

2 Wm. Court, London, 15th Dec. 1829

My dear Locke,

I duly received your kind & magnificent present of
Game - the first we have had in this ungenerous season - and have only
delayed thanking you in the hope that I might be able to send you some
decisive news about your new play. This, however, I cannot do, as Mr.
Poiré has been too unwell to go to the Theatre on any night on which I have
tried to see him there; but I have heard from Colpo that he speaks of it
in terms of great praise. I have spoken to Mr. Young about it, who, by the
way, did not recognise you as the author - he said it possessed very great
"merit indeed - marks of the spirit of the old writer, with a happy
"grace" - but I did not gather from him that there was any probability
of its being produced directly. There is a two Act piece of Donnelly's, the
"Black-eyed Susan" performance, called "The Lark's Garden", announced for
Saturday; and there is underlined "A new tragedy in 3 acts
"Preparation" - by which is meant Miss Gifford's long promised "Othello of
"Bookle back"; but which appeared Tragedy is "in actual preparation"
at Nine Mile Cross, out at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Now, as I am
quite sure all the fiddlers in the world will not complete this play,
which is early behindhand, by the time Miss went it, I am not
without hope that he may be glad to bring it you; to fill up the
chess which will inevitably continue, & of which I am sure, Miss
Millyard would be very glad. As it is my business & part of
Catherine's on behalf of the lady, I may possibly have an opportunity of advising this
expedient; and you may be sure that, if I have, I will improve it to

T. J. Locke Esq.

Theatre

Ramparts.



the best of my power. I fear, however, that Jones' slowness of study may be an obstacle; he is a sad duncie; & complains some criticisms of the new plan of being at Play by steam, as not at all suited to the logical grounds of his own proposal. But, at all events, I will make a point of seeing him as early as possible; and let you know exactly what he says respecting it. Heats's glad should I be to witness its triumph!

I have read your little Chapter of Historical Romance with great pleasure, & think decidedly it will do. But I do not think I shall prevail on Colburn to read it, or to have it read, until the whole is finished - as I find it is contrary to his practice to do so; however I will try when I see him. Should he declare to read it all unfinished, shall I send the R.S.D. to Remond? Or is there any hope of our soon seeing you in London?

Miss Kemble continues to draw admirably horses; but I think her merit, though greatly exaggerated in the newspapers. There is a total change in her acting; and indeed - of volubility, reserve & quick heart - in her acting; but she has good good courage, rapidity, & decision. She would be really excellent in the grand & terrible, if she were taller, larger, & more martial in person - as she is, her efforts seem disproportionate & when she is loud & confident she looks like the frog emulating the ox. However all this is true - it is the fashion to be mad after her - & old Calverton declares that he knows the stage for 40 years & never saw any thing like her. Poor Mr. Siddons! But pray come as soon as you can & see her for yourself; & drink a quiet bottle with,

Yours ever faithfully,
J. N. Talford.