

Wm  
Taylor  
Esq  
Col.  
McKathon

40826-7

12 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1806.

Dear Sir,

It is now a very considerable time since I took  
the liberty of troubling His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales  
with any communication respecting either Myself or my Concerns.  
But as H. R. H. had in the time of misfortune condescended  
to protect the perished Interests of the Opera, upon the grounds of  
Justice and Right, and as a measure is now attempted, that  
may be attended with the most serious consequences to all the  
Propriety in that Establishment, I feel incumbent on me as  
well in duty as in respect, to make His Royal Highness, before  
any other person, acquainted with the grounds, on which I conceive  
myself to be bound, even contrary to what may appear to be my  
Interest, to protect the old Subscribers from the proposed friendly  
attempt upon them; with, on my part, the view and intention  
of putting H. R. H. by a view of the merits of the question,  
in the Situation becoming his High Station in Three Nations and  
in the World, - and which too I am persuaded it is equally the  
ardent wish of his own just and dignified mind always to  
be in, - that of protecting the cause of Justice, of Right, & of Truth.

I entreat you to embrace the earliest occasion to impart  
the inclosed Statement to His Royal Highness; because without  
much delay, the next necessary Step for me to take, is to send  
a copy of it to the Committee, who have it appears been  
induced with their names to give sanction to it, & what they  
could alone have been prevailed <sup>on</sup> to do from a misplaced con-  
-fidence in those who made the Representation in question to  
them; I am therefore confident, that when they find they have  
been deceived, they will be anxious to withdraw their counten-  
-ance from a fabrication of such a description; and the more  
especially if it should turn out, that Mr. Gould concealed  
from them my positive objections to the Measure itself, my  
resolution to oppose it if attempted, by impeaching the truth  
of the Report on which it was predicated to be founded, com-  
-municated by me to him so long back as the month of July;  
& with which it was I conceive his duty, both in delicacy &  
in candour, to have made the Committee acquainted with at  
the time, or at any rate before he committed their Report to the  
Subscribers.

May indeed I even consider that His Royal Highness

Yours

Highness is in some degree engaged to protect the old Subscribers,  
by being a Party to the arrangement, under which the last consider-  
= able augmentation was made, and then all Parties were considered  
in good faith to be bound to protect those Subscribers from any  
further increase, unless called for by actual necessity; this was  
= stant indeed I made Mr. Gould acquainted with before he took any  
interest in the Concern, at which time he entertained the same specu-  
= lation of a rise in the price of Boxes; yet I was always of opinion,  
that in order to meet any increase of expense that in time might  
adhere upon the Undertaking, the Boxes, as they became vacant,  
should be let at such advanced price, as could properly be obtained  
from new Subscribers, constantly giving preference to the old Nobles,  
and consistently with this idea, there is a Covenant in the special  
agreement between Mr. Gould & me, which requires my consent in  
= waiting specifically to the terms on which each Box is to be  
let, but to this material Stipulation, as well as to all others,  
Mr. Gould has been so far from paying the smallest regard, that  
within the two last years, he let 5 or 6 of the very best Boxes  
in the Theatre at the old Subscription, even without consulting me,  
altho' I informed him that an increase of 100  $\text{g}$ . each could be  
obtained for those identical Boxes; may he himself let one  
of his own (property) in an inferior Situation for 300  $\text{g}$ . near.  
Now if he were then as he now pretend to be sensible that  
the Thing was a losing concern, how inexcusable was his conduct  
(in violation of a solemn agreement) in not improving as he might  
have done the Income of the Estate in those particular instances,  
and what would in those very Boxes have created a fund of  
relief to the yearly amount of between £500 and £600.  
But the truth is, that the whole of his conduct in this Concern  
has been at once an outrageous violation of solemn Deeds  
and Agreements, and of established salutary Customs and  
Regulations. — The expenditure of the Opera for four years  
preceeding the Calamity did not altogether exceed £18000 an-  
= nually; the Allowance now reaches £24000, to which however  
by Deeds, especially for the security of Proprietors & Subscribers,  
it is positively restricted, & at which I have frequently offered  
to carry it on; yet since Mr. Gould acted in the manage-  
= ment, altho' the Receipts have so far exceeded the limitation  
of expense as to have exceeded £30000, not a single Shilling  
has

has been paid to the just Claimants; at the same time, that  
 immense Sums have been squandered upon useless Performers,  
 enabling them to support, under the pretence of Salaries from  
 this Concern, Establishments squalling in Splendor and ex-  
 ceeding in expense and in Dissipation those of the Nobility  
 themselves; in which <sup>proceedings</sup> he has to my knowledge used in the most  
 unbecoming manner the name of H. R. H. The Prince of Wales.

Indeed it has been always my opinion, that the present  
 attempt, if left to itself, would meet with a very general  
 resistance from the old Subscribers; and that if it should  
 run out, upon enquiry, as it must do, to be founded upon  
 a groundless fabrication, the danger to be apprehended is, that  
 Government might be prevailed upon to order all the Performers  
 out of the Country during the war, which I have reason to  
 believe has been more than once in contemplation, and which  
 would be a great misfortune to many persons who have  
 interests, especially those possessed of Property boxes. It  
 would therefore be advisable at once to abandon this such  
 measure; which may be very easily done by a circular note,  
 that it having been suggested that the subscribers at the head  
 of boxes would not have sufficient time to make the  
 arrangements with their under subscribers, for the next  
 season, the subscription would continue the same as before,  
 by which an unpleasant & even dangerous public discussion  
 would be avoided, at the same time, that the measure  
 itself, if found either proper or necessary, will still be  
 left open for adoption hereafter. There will then be time  
 for a full investigation of the whole of the Opera Concerns  
 respecting the Management. I had indeed two years ago,  
 named in my Arbitration conformable to Agreement, M.  
 Edward Morris, whom you must know, a Professional  
 Man, the Son in law of the late Chancellor, a Gentleman in  
 every respect the most eligible; but Mr. Gould, instead  
 of appointing on his part, which by agreement he was bound to  
 do, an Arbitrator to meet mine, boldly declared that  
 he would submit to no reference whatever, and that  
 I might seek my redress from the Court of Chancery. M.  
 Morris, joined by M. Jekyll, would in my opinion be two  
 very proper Persons to refer the proposed Investigation to,  
 and

and the Result I am persuaded will be attended with the very  
best consequences, to the Property itself & to all parties in-  
terested in it.

If therefore I may venture to express any personal  
wish upon this occasion, it is that His Royal Highness The  
Prince of Wales will with his influence enforce the necessity  
of a Reference as the only means of ascertaining the truth  
of Statements so contradictory; and if no such Measure  
is adopted, I must in my own justification with the other  
Subscribers, have both Statements printed & sent round to them.

I am always, Dear Sir,

Your faithful and most  
Obedt. Humble Servant  
W. Taylor.

If you should have occasion to  
write to me, send your letter  
under cover to Mr. Sandell  
at No. 11. Old Jew St. and I shall  
return it safely.

Ed. M. Mahon