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Common Hill

April 2/82

My dear Bliss

The best reply I can make
can make to your inquiry is to send
you the following extract from my
copy of the Falstaff Letters written
upon the fly page

" These Letters were the
production of my old school-fellow
James White with incidental
hints and corrections by another
school-fellow Charles Lamb.

Amongst his friends White
was familiarly called "Sin John" - I
was present with him at a
masquerade, when he personated
Sin John Falstaff, in a dress
borrowed from the wardrobe of
Covent Garden Theatre, thro' the
kindness of Fawcett the comedian.
His imitation of the character, or

In the publishers copy of Falstaff Letters

(21)
I would say personation, excited
great mirth and applause, as well
as considerable jealousy from some
of the company present, supposed to be
hired actors for the occasion, who with
much ill will procured a rope and
held it across the room (at the
pantheon in Oxford Street) and White
was obliged to take a leap over the
rope to escape being thrown down.
The exertion he underwent by this
interruption, added to the weight of the
dress, ~~injured~~ injured his health for some
days afterwards.

We were at this time
in the habit of meeting at the Feathers
in Hand Court, Holborn to drink
rips of Burton ale, as they were
called, one of our friends who was
particularly fond of the beverage was
called Ripperkit

White was a remarkably
open hearted, jocular companion; very
intimate with the Laubs family
who were then lodging in Great Queen Street,

Lincoln Inn fields
that White published ^{it was in the same year}
~~letters that Miss Laubs stated her~~

* [written in pencil is the following] by Little Queen Street
it was there the Laubs were living when the
mother was killed.

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Mothin in a fit of insanity.
(See Launc's Letter to Coleridge
in Talfourds Final Remains p 40)

White married a daughter
of Vauller(?) the bookseller, the fortunate
purchaser of the Copyright of Paley's
works. He died I think in 1822
leaving a widow and three children
White was an idolater of Shakespeare
He had always several of his expressions
and epithets at his ready command
and generally inter his
conversation with them. He was the
person alluded to in one Launc's
Essays in Relics who treated the Chimney
Sweeper in Smithfield at Bartholomew
fain. I was present. If you have Talfourds
Final Memorials at hand you will
find at p. 87 & some mention made
of your humble servants intimacy
with Lamb, the remembrance of
which is always a gratifying
incident in my life.

I am always glad
My old friend to see your will
known hand and to subscribe myself
Most Sincerely Yours
M. Galt