

H. Taylor to Col. McKeahon

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King's Theatre 11th November 1811.

Sir,

I had the honor duly to receive your letter of the 11th of August, communicating to me the most gracious sentiments of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent respecting His Royal protection of the interests of this Establishment; but in your absence, I did not like to trouble General Turner, who was not, like yourself, acquainted with the Business, and besides I wished to ascertain the proceedings at the Pantheon, before I took the liberty of troubling again His Royal Highness upon the same subject.

I now inclose you a printed Prospectus, which has recently been generally circulated and published, announcing a complete Italian Opera Establishment at that Place, in the most undisguised opposition to this Property, which as you know had become responsible for the loss of a similar Enterprise at the Pantheon 20 years ago, to the amount of nearly £40,000 altogether, in consideration of what the Italian Opera was re-established here permanently and exclusively, and therefore to set up again the same opposition would be such an Act
of

H. Taylor to Col. Mc Mahon

of Injustice as I am persuaded never can be tolerated. Com-
petition indeed in this Respect is certain ruin, as the
unfortunate experience of 1791 afforded a dreadful example;
and if one Foreign Establishment has not hitherto, even in
Times of Peace, been supported with Benefit to the Trade
of it, what must be the fate of Two in the present
State of intercourse with the Continent.

At first it was said that the licence in question
was merely a renewal of that formerly granted for the
Coffin Rooms, which was but for Music and Dancing in
a place, where there was neither Stage, Seney or any Thing
of a Theatrical nature; whereas the licence at the Theatre
appears to be for the permanent establishment of a new
and additional Theatre, a measure which the Privy
Council had so recently refused to sanction, doubtless on
account of its Injustice to the Interests of the Theatre long
established Theatre as recognized by the Arrangement of
1791; and the opposition too to this Undertaking has
been so directly hostile, that almost all the Performers
in their List have been seduced and taken away from
his Place by increased Terms so great as in several
Instances

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Instances to have reached the very double of their former Salaries,
here; a competition so certainly ruinous, that I have con-
sented Myself with retaining the Principal Performers requisite
to the support of this Establishment, in the confidence that it
will be suffered to continue without opposition; otherwise
it must cease to exist as a Property.

I feel the Credit of this Undertaking so com-
pletely shaken by the opposition so set up that it is
impossible to compleat the necessary arrangements for opening
it, without incurring dreadful sacrifices both of present
Interest and in future example. I therefore humbly
shew myself and the Justice of my Case at the feet of His
Royal Highness The Prince Regent, and do most earnestly
beseech His Royal Highness to be graciously pleased to
direct an Enquiry to be made into the Rights and Pro-
perty of this Theatre under the Final Arrangement of
1791, sanctioned equally by His Majesty and by the
Prince Regent, a final decision upon which being ab-
solutely necessary to the very existence of this Place
as a Public Concern.

I have the honor to be, with very
great Respect, Sir,
Your most obed. & faithful
Humble Serv. H. Taylor

Col. Mc Mahon.

SECRET

Mr. Taylor

11.2 Nov: 1911