

Don't forget, 13th December 1849

My dear Sir,

At last I have had an interview with Mr Burn, at which I took occasion to acquaint him with my intimacy with you, with your present occupation, and with my ideas respecting your acquirements and capabilities in the way of your profession. He seemed very desirous of seeing you perform, and would continue to do so if you did at all near his corner, when in the County. He requested me to write to you, requesting you if you thought any commencing with him would be desirable, to write. Blum stating your wishes as to Character &c and giving him a list of the points which you are ready to perform. He will be in Birmingham in a day or two, and requests that you will direct to him there, at the Theatre Royal.

Have you seen in the newspapers, the announcement of the Marriage of our worthy Secretary, Mr Shaw? I wish I may inform you that the result took place at St Pauls Church on ~~the~~ yesterday fortnight, and that after a ~~very~~ Happy Pair retired to their seat, or villa, at Camden Town. The lady is agreeable in her manners - very small - very far from handsome - and has a fortune of £2000. I dined with the wedded pair on Saturday, who seemed quite comfortable and at ease in their new conditions. The party was enough for whole of eight persons, and the dinner was excellent. Let it be called is, I hope, doing well. William Cook opened a quarter on the relative merits of painting and sculpture in a continuous and very respectable speech, and we have several new members beginning to feel and to display their powers. The dinner, excepting that we missed you greatly, was even more interesting than last year. Mr Bagdassari was engaged to heighten the gratifications of the evening, and sung with great taste

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T. J. Southey
Theatre
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and feeling, several songs appropriate to the toast, toasts by which they were preceded. I had the deep gratification of alluding to you particularly in proposing your health. Mr. Tison, as our founder, and I am sure nothing during the evening was given with heavier feeling or received with more universal pleasure. Mr. Tison had also an opportunity, which he seized with eagerness, of expressing our feelings for our absent but well-remembered friend when he returned thanks in his own name and his own. He desires me particularly to give his kindest regards to you.

Macready has added to his varied weather, a stout spring of the laurel which temble wore. He has performed Coriolanus with complete success. As a whole, his personification of the part did not leave so clear, noble, and majestic an image on the soul, as that of his great precursor. This, however, did not arise from an inferiority of genius - but possibly from a want of grandeur of mean, and possibly from the variety of his tones and gestures, as contrasted with the singleness of manner which temble sustained through the whole. temble's Coriolanus was a living image of antique beauty, Patrician grandeur, and elevated scorn. It had the precision, the grace, and the chillness of a statue. Macready's is less striking, but more natural. His haughtiness was softened by his filial love, or look in soldierly valour. In the first entrance - in the scene where Coriolanus stands for the consulship - and in parts of the last scene with Aufidius, he was decidedly superior to temble. But in that where his mother and friends entreat him to temporize with his foes, and in that where he Roman Ladies in the Volscian camp he far excelled temble. Macready's Richard is "more in the sun" than Keats. The gayer and more glib parts are superior, the grave ones and sage perhaps scarcely equal. On the whole, I think, a more

perfect representation of the character. Mr. Keen played Hamlet last night, but it was a sad piece of butchery. I fear both theatres are sadly disappointed, but Covent Garden far more deeply - until Saturday when the Comedy of Errors was very successfully revived, all went against it. To-night a tragedy founded on Schiller's noble play of Mary Stuart is to be produced there, and your friend Miss Macaulay is to appear as the lovely Scottish Queen. Mrs. Bann is to perform Elizabeth. - I must break off here with best wishes for your health, happiness and success, which will be felt by none more deeply than by

Yours very truly,
F. N. Talfourd.

P. S. When you write to Bann you will not forget to mention that you are a friend of Miss Lane's.

14th Decr 17.