

Wm.
Taylor
to
Col.
McKean

20507-8

Tuesday 30th March 1813.

Dear Sir,
If I had not been very busily occupied with my own untoward Concerns (not a little aggravated by the severe consequences that resulted to me from the re-establishment of the Pantheon as an Opera House, towards the expenses of which, incredible as at first sight it may appear, Lord Yarborough is said to have contributed £4000 and Lord Cholmondeley 1000^{ls} and the Plan licensed for that express purpose by the Lord Chamberlain entirely regardless to the good faith supposed at least to be attached to the famous Theatrical Arrangement of 1791, and notwithstanding your friendly Letter to me in August 1811, containing assurances of the P.R.'s firm determination to protect that Settlement and all the Interests secured under it; it was my intention to have sent you an immediate answer to your last favor of the 3^d inst. I regret your want of recollection of the circumstances referred to in my last letter to you; for although it is undoubtedly at the choice or option of every one either to remember or forget as much as they like of former friends and ancient friendly occurrences, whose matters are merely of a personal nature; I do not think the same allowance ought to be extended to items of business involving Interests, in which men act either as principals or agents; in which last Character you came to me in November 1795 (the very first time I ever spoke to you) with a message from the P. about a box for Mr. J. who I believe had then recently quitted the Household; and after an interview or two between us, in which, under the then

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circumstances and talk that was afloat, I recommend that the
L. should take a quiet situation; it was accordingly agreed
that she should have the Pil box next the Stage on the side
and under the Boxes of Thos Pitt and consequently out
of their view; and you yourself brought me proposed by
from the P. the list of the subscribers, who were L. Pitt, J.
Ch. Windham, W. Shelly, W. Tyrwhitt, all then his particu-
lar friends, and the remaining Ticket was left in blank
as to name being for the P. himself; and you brought me
a message at the same time to say that he wished me not
to press immediately on those subscribers for their subscrip-
tions, but manage the matter myself with the then
Trustees (Lord Kenning & Mr Sheldon) to whom on that
suggestion I accordingly paid at once the whole subscription
for the season £189, and I was afterwards to take it
back from the subscribers themselves, or those who chose
voluntarily to pay, and that P. you said would make
good the rest, at a convenient time of course, as it was
well understood at the time that this matter could not
like his own subscription go in to the office of the Duke
Ch. Windham and W. Shelly, I turned out, had already
subscribed to other boxes; W. Tyrwhitt & the P. of course
stood over; so that of all the six subscribers, only L.
& L. J. paid him 30s. a piece; leaving £126. owing
for the other 4 subscribers in the same box and with the
same identical subscribers L. J. remained the year after
when the P. & W. Tyrwhitt's only were left in arrear,
which with the above the two make together £189 -
the hedgehops the year following got Lord Moira's then
party box N. 41 (probably thro' some arrangement of
yours

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your), and the subscribers then were, Henry, L.D. W
 Brummell, W. Tyrwhitt, General Dalrymple & M^r Walsh
 all which appears from the Books of the Theatre, which
 can not err, but in which of course Th^r name never
 appears, nor any mention of the arrears, as myself in
 both years had the whole subscription paid at once at
 the Bankers in the usual way.

In regard to the matter of M^{rs} F. you had no
 concern whatever with it; but the circumstances
 are these; That the year of Th^r P^r marriage, M^{rs} F. sent
 M^r Wiltzer to me to say that she should not go to the
 Opera that season and therefore should not want the
 box, which however she very much wished me if possible
 to contrive to let her have again the year after; to which
 I sent for answer, that if it should be let that season,
 which I could not prevent, to any subscriber who
 wished to continue in it afterwards, it would be out
 of my power to do what she desired; in consequence
 of which Cap^t Payne sent to me to call upon him
 which I did, when he said he had it in command
 from Th^r P^r that he would consider it a personal obligation
 if I would manage the matter as M^{rs} F. wished, even if
 the box should stand empty that year, and I might lose
 to him for the reimbursement of such a sacrifice. In
 fact we could not let the box that season, otherwise than
 according to the usual rule of having the right of contin-
 uing in it afterwards; that was 180 £ and I believe
 in both cases there was an after-subscription, which at
 that time was usual; at least I perceive by my Mem^o
 Pocket Book of the year 1797 there is an Entry at the end
 of Dec^r in these words viz^t £467. Th^r Powers m^r, and

the difference I doubt not was made up in Masquerade
Tickets, which for many years they were in the habit
of sending for from C. H. generally on the very night.

I cannot charge my memory whether or no I men-
tioned Mr. F.'s matter to you when you first came to
me upon the other business; but I remember perfectly well
that I went down to Brighton in the September of 1801,
where I had to pay £1500 to my Leominster agent, who
was then there in advance towards the expenses of my
election, which unfortunately ended for me & my party
did not take place (and I need not tell you why it
did not, because you know it well, and so do
on that occasion asked you if you could give ^{me any}
assistance towards my payment, and your answer was
that you were just at that time poorer than ^{any}
which I said well, well, if being poor had been a crime,
I should have been hanged long before; on that occasion
you sent me, by Mr. P.'s command, post haste to town
to try to stop some annoying paragraphs about Mr. F.
in Friends down with him that at that time appeared in a
Paper called The True Briton, & which you said was sup-
posed to be written by a Mr. Concanon, then at Brighton,
I went up by his father's Paper, containing all the scandal
then afloat at that place, and I did succeed in getting a
stop put to them Publications, thro' the ready & friendly
interference of Mr. Franklin of the Post office, my old and
near allied Friend; perhaps that circumstance may
bring to your recollection that I did at that time mention
to you Mr. F.'s matter, which I am perfectly certain formed
a part of the conversation that then passed between us.
I am sorry when I am obliged to go into long stories
But always, unalterably yours &c &c
Wm. Jay