

Charles Matthews. (the elder.)

Liverpool March 19.

Dear Gates.

After my most disastrous expedition
and being compelled to fly to have a chance of dying
in England - it was natural that in case of recovery
I should cling to a hope of an at home Season. A
new Entertainment was abandoned as soon as I landed.
I then hoped that last year plan might be adopted.
My impression now is that I shall never perform again.
I am blighted-withered. Imagine a man of 75
years with out legs - and scarcely enough breath to
bear him across a room - and you have me. I have
not been in a bed more than 5 times since the 19th
of Feb^r. I dare not lie down for dread of actual
suffocation. I can no more - but this I am compelled

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under these circumstances and as I see the impracticability of a charity - it will be useless - Charles will convey
 keeping you any longer in doubt to abandon all idea of it to me -
 occupying the Theatre during the ensuing Spring &
 Summer Season. God bless you - W^m H Jones me
 in kind regards of good wishes to you and Mrs
 Hated ever faithfully yours

C Matthews.

P.S. I had intended to proceed to London
 directly I arrived - but alas - I am at the
 expense Waterloo and cannot be moved at
 present. I had not contemplated this and
 therefore put my almost all - for the Journey
 into a bill at N. Y. - I dread to enquire
 as to finance - but if you can send me what I
 advanced by you here to R. Stephens - such

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Charles Mathews. (the elder.)



Tom Taylor.

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Local Government Act Office,

8, Richmond Terrace,

Whitehall, S.W.

June 13

1865

My dear Gates —

That any man
 should make a collection
 of autographs surprises
 me. But that any
 man making such
 a collection should think
 it worth while to
 include my autograph
 is not much surprising.

Yours truly
 Tom Taylor.

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Edmund Gates Esq.