

No. 9

PUNCH OFFICE, 85, FLEET STREET.

1851.

Tuesday

My dear Ben,

You have been so uniformly kind to me that I do not hesitate to tell you of that which gives me much annoyance, because I know it is either inevitable upon your part or else you will remove the cause of it.

I gather from what you said last night that it is not intended to produce either of my pieces at present - I can't understand why not. Bedford could easily take Wright's part

very venous in argument, should my piece fail. I should have been very glad indeed to have been in a position to have asked for the money for "the stand" but with the large sum already advanced upon my other pieces I would not if you interest me so better served by the production of other pieces than mine. Henry then - I only wish you as I know you will do - well, but I sincerely think no damage would be done by either of my dramas. I am

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in 'The Man of Tact' & the other
piece 'Sea Land' was written
for the majority of the Adelphe
actors & Mumford might play
Mrs. Min. Fitzwilliam. They
Honey w. do very well for
the comic part.

It is not that my vanity is
hurt by the delay, but I cannot
dewild myself of the feeling that
you have no confidence in
my pieces & this ^{conviction} ~~feeling~~ depends
upon me so that I cannot
go on writing. No, is then all
I am constantly pined for
my adherence to you (not by I)

and I confess I am sometimes mortified at being
asked but my reliance upon your friendship
to make me indifferent to these remarks.

There is also another serious cause of ^{disappointment}
to me - with my large family & large demands
made by others upon me. I am compelled to
look to a profitable employment of my leisure.

For very pecuniary reasons we cannot - as usual
or more ~~than~~ my business as a producer of
plays, but I am heavily accumulating a debt

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always willing to make way
for better men & would cheerfully
acquiesce in anything to
your advantage, but I'm afraid
you have ~~been~~ thought that
I was indifferent about the
production of my pieces so
long as I got the money for
them. I assure it is not so.
My debt annoys me & the cessation
of certain workings will in-
convenience me but - you
have greater interests than
mine to consider & if it is

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more advantageous to you to
put me upon the shelf you
with none. hear another
hurman from

Your ever faithfully
attached
Mark Lewis

M. Lewis