

C. Colman b -

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24th December, 1871
4. Melina Place, West. Road.

My Dear Sir,

The proposed period has nearly
expired when the different questions arising from
my Memorial are to be fully considered; & I
trouble you with my thoughts upon the subject,
with the highest deference & gratitude for the
suggestions which the Prince Regent has condescended
to communicate; - but, as it appeared to me that
the persons who were thought upon, at the first
impulse, were not actually decided upon, to
investigate the various points, I trust I shall not
be thought ~~deficient~~ in duty to His Royal
Highness, nor disrespectful to any individual
whatever, by expressing my feelings relative to
the appointment of parties who are to examine
a case in which my future interests are so
very materially involved.

I must be thoroughly confident of the
purity of principles attached to any whom the
Prince may think proper to select; but there
is an involuntary bias, imperceptible to men's
own bosoms, which springs, on particular occasions,
Long continued intimacy, & habitual modes of
acting, & of thinking, with a gentleman who
on his occasion, may imagine that my theoretical
speculations may clash with his own, might

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occasion ~~was~~ a predilection for his arguments,
& his eloquence, fatal to my cause. - There are
incredible inclinations, towards particular, quæ
humana perum carit natura, & to which men of
the nicest honour are subject. I hope, however,
it will be clearly understood, that, although Mr
Sheridan may argue against my Memorial, I am
not fully sensible that he would argue (ex parte)
with as much liberality as ingenuity, & that
he is incapable of using undue influence on
other minds: - Nor could I have the shadow of
an objection to Mr Sheridan, himself, being (as
in a former instance) one of those fitting to consider
the rights of Theatrical Patents, &c.; - but, surely,
the best other investigators are - the habits of
intercourse with any of the parties interested, the
best, on the score of impartiality.

Might I propose to offer an opinion, I would
submit that a part, if not the whole, of those of
His Majesty's Privy Council, who met last year
on the subject of "Petition for a Third Theatre
in this Metropolis" should compose the Committee
intended for the present questions. The ground
would not be ~~new~~ ^{new} to them, as to others; they have
already listened to the pleadings of lawyers upon
the subject; much which they know, & have heard,
will apply, & clear the way to points which may
now be brought forward. A much time & trouble
may thus be saved, which could not be the case
with other persons.

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The New Third-Theatre Speculators are, I have
heard, high in hope, & making great preparations,
to come, with all their strength, before Parliament
in the ensuing Session. It is a matter, therefore,
of great importance to the present case, that the
proposed investigation should take place
before Parliament meets.

At the end of this week, I shall have
prepared all the further observations which
I propose to submit to the Investigators who
may be appointed.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
always most thankfully, & truly
yours,

J. Colman

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