

Enclosure.

18647

Extract of Letter

--- " The two Winter Theatres pledged themselves, with me, that we should all three, as regulars, join our forces to repel any invasion that might happen to any one of us. — Soon after the Lyceum started up, (which was an invasion upon all of us) Mr. Sheridan not only deserted me but mingled his interests with those of the Invader.

Possibly, he might not have been able to help this, at the moment; — & therefore, I do not complain, & cry Murder; — but if he is killing me, by a kind of Chance-Medley, it is time to call out for assistance. From the best information I can gather, 'tis likely that a City Theatre Bill may pass through Parliament. Mr. Sheridan has done me the honor to state, in the House of Commons, that if a Third Theatre were allowed, I have the strongest claim to an interst in it. — This is a handsome, & generous declaration; & "laudari a laudato viro" is very flattering. But, if an extension of licences were given to me it would supersede the grand argument of the City Speculators; & would probably, be the means of putting their project at rest; — which project, if carried in to execution, would produce a much more formidable rivalry to Drury Lane than any plans I could ever enter into, in the Haymarket."

Abstract of
Letter

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]