cooke -- Bankwell, Mountfort -- Sir Richard Chances, Kelly -- Timothy Starch, Rock -- Claransforth, Macready -- Lady Mary Diamond, Mrs. Frederic -- Mrs. Starch, Miss Biggs -- Mrs. Metland, Mrs. Swendall -- Ellen Metland, Miss Perry -- Ruth Starch, Mrs. Kemble.

Swendal spoke Ava with dignity & justness. Woods never acted better than in Metland -- an old feeling character, or a villain, are his best lines -- he was chaste, correct, & sensible throughout, particularly excellent in the scene where he tells his wife that their goods are to be seized -- he did not shew enough

emotion when the money was found in the desk -- but in the last act when he gives it to Claransforth, he was capital. I wished Siddons to have acted young Metland, but it is a short part & Egerton was very decent. Cooke, Mountfort, & Kelly have little to do. Rock was an excellent Quaker. Macready did Claransforth very well -- in particular the light Scenes -- he has a natural & pleasant style of acting in these characters! how much better than in Alonzo! M. Frederic looked pretty, but acted Lady Mary very badly -- the less she speaks the better -- her heels move better than her tongue. Miss Biggs makes an excellent Quaker, but there is nothing in the part. Mrs. Swendal played Mrs. Metland very decently, with some feeling & animation, of which she is generally in great want -- she was much better than common.

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Miss Perry was a charming Ellen -- a part just fit for her, as it is within the compass of her voice -- and a feeling character she does well, far better than Elvira, which does not suit her. Mrs. Kemble made much of the short part of Ruth -- every line of it told. She did it with great naiveté, but it is too short for her. Upon the whole was highly pleased, tho' the plot of the play is absurd, yet it is interesting -- the dialogue is good, & in one or two scenes most beautiful. Claransforth is a most villainous character -- as soon as Ellen saves his fortune by discovering the plot laid against him, he takes her away from her friends, intending to ruin her, who had just saved him -- he is a bad character, in spite of the united efforts of Inchbald & Kotzebue to prevent it.

Lovers' Quarrels, the farce -- as when Quick was here, except Noble in Sancho instead of Quick.

[20. March. 1800]

Walked with Fullerton, called at Muir's & Woods'. Got the Sicilian Mariner's Hymn & played on the Grand Piano. Hutchinson called, I [was] not in ... being gone to the play -- where full House, £90. By desire of Duchess of Buccleugh, Pizarro, 11th night -- assisted by the band of Col. Campbell, which was a great improvement. Came in at last Scene of 1st Act. Siddons is much improved. Macready is still bad. Miss Perry much better. Mrs. Kemble & Woods most capital. -- went off well.

... ..

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[26. March. 1800]

... .. I went to the play at 1/2 past nine. Saw the last act, & the house was £70 fully. Met Fullerton. The farce The Agreeable Surprise -- Lingo, (first time) Rock -- Sir Felix Friendly, Noble -- Compton, Cooke -- Eugene, Semour -- John, Kelly -- Thomas, Bland -- Cudden, Stuart -- Laura, Mrs. Bramwell -- Mrs. Cheshire, Miss Biggs -- Fringe, Mrs. Frederic -- Cowslip, Mrs. Kemble.

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The best farce since the Old Maid, & this was better on the whole. Most of the characters were well played. 2 of them surprise in excellence, viz. Lingo & Cowslip. Rock is a most excellent Lingo -- he looks so grave while peals of laughter resound, & altogether he does it in a truly comic manner -- he is so much better in this than in the mock Doctor. Mrs. Bramwell played Laura well -- there is little to do in it, but to sing one fine song, which she did with great taste, & it is very difficult. She was much afraid at first, & I was afraid for her, but the high staccato notes at the end, & the long quavers, she executed most admirably. She got a great deal of applause,

but Mrs. Kemble's acting in Cowslip may challenge any thing. Never did I see so much bewitching simplicity -- in the song of Lord! what care I for Mom or Dad? she was admirable, & in her scenes with Lingo, she got, as well as him [sic], great applause. Mrs. Frederic was a good Fringe. Miss Biggs a good Mrs. Cheshire, tho' not as good as Mrs. Walcot used to be. Kelly & Bland were good enough for the

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servants. Bland gave his with a kind of unmeaning gravity, exactly suited for it. Cooke was a good Compton, tho' the songs don't exactly suit him. Seymour was a bad Eugene because he can neither sing nor act, but he looks like a gentleman always, & is hadsomely drest. Noble was a bad Sir Felix -- he can't put on an old man, but in the song of Jacky Bull, he was very good -- & gave it with a good deal of humour, tho' rather too animated for an old Man. Upon the whole was very much pleased with the farce.

... ..

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[3. April. 1800]

Hutchinson called. Took a long walk with him, North of the Newtown, St. Bernard's Well, &c. Practised, &c. Went to the play, where met Fullerton. The Beggar's Opera -- a good house for Thursday -- £50.

Macheath, by a gentleman, his first appearance upon any stage -- & I hope it may be his last, for of all the stiff, pokerish, ugly, old stupid fellows, he is the worst I ever saw -- as to the Songs, I could have sung them better myself, for he has no more ear than a post, & makes horrible discord -- yet he has a good natural voice, but nothing could be worse

than his acting. Mat o' the Mint, Cooke -- Filch, Mr. Noble, who was very decent, & Cooke had a most excellent Song. -- Lockit, Kelly, who did it very well -- & Peachum, Rock, who was excellent. Noble sung very badly -- 2 songs. Kelly missed out his. The rest of the gang by the rest of the Shabs. Mrs. Peachum, Mrs. Egerton, was very well, the best thing she has played.

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Jenny Diver, Mrs. Frederic -- Mrs. Coaxer, Mrs. Woods -- Mrs. Vixen, Mrs. Swendall -- Suky Tawdry, Miss Perry -- Lucy Lockit, Miss Biggs. She did the passionate scenes very well, tho' a little overacted, & sung most shocking; but Mrs. Kemble's Polly Peachum was charming, at once humorous & pathetic -- & the Songs, she gave in so sweet a manner, I never could be tired -- so much grace & elegance about her. I never liked her in anything better than in this. It is an excellent opera -- if well played, but the acting, except Macheath's, was decent enough -- the singing, except Mrs. Kemble's, was intolerable.

The Farce -- The Virgin Unmasked. Coupee, Macready -- Blister, Kelly -- Goodwill, Mountfort -- Thomas, Seymour -- Quaver, Bland -- Miss Lucy, Miss Biggs, Mrs. Kemble used to act it, & it is just in her way, but Miss Biggs played it with great spirit, naiveté, & liveliness -- but she is too pert, where she means to be arch -- she was much applauded in it. Macready in Cooper was admirable -- he went thro' all the scenes in a most excellent manner -- the house was in a roar of laughter. Kelly & Bland were both decent. The farce was altogether very good, & I was much pleased with it, as it is long since I last saw it.

[4. April. 1800]

Hutchinson called. Took a long walk with him to the top of Arthur's Seat, &c. Called on Miss Perry, played & sung with her an hour. She is to try Cymbeline & the Shipwreck for her Benefit -- both by my recommendation, the latter by Fullerton's as well, as Mrs. Kemble has a good part in it. In the play, Siddons, Posthumus -- Macready, Cloten -- Woods, Iachimo -- Kemble or Swendal, Belarius -- Mrs. Kemble, Imogen. -- & Miss Perry, Fanny, and Mrs. Kemble, Sally, in the farce, which will be excellent.

... ..

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[5. April. 1800]

... ..

Walked with Hutchinson, a short way -- it rained -- after, went to see the Panorama in Motion with him, which is a most beautiful sight -- the British & French fleets in order of battle, engaging, burning, &c. -- moonlight, Rosetta, &c -- all as large as life, well painted, & in motion -- it is a most beautiful sight. We saw a glass -- in which a man appeared, who then gave a nosegay -- which changed to a sword, with which he advanced to run us thro' the body, after which he opened his mouth & swallowed us up, for the mouth seemed to surround us on all sides -- both are very curious & well worth seeing.

... ..

[9. April. 1800]

... ..

Called on Miss Perry -- sat 2 hours -- she much afraid to play Lady Macbeth this evening -- played & sung, &c.

Got a letter from my Father & Mother -- all tolerably well. Mrs. Selby staying with them.

Went to the play, where met Fullerton. Macbeth.

Macbeth, by a gentleman being resident in Edinburgh (it is Besner, a medical Irish Student) -- Duncan, Swendall -- Lennox, Bland -- Malcolm, Seymour -- Banquo, Egerton -- Fleance, Miss Egerton -- Three Witches, &c., Rock, Moore, Mrs. Egerton -- Singing: Mrs. Bramwell, Biggs, & Frederic -- Hecate, Cooke -- Doctor, Mountfort -- Attendant, Mrs. Woods -- Lady Macbeth, Miss Perry -- Macduff, Woods.

The house was full, as it is a ticket night, & this Macbeth brought many -- full £ 70, but sad assemblage in the boxes, & a very noisy confused house. Macbeth was very bad -- could hardly hear what he said -- he looks well enough -- he speaks very incorrectly, has a bad & vulgar pronunciation, & is low & indistinct -- here & there he shewed a gleam of merit. Egerton was a good Banquo, Swendall a good Duncan, & Woods a most excellent Macduff. Seymour wretched in Malcolm -- the scene where Macduff hears of the loss of his family was most admirably acted by Woods.

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Miss Perry got thro' the part with great spirit. She looked handsome, and spoke all the difficult parts very correctly -- if she had a voice for declamation, she would become an excellent actress, but there she fails. By Cooke & Mrs. Bramwell & the choruses are fine harmony -- all the music is very beautiful, but Macbeth was bad, & therefore the play was stupid.

The Irishman in London was the farce, which was acted admirably as before, & drew roars of applause, tho' it is the greatest nonsense in the world -- however one can't help being amused by it, and as it is a farce, extravagance is excusable. Rock & Macready were most capital, & the rest all very tolerable.
[10. April. 1800]

Robinson lectured this morning, but not at night. Walked for an hour in the Meadows, &c. with Hutchinson. Went to the Play, met Fullerton there. Benefit of the Cannongate Charity. Henry the 4th. -- King Henry, Swendall -- Prince Henry, Macready -- Sir John Falstaff, Kemble -- Hotspur, Siddons -- Douglas, Seymour -- Westmoreland, Egerton -- Carriers, Rock & Noble -- Poins, Bland -- Bardolph, Kelly -- Lady Percy, Miss Perry -- Hostess, Miss Biggs.

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The play went off very well, tho' this house was very noisy, as there was a dreadful rabble -- the boxes were filled with what should have been in the Galleries -- there was above £140. Swendall played King Henry with good sense & feeling. Macready played the Prince very well -- in the lively parts he was excellent & in the "serious much better than I expected. I do not admire Kemble in Falstaff -- he looks the character well, & does some parts of it well, but he has but one way of doing it -- always on one perpetual laugh, sneer, & roar -- there is little variety in his manner of acting it, & he misses the profounder irony -- unless well-played, it is so long a part that it is very tiresome. Siddons was a very good Hotspur, tho' nothing like some of his other characters, but he did not rant too much, & played the passionate scenes very well indeed --

but in his first scene, where he has a long & rather humorous speech to the King, he was very deficient. The Women are nothing. Lady Percy is a stupid character -- that & the Hostess were made the most of by Miss Perry & Miss Biggs. Rock & Noble made a good Scene of the Carriers. Bland, a decent Poins -- the rest all bad.

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The Poor Soldier was the Farce. -- Patrick, Miss Perry -- Dermot, Bland -- Darby, Noble -- Fitzroy, Cooke -- Bagatelle, Kelly -- Father Luke, Rock -- Kathleen, Miss Biggs -- Norah, Mrs. Bramwell.

I never saw Patrick so well played before. Miss Perry looked most beautiful as the Soldier. She has a short red coat, a black & white frock, white waistcoat, dark coloured pantaloons & garters, & a large cocked hat. She looked most beautiful, and sung the songs most delightfully -- they are exactly suited to her voice. In the "Wealthy Fool" she was most excellent, & the Duet of the Rosetree, with Norah, was delightfull. She acted well, & received very great applause. Mrs. Bramwell was a good Norah, at least she sung well, in particular "The Meadows look Cheerful" -- she sung with great sweetness. Bland a bad Dermot because he is a bad singer. Cooke should have played it. Cooke stupid in Fitzroy. Rock a most excellent Father Luke. Kelly very decent in Bagatelle -- he did it with a good deal of humour. Noble overacted Darby as usual & sung ill. Miss Biggs looked very well in Kathleen, & sung an easy song tolerably. Upon the whole was delighted with the farce & charmed with Miss Perry.

[12. April 1800]

. . . the play of the Clandestine Marriage -- never saw a play so ill acted -- it might have been well done, had the strength of the company been in it, but it was got up at a night's notice, & everybody was imperfect. Finley was most wretched in Lord Ogleby -- he talks such Irish as made it ridiculous -- he shewed not the least glimpse of sense, & after the 2 first acts, I went up to the balcony O. P. -- & I there saw that he was prompted at the beginning of every speech till the end of the play -- he had not a word off, & often stopped in the middle of a speech to be prompted -- indeed the audience saw him prompted by the rest very often. Lovewell, Egerton -- Sterling, Rock -- Sir John Melvil, Woods -- Brush, Seymour -- Canton, Noble -- Serjeant Flower, Kelly -- Mrs. Heidelberg, Miss Biggs -- Miss Sterling, Mrs. Swendall -- Trusty, Mrs. Egerton -- Betty, Mrs. Frederic -- Chambermaid, Mrs. Bramwell -- Fanny, Miss Perry -- all very imperfect except Woods, Miss Perry, & Miss Biggs, who are always prepared.

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Woods is an excellent actor. I could not wish a character to be acted in a more just & sensible manner. Miss Perry played Fanny very well -- but Mrs. Kemble should have played it, and Miss Perry should have played Miss Sterling, which she could have given with far more spirit than Mrs. Swendall, who, tho' she spoke decently & was tolerably perfect, yet is always inanimate, & has not spirit enough for a part of that kind. Miss Biggs was an excellent Heidelberg, as to acting, but in these characters her small figure is against her. Mrs. Bramwell made

2 charming Scenes out of the Chamber maid, sipping with Brush and being assailed by Heidelberg. Mrs. Frederic would have acted Betty very well, if she had known her part, but of that, she was quite ignorant, & supplied it by a jargon of her own. Next to Lord Ogleby, she was the most imperfect. Rock was an excellent Sterling, but he was imperfect -- he & Egerton are both excusable for that, as they have had so much business & are preparing for "Speed the Plough" on Monday. Egerton played Lovewell very well, & with great feeling. Seymour was decent in Brush, much better than common. Macready should have played it, but Seymour in the Drunken Scene with Chambermaid was very good. Kelly should have played Canton, for Noble was but bad in it, & very imperfect.

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Lord Ogleby could not get dressed ready in the third act, so the audience waited & hissed with fury. Woods came forward & explained & apologised for Finley as being a Novice to the Stage -- but Finley had time enough to dress -- he had only his coat to put on, & hair, to dress -- but he was most likely reading his part -- if there had been a good house he would certainly have been hissed, tho' his Lord Ogleby was better than his Macheath as more suited to his time of life -- as to acting, or even speaking sensibly, he has no notion of either, but turns the Author into nonsense with a dreadful Irish Brogue -- the play is excellent, & in spite of deficiencies of the actors, its fine comic humour & ingenious plot were very amusing. I remember, 8 or 9 years ago, I saw King in Lord Ogleby, which was the only time I ever saw the play. I had quite forgot how it was acted, but I wished I could have seen King instead of Finley.

Fortune's Frolic, the farce -- which was received as it deserves with great applause. Noble is really excellent in Robin, & the rest also very good, as before.

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[14. April. 1800]

Walked with Fullerton. Took my letters to Mr. Smith's for the Packet. Sent one from Miss Chatto's also. Went to the Play at six with Fullerton -- before that read his Critique on Pizarro which he sends up to-morrow to the M[onthly] Mirror, & which is both just, well written, & merciful. This was Woods's Benefit, first time of Speed the Plough, Morton's new comedy. Sir Philip Blandford, Woods' -- Sir Abel Handy, Rock -- Morrington, Cooke -- Farmer Ashfield, Swendal -- Henry, Egerton -- Gerald, Bland -- Evergreen, Kelly -- Young Handy, Macready -- Miss Blandford, Miss Perry -- Dame Ashfield, Miss Biggs -- Lady Handy, Mrs. Egerton -- Susan Ashfield, Mrs. Kemble.

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The Play, upon the whole, was well cast, & it went off with great applause -- the house was very full, £127 -- 2 boxes on the stage.

Woods was most capital in Sir Philip Blandford -- the various passions of his mind in the scenes with Henry were portrayed with great justness & feeling. Henry was much better acted by Egerton than I expected -- he got great applause, which he does not often get -- his voice is bad, & is shrill & unpleasant when extended, so he can't rant -- but in moderate speaking he shews sense & feeling, tho' always stiff. Rock was most capital in Sir Abel -- in the Scene where he parts with his wife to Gerald, I never saw anything so comic. He & Macready kept the house in a perpetual roar, while they were on the Stage. Rock was a little

imperfect, but his good acting must make up for a little negligence. Macready was quite at home in Bob Handy. I have never seen him to more advantage in anything -- even in the serious scenes he was much better than I expected, & in the comic, he was truly capital. Morrington is a short part, & requires only to be spoken decently & moderately -- Cooke was tolerable -- he is always stiff & monotonous.

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Swendal was capital in Ashfield -- he has a great deal of true comic humour, & gave the feeling parts in particular in a most capital manner -- & he obtained very great applause, & deservedly -- his acting is chaste & proper -- he is always correct & never overdoes his part -- in this, he was peculiarly happy -- the soliloquy where he argues the point, whether or no he shall turn out Henry, was, I think, as fine a piece of acting as ever I saw -- & upon the whole, as it was the longest, I think it was also the best acted part in the play -- the whole of which was much better than common. -- Mrs. Egerton a very good Lady Handy -- it is a short & easy, but stupid part -- & Miss Biggs was a very good Dame Ashfield. Miss Perry gave Miss Blandford with archness, simplicity, & feeling -- it is a charming little part. Mrs. Kemble excellent in Susan, but it is too short, & is entirely sentimental -- the women have not much to do in the play -- except Miss Blandford. -- Crazy Jane, by Mrs. Bramwell after the play, was very well sung -- & a dance by Madame Frederic, who was applauded & hissed.

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Farce of My Grandmother -- Vapour, Siddons -- Mr. Matthew Medley, Mountfort -- Woodley, Cooke -- Dicky Gossip, Rock -- Florella, Mrs. Kemble -- Charlotte, Mrs. Bramwell.

Siddons should not act this part -- he has no humour -- but he is very well in the impatient scene with Dicky. Rock is an excellent Dicky, tho' not quite in his way. Cooke has a good Song in Woodley. Charlotte is stupid, has no songs. Mrs. Kemble was charming in Florella. The picture Scene, & the delightful Song, were charmingly given by her -- were it not for her, the farce would be stupid -- it is indeed the most ridiculous one in the world.

Upon the whole was extremely well entertained -- the play is the best Morton ever wrote, much better than the Cure for the Heartache -- all the Ashfields are admirable, & there is as much humour as bufoonery in the Handys -- the Blandfords, & Henry, are the serious parts, & they are very well written & much more interesting than the Stanleys in the Heartache -- the story of the play is well contrived to keep up the interest, & the plot & all the characters are well connected together & kept up.

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[19. April. 1800]

Took a long walk on Leith Sands. Robinson concludes on Friday, April 25th, & Hope on Wednesday, April 30, so I shall leave Edinburgh in Kelso Coach on Thursday, May 1st. Called at J. Lamb's, &c. Went to the play in the Evening with Fullerton. Mrs. Kemble's benefit. House as full as it could cram, near £140. The play, the Young Quaker, a very foolish one -- all the good actors in it, but some of them quite out of their lines.

Young Sadboy, Siddons -- Old Sadboy, Kelly -- Shadrack, Noble -- Old Chronicle, Swendall -- Spatterdash, Woods -- Clod, Rock -- Twig, Stuart -- Iarrup, Seymour -- Captain Ambush, Egerton

Araminta, Miss Perry -- Lady Rounciful, Miss Biggs -- Pink,
Mrs. Frederic -- Judith, Mrs. Egerton -- Mrs. Millefleur,
Mrs. Woods -- Dinah Primrose, Mrs. Kemble.

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I never saw Siddons as a Quaker before, but he did it very well -- & it is not a long part. Kelly has little to do in Old Sadboy -- the less the better -- he is not a good Quaker. Noble was much better in Shadrack than I expected, & would have been very well if he had had his part off, but instead of the nonsense that is in the part, he spoke nonsense of his own. Swendall had a long part in which he was, as usual, perfect, & played with justness, tho' he is not exactly in the line of an old Miser. Woods was most excellent in Spatterdash. I never saw him play a footman before -- in the Drunken Scene he was capital. Rock is a most excellent clown, tho' I think he & Noble should have changed characters -- but tho' this is a short part, Rock made a great deal of it -- and got much applause. Egerton was a very good Captain Ambush -- who has not much to do. Mrs. Frederic was an excellent Pink -- an impertinent Chambermaid is the only thing she does decently. Miss Biggs' part is short & stupid. Miss Perry made a charming Araminta, which is a young lively character, but a short part. Mrs. Kemble is most charming in the simplicity of

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Dinah; she made it the most interesting character of the piece -- in the Scene with Shadrack she [was] most charming -- I never saw her act better -- the only fault is, the part is too short -- the play on the whole was well acted, but it is great nonsense & is a farce in 5 acts completely.

The Farce, "The Sultan" -- Sultan, Woods -- Grand Carver, Bland -- Osman, Cooke -- Elmira, Mrs. Swendal -- Ismena, Mrs. Bramwell -- Roxalana, Mrs. Kemble.

Woods is an excellent Sultan. Cooke made tragedy of the short part of Osman. Mrs. Swendal looked & spoke decently in Elmira, which was all that was required. Mrs. Bramwell was most beautifully drest in the Persian Style -- & sung 2 songs -- When first this humble roof I knew & Lost is my Quiet for ever -- most charmingly.

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Mrs. Kemble is a delightful Roxalana -- she is at once sprightly & arch, & gives it with feeling & sense. I never saw it before, & was highly pleased. She should, perhaps, be a little more impertinent, but her liveliness & archness are more likely to take the Sultan, than impertinence, so perhaps she is right. The farce went off with great applause. Mrs. Kemble is delightful in it -- after it was over, she came forward, & delivered a short, but most pathetic address of leave-taking, & thanks for past favors. She was so much affected, she could hardly speak -- three rounds of applause followed -- it was most likely written by Siddons -- whoever wrote it it is certainly beautiful -- & I'll get a copy of it, if I can.

[26. April. 1800]

Terrible bad day. Wind east & rain, so ship can't sail, & Hutchinson & J. Lamb and the trunks must stay. Took my place in the Kelso fly for next Thursday. Played

In the Evening went to the play, met Fullerton -- only about £25 -- to see Inkle & Yarico, & the Midnight Hour -- both of which were capitally acted, & I never was more entertained at the Playhouse. -- Inkle & Yarico -- Inkle, Woods -- Sir Christopher Curry, Swendall -- Medium, Kelly -- Trudge, Noble -- Campley, Cooke -- Planters & Savages. Narcissa, Miss Perry -- Wowski, Mrs. Bramwell -- Patty, Mrs. Frederic -- Yarico, Mrs. Kemble.

Woods is a most excellent Inkle -- he was every where just & correct, but in the scene where he debates parting with Yarico, he was admirable. It is a pity he can't sing, IV, 259
as by missing out the Songs at the beginning between Inkle & Yarico, they fall in love very suddenly. Swendall is a most capital Sir Christopher -- just in his line -- the scene with Inkle, where they don't know who each other are, was most capital, & produced an excellent effect. Kelly decent in Medium -- he had his part off, but why did Rock give it up -- as he has played it. Noble a very bad Trudge. Scriven used to do it better, tho' he was too knowing for the honest Trudge. Noble might have done it much better, if he had studied it, or even taken the pains to get off his part, in which he is always shamefully deficient -- he did not mix grimace with the serious part, which was an agreeable surprise, as it is his general custom. He sung decently, as the songs are comic & easy. Cooke sung very well -- in acting & appearance he is always Cooke. Miss Perry looked

handsome in Narcissa -- it is a stupid part, but she sung the songs charmingly, particularly, "Mars would oft his conquests over" -- a very difficult one, which was much applauded. Mrs. Frederic (for a wonder) had her part off -- & when she has that, she plays a waiting maid very well. She was an excellent Patty.

IV, 260

Mrs. Bramwell is a most excellent Wowski. I would never wish a better. She puts on the silly yet arch kind of awkwardness very well, & the clearness of her voice, so much against her in the pathetic, was in this character much in her favor. She sung most charmingly. Mrs. Kemble is universally allowed to be the first Yarico in Britain -- indeed it is impossible to exceed her -- her dress & manner so proper -- the pathetic cast of her features -- & a kind of wildness & simplicity which she possesses in a greater degree than anybody I ever saw & the pathetic tones of her voice, render her a most charming Yarico -- her Scene at last with Inkle is most capital, nor can it fail to draw tears from anybody. Was much pleased with the play, which was better acted than when I saw it before -- 2 winters ago at Newcastle.

Midnight Hour, a most excellent & laughable farce of 3 acts of Mrs. Inchbald's. The General, Rock -- The Marquis, Egerton -- Sebastian, Seymour -- Ambrose, Stuart -- Matthias, Kelly -- Nicholas, Noble -- Julia, Mrs. Bramwell -- Cicely, Mrs. McCulloch (her first appearance here) and Flora, Mrs. Kemble.

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Rock a most admirable passionate old General. Kelly an excellent old deaf Servant. Noble a good Nicholas, if he had known his part. Seymour, a very bad Sebastian -- Macready

would have been capital, Bland better than Seymour. Egerton a very good Marquis. Mrs. Bramwell a charming Julia, & looked beautiful in men's clothes of Black, -- but Mrs. Kemble in Flora is charming, the direct contrary to Yarico, yet equally delightful -- here she is all sprightly gaiety, archness, & naiveté. It is the principal character of the farce, & is most charmingly managed by Mrs. K. -- she can't be seen to better advantage than in Yarico & Flora. Mrs. McCulloch is very ugly, but that is not against her in this character. She speaks plain enough, tho' she has lost some of her teeth -- anybody may do Cicely the Duenna who can scold well -- and Mrs. M. was sufficiently boisterous. It is a most charming farce, full of wit & humour, of plot & intrigue, which are admirably managed.

[27. April. 1800]

Called at Wright's. Hutchinson & J. Lamb are gone -- the ship not being able to sail, they have set out, & walk home. Walked to Leith with Wright. Called on Miss Perry. Sat 2 hours with her.

[11. August. 1800]

[Newcastle]

Very well to-day. Called at Dr. Clark's -- they asked me to dine, to meet Dr. Hope from Edinburgh, whose lectures I attended 2 winters past. Met the Doctor with J. Lamb & Hutchinson. Walked with them. At Glasshouse, & at Country Courts -- so hot could not stay. Called at Playhouse. Called on Miss Perry. Sat 1/2 an hour with her. Dined at Dr. & Mrs. Clark's with Dr. Hope, Dr. Ramsay, & Mr. Turner. Went to the play. Got an excellent seat, tho' the house was very full. Met Mr. Nicholson, who sat next to me during the play.

Hamlet. Hamlet, Mr. J. Kemble -- King, Smith -- Laertes, Bew -- Horatio, Wordsworth -- Polonius, Kelly -- Gravedigger, Scriven -- Rosencrans, Cooke -- Guildenstern, Bland -- Osric, Twedale -- Marcellus, Bennet -- Francisco, Lyons -- Ghost, Seymour -- Queen, Miss Perry -- Player Queen, Mrs. Bew -- Ophelia, Mrs. Kemble.

The Queen is a bad part, & quite unfit for Miss Perry. She looked younger than her son Hamlet -- she did it decently, was well dressed & had off her part, which none of the rest had -- indeed they were all most shocking -- & Rock was much missed in the Gravedigger -- but 'bf Hamlet & Ophelia, too much praise cannot be given. His delineation is masterly throughout. Grief is the predominant passion -- he seem rather to pity than love Ophelia -- all other emotions, even laughter, express but other attributes of grief.

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It is one of the most difficult characters -- the feigned madness, real grief, direction to the players, & affected mirth require so many different methods of acting that one can hardly expect Hamlet to be done justice -- yet the action, countenance, &

figure of Kemble in this long & difficult character are expressively controlled throughout. Mrs. Kemble's sweet simplicity & pathetic madness in the fourth act are as admirably done as can be imagined, & she well deserves the applause she gains -- indeed her acting in this character never fails to move the ladies at least to tears. Upon the whole was much pleased with the play, tho' the Ghost & the Gravedigger were so much inferior to Woods & Rock.

The farce was the Recruiting Serjeant, which I staid to see, as the Music is pretty, & Cooke & Mrs. Bramwell sing well.
[12. August. 1800]

Took Soda water this morning for the first time, as I am to do every morning. At the Glasshouse. Called at my Uncle Ormston's. At the Philosoph, where met Mr. Turner & Dr. Hope. Read, wrote, &c. Went to the play to Mrs. Clark's Seats, where met her, Mrs. Walters, & Dr. Hope.

IV, 328

The play, the Wheel of Fortune -- Penruddock, Mr. J. Kemble -- Woodville, Smith -- Henry, Bew -- Sydenham, Seymour -- Sir David Daw, Bland -- Governor Tempest, Scriven -- Weazle, Kelly -- Mrs. Woodville, Mrs. Kemble -- Emily Tempest, Miss Smith.

Play was very stupid, and most execrably acted except Mr. Kemble, whose Penruddock is a very fine piece of acting. He is calm & resigned, & shews what was intended to be character, yet sometimes impatient & testy. His eye is so calm & yet resigned that it is delightful to see him -- he looks so noble & truly great in the shabby dress of Penruddock. It is an easier character than Hamlet, but how different he plays it from his brother Stephen, who bellows & rails away with the voice of an ass as he is, at least when he acts such characters. John K.

is all calmness, fortitude, & resignation -- there is a peculiar mildness in his manner which is very pleasant, yet one sees at once that he is in distress.

The farce was the Poor Soldier, which was much better acted than the play.

IV, 330

[13. August. 1800]

... Went to the play ... The Stranger -- Stranger, Kemble -- rest as before. -- his Stranger is a most admirable character, and well calculated to shew off his acting. He has so much nature & feeling, & so little rant & affectation -- his looks are so pale, so woe be gone, & yet he is torn by passions of every kind -- he acts in every motion of his face or body -- one forgets they are in a theatre. Mrs. Kemble seemed animated in an unusual degree and did her character in her best style, which is, I think, as well as it can be done, tho' many people cavil at it -- but she is charming to me in Tragedy, comedy & farce, & even Opera. Miss Penny well dressed & handsome -- all the rest very bad, as usual. Mrs. Bramwell does not sing that song well -- too plaintive -- too much up & down for her.

IV, 332

[14. August. 1800]

... The Play was As You Like It, which was most wretchedly performed, excepting Jaques & Rosalind. Jaques, Kemble -- Duke Sen^r, Seymour -- Duke Frederick, Smith -- Adam, W. J. Kemble -- Orlando, Twedale -- Oliver, Bew -- Le Beau, Master Wordsworth -- Amiens, Wordsworth -- William, Kelly -- Silvius, Bland -- Touchstone, Scriven -- Celia, Miss Kemble -- Audrey, Mrs. Bramwell -- Phoebe, Mrs. Bland -- Rosalind, Mrs. Kemble.

All stupid but two. Jaques is a short part. I have seen Kemble in it before, but he acts it most admirably, as if it were a comic version of the melancholy Dane, & speaks the Seven ages of Man in seven as different methods as can be conceived. -- Mrs. Kemble's Rosalind is certainly a fine piece of acting -- both in the serious & lively parts -- it must be very fatiguing to her -- it is so long a part -- but she did it great justice, & spoke the address at the End in a most bewitching manner. Had it not been for her, the play would have been insupportable, as it was very heavy -- for they were all so stupid except her & we had so little of Kemble.

IV, 333

The Farce was the Purse -- great nonsense -- a good part for the Boy, Master Wordsworth -- but very stupid -- Mrs. Bramwell sings a good Song -- two or three pretty tunes were spoiled by Wordsworth, who is a shocking singer.

[15. August. 1800]

At the Glasshouse. At Sheriff Hill Pay -- all well there. Called at Uncle Chatto's, &c. Got some new music. Went to the play, met there my Mother, Maria, Jane, & my Uncle Chatto. J. C. was there also -- as he is always.

The Play, The Merchant of Venice. Shylock, Kemble -- Bassanio, Bew -- Antonio, Seymour -- Salanio, Smith -- Salarino, Bland -- Tubal, Bennet -- Gobbo, Cooke -- Launcelot Gobbo, Scriven -- Lorenzo, Wordsworth -- Portia, Mrs. Kemble -- Nerissa, Mrs. Bew -- Jessica, Mrs. Bramwell.

Charming play -- well acted -- the first that has been so. Kemble in excellent Spirits -- his acting of Shylock is a masterpiece. When he hears of Antonio's losses, & his daughter's

plight & expense, his transitions from vexation to pleasure, then his dreadful

IV, 334

frowns, & determined savageness in the trial, the manner in which he receives the disappointment, his dropping the scales, his anxiety throughout -- and all his demeanour, are so uniformly excellent that one can't tell what to praise most.

Mrs. Kemble's Portia is a most excellent piece of acting, both in the lively love dialogue, the Casket Scene, the Speech on Mercy, the fine Declamation in the Court, & her archness about the ring in the end, were all capital. The Scene was most interesting. Stillness reigned over the house while Shylock & Portia were speaking. I never saw anything so interesting. This is by far the best night -- at least we see Kemble & Mrs. Kemble to most advantage: indeed the whole play went off very well. Antonio was played very decently by Seymour. Bew looked uncommon well in Bassanio. Cooke was an excellent old Gobbo. Scriven was better in Launcelot than Touchstone -- in short, the whole play was charming, & I have not been so entertained as this for a very long time. Mrs. Bramwell looked most beautiful in Jessica & sung extremely well.

IV, 335

Madame Frederic was sitting in the Pit to see the Play & looked most beautiful. The Farce was Fortune's Frolic -- which I saw so often in Edinburgh last winter, but which is new here. It was acted much the same -- Mrs. Jones, Margery, instead of Miss Biggs -- Bland, Rattle, instead of Egerton -- and Scriven was Robin Raughhead, instead of Noble -- Miss Perry is still Dolly -- Mrs. Bland, Miss Nancy, instead of Mrs. Swendal -- all the changes were for the worse -- but yet the farce

went off extremely well, and got much applause. Noble used to be capital in Robin -- Scriven was more noisy but didn't act it near so well. Upon the whole, spent a most delightful evening. My Mother & the rest also quite pleased.

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[16. August. 1800]

... ..

Went to the play with my Mother & Maria. Met there the Doctor & Betsy Clarke. The Play -- Macbeth. Macbeth, Mr. J. Kemble -- Banquo, Seymour -- Malcolm, Bew -- Macduff, Smith -- Ladies, Gentlemen, Witches, &c. Lady Macbeth, Miss Kemble. They were all most wretched bad, except Kemble -- he could not exert himself sufficiently -- yet his acting is so chaste, & so natural -- his articulation so fine, and he looks so handsome in this character, that it pleased me very much, tho' I remember he was more spirited when I saw him in this part at Edinburgh, and tho' there were some parts where he did his best, yet many parts of this require far more rant & passion than he used -- but in the banquet scene he was capital, also in the Dagger scene. Towards the End he was more tame, & he should not have been so. His starts & attitudes are very fine, and his dress is magnificent. His manner of dying, too, is admirable, for he sustains that pride, "Lay on, Macduff," even as he falters.

Miss Kemble in Lady Macbeth was very well dressed, yet she had a great dearth of petticoats, & with her high heels was like to fall over her long train. Her acting was very bad, which made the motivation of the Play very stupid.

The Farce was Lovers' Quarrels, which was very ill performed by Mr. & Mrs. Bew, Scriven, Twedale, & Miss Kemble. How different it was when I was so amused by it in Edinburgh, with Quick, Macready, Noble, Miss Biggs, & Mrs. Bramwell. I wonder Mrs. B. gave it up, but I suppose Miss K. had it first. She looked ugly, as she always does.

[18. August. 1800]

At Glasshouse. Pain in my side very bad -- better at night. Went to the Play. Met my Mother & Maria, Uncle Chatto & John & Mr. Scott -- we all sat in a Row. House very full, about £100 -- 40 on Saturday, -- Friday, 60 -- Thursday, 65 -- Tuesday, 80 -- Monday, 90.

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It was John Kemble's Benefit. He played the character of Rolla in the play of Pizarro. Pizarro, Seymour -- Valverde, Kelly -- Ataliba, Smith -- Alonzo, Bew -- Las Casas, Twedale -- Orozembo, Stephen Kemble -- Elvira, Miss Kemble -- Cora, Mrs. Kemble. Most shocking scenery -- quite different from what we had at Edinburgh. All bad, except Rolla & Cora, whose great excellencies make up for the deficiencies of the rest. Kemble's Rolla is the finest Portrait of this truly noble character that can be seen. His manners & appearance are so much those of a hero, & his whole deportment so majestic & graceful. His acting was excellent, especially in the prison Scene, the Tent Scene, & the dying Scene. His manner of speaking the Speech in the Temple of the Sun was very correct tho' rather too little animated -- & in the battle Scene he was quite flat, for it should have been ranted: but I suppose he is not able -- that, however, did not diminish the excellencies of the other Scenes. ...

His dress too was so correct. He is remarkable for a minute attention to costume.

IV, 339

Mrs. Kemble's Cora is a most charming piece of acting -- as to the rest, Bew was the best. Miss Kemble was most shocking, & all the rest also, Kelly acted both Valverde & the Peruvian officer, which was the height of absurdity, as he was in the same dress -- and in one Scene headed the procession of Peruvian troops in the Temple of the Sun, while in another Scene he made love to Elvira in Pizarro's tent. It was a sad business except the music, which was very good. The Farce was Fortune's Frolic which we saw on Friday, so did not stay.

[17. December. 1800]

At Glasshouse. Monro came in the Morning. Dined at Mr. Hornigold's with my Father & John Chatto & Joe Lamb. Drank tea at Uncle Chatto's, & went to the play with them & Father & Maria. It was Guthrie's Benefit. The play was Much Ado about Nothing: -- Siddons looked & acted very well in Benedick & was much more at home than on Monday night. Mrs. Kemble was a charming Beatrice, full of gaiety & pleasantness. Egerton was Leonato; he should have been Claudio, which was very badly done by Bew. Noble should have done Dogberry, which was spoiled by Kemble, who supplied with noise what he wanted in humor. Mrs. Bramwell looked most beautiful in Hero, & played very well. Smith stupid in Pedro.

IV, 418

I never saw the play before, so was much entertained, tho' it was on the whole but very ill acted. The Song of the King's Picture by Noble was very good, & Mrs. Bramwell sung "My Mother bide me" beautifully. The Midnight Hour was next, which tho' very ill acted (with the exception of Kelly, Bland, & Mrs. Kemble, who was most charming) could not fail to amuse as it is so very laughable. Twedale & Mrs. Jones succeeded Rock & Miss Biggs in the General & Cicely, & Smith was put into Sebastian instead of Noble, for what reason I can't tell. These changes were all much for the worse, but still it went off well, as it is so amusing. The Pantomime of Blackbeard was next. Blackbeard, Bew -- Cesar, Bennet -- Lover, Smith -- Ismena, Miss Smith -- Orra, Madame Frederic. Very well done by Bew & Madame Frederic, who had the chief characters to do. She is a most admirable actress in Pantomime, so graceful in all her motions -- was very well entertained.

[22. December. 1800]

At Glasshouse. Called on Miss Rawlinson on horseback & took a ride with her to Ravensworth Castle & thro' the Grounds -- for 2 hours -- very pleasant day. In the Evening went to the play, where I met Mr. Morrison & John Clarke. I came home with John, Jane, & Nancy Chatto, but could not [sit] near them, the house was so full. It was Siddon's Benefit. The Revenge, the play. Siddons acted Zanga much better than I expected. He did not rant much & shewed both feeling & judgement. Bew was very bad in Alonzo. Egerton performed Carlos very well -- he should have been Alonzo. Mrs. Kemble was a charming Leonora, & in the Scene when Alonzo suspects her, was particularly excellent. The rest all bad. Siddons recited the Ode on thy Passions with great Judgement, & Noble & Mrs. Bramwell both sung. The Children in the Wood was the farce. Lord Alford, Wordsworth has a very good Song. Lady Alford, Miss Kemble shocking bad. Gabriel, Noble -- excellent. Children, Miss Bew & Miss Frederic. Miss Bew danced & sung a sweet duet with Mrs. Bramwell, who is a charming Josephine. Egerton was very good in Sir Rowland & Kelly decent in the Tutor.

IV, 421

Siddons makes an excellent Walter, at least in the serious parts. Upon the whole the play & farce went off very well, but it was followed by Jack the Giant Killer, a pantomime, in which a large Giant was introduced & killed by Jack, Master Wordsworth, who acted very well, as did Madame Frederic as Columbine & Noble as Zany. Master Wordsworth introduced the Soldier Tired: which he sung delightfully -- it was great nonsense, but laughable on account of its absurdity.

[2. January, 1801]

Very bad all last night & today of a pain in my side. After breakfast drew up a statement of it, which is to be sent to Dr. Darwin. My Father went down to Hatworth where there is a dinner to-day -- it is the first meeting since Mr. Lamb's death. I should have gone but was unable from the pain in my side. Mr. Hornigold asked me to dine there at 3, to meet Joe Lamb so I went, & met Mr. Scott, my Uncle Ormsyon, Uncle Chatto, & Joe Lamb. Came away at 5, as Monro came to give me a Music lesson.

Drank tea at my Uncle Chatto's & went to the play with my Aunt, Jane, Nancy, & Miss Rutherford. It was Mrs. Bramwell's Benefit & £79 in the house. The play, The Deserted Daughter. Mr. Mordent, Egerton -- Mr. Cheveril, Siddons -- Lennox, Bew -- Clement, Twedale -- Donald, Bland -- Itex, Noble -- Grize, Kelly. Egerton very good, with much feeling & judgement. Siddons very stiff in Cheveril. Bland & Noble tolerable. Mrs. Sarsnet, Mrs. Bew -- very tolerable. Mrs. Enfield, Mrs. Jones -- Joanna, Mrs. Bramwell -- looked beautiful & spoke well, but still wants a little animation.

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2 good Songs by Mrs. Bramwell. Dance by Madame Frederic. Song by Noble. Poor Vulcan, the farce. Vulcan, Scrivem -- Venus, Mrs. Bramwell. The rest not worth mentioning. Dancing by Mrs. Bennet, Miss Bew, &c. The Pantomime of The Shipwreck -- Lieutenant, Bennet -- Mary, Madame Frederic, &c., very tolerable Pantomime -- at least the best I have seen,

[8. January. 1801]

At Glasshouse. Began to keep the Cashbook. Walked. Read part of Historical Memoir of the Ava Empire & Syme's Embassy from Calcutta to Pegu & Ava, which is very entertaining & gives a good account of the flourishing & improving empire of the Burmans. The capital city is Ummerapoora [Amarapura] & it comprehends the country of Pegu, Ava, part of Siam, & all of Arracan -- the history of its wars & revolutions in the present century is very clever.

Went to the Association, where were all the members -- it was at Mr. Lloyd's. Visitors were -- Jane Chatto, Miss Rutherford, Mr. Hornigold, B. Ormston, Mrs. Forster, & Miss Tindal. Played Whist & Cassino.

[9. January, 1801]

At Glasshouse. Walked in Forth. Very bad headache. Called at Uncle Chatto's. Read Peregrine Pickle, Rasselas, & the Ava Empire. Practised -- Monro came.