

Friday 1
CG

KING HENRY THE FOURTH, FIRST PART. As 14 Dec. 1795, but omitted: Westmorland, Sheriff, Peto, Gadshill, Prince John of Lancaster, Messenger, Hotspur's Servant, Travellers. Also ST. PATRICK'S DAY; or, The Scheming Lieutenant. Justice Credulous – Quick; Lieut. O'Connor – Macready; Dr Rosy – Powel; Serjeant Trounce – Haymes; Corporal Flint – Wilde; Clown – Farley; Servant – Ledger // Loretta (with a *song*) – Mrs Mountain; Bridget – Mrs Davenport.

MONOLOGUE. End of mainpiece Dryden's *Ode of Alexander's Feast* by Holman. SINGING. After the monologue *My Mother had a Maid called Barbara*, as 14 Mar.; *Where is that tow'ring spirit fled?*, as 14 Mar.; *Tbo' Hurricanes rattle* (composed by Shield) by Inledon and Bowden; *Ye Gentlemen of England*, as 14 Mar.

COMMENT. Benefit for Holman. Afterpiece: Not acted these 8 years [not acted since 16 Mar. 1786]. *Oracle*, 16 Mar.: Tickets to be had of Holman, No. 14, John-street, Adelphi. Receipts: £318 19s. (205/3/6; 5/11/0; tickets: 108/4/6).

Saturday 2
DL

VORTIGERN. Characters by Bensley, Barrymore, Caulfield, Kemble, Whitfield, Trueman, C. Kemble, Benson, Phillimore, King, Dignum, Packer, Cooke, Banks, Evans, Russell, Wentworth, Maddocks, Webb, Master Gregson, Master De Camp // Mrs Powell, Mrs Jordan, Miss Miller, Miss Tidswell, Miss Heard, Miss Leak. [Cast from text (J. Barker, 1799): Constantius – Bensley; Aurelius – Barrymore; Uter – Caulfield; Vortigern – Kemble; Wortimerus – Whitfield; Catagrines – Trueman; Pascentius – C. Kemble; Hengist – Benson; Horsus – Phillimore; Fool – King; Page – Master Gregson; Servant – Master De Camp // Edmunda – Mrs Powell; Flavia – Mrs Jordan; Rowena – Miss Miller; Attendants on Edmunda – Miss Tidswell, Miss Heard, Miss Leak. Dignum, Packer, Cooke, Banks, Evans, Russell, Wentworth, Maddocks, Webb are unassigned.] *Prologue* spoken [actually, read (Boaden, *Jordan*, I, 297)] by Whitfield. *Epilogue* spoken by Mrs Jordan. Also MY GRANDMOTHER. As 30 Dec. 1795.

SINGING. In mainpiece *Last Whitsunday they brought me* by Miss Leak; *She sung whilst from her eye ran down* by Mrs Jordan [neither one listed in playbill (see *BUC*, 622)].

COMMENT. Mainpiece [1st time; T5, by William Henry Ireland; incidental music by William Linley. *Prologue* by Sir James Bland Burges; *Epilogue* by Robert Merry (see text)]: With new Scenes, Dresses & Decorations. The Scenes designed and executed by Greenwood and Capon. The Dresses by Johnston, Gay & Miss Rein.

Printed slip attached to Kemble playbill: A malevolent and impotent attack on the Shakspeare MSS. [i.e. those forged by W. H. Ireland, of which this play was one] having appeared, on the Eve of representation of *Vortigern*, evidently intended to injure the interest of the Proprietor of the MSS., Mr [Samuel] Ireland [W. H. Ireland's father] feels it impossible, within the short space of time that intervenes between the publishing and the representation, to produce an answer to the most illiberal and unfounded assertions in Mr Malone's enquiry [i.e. Edmond Malone, *An Inquiry into the Authenticity of certain Papers attributed to Shakspeare, Queen Elizabeth, and Henry, Earl of Southampton*, 1796]. He is therefore induced to request that *Vortigern* may be heard with that Candour that has ever distinguished a British Audience. The Play is now at the Press, and will in a very few days be laid before the Public. [But it was not issued until 1799 (see below). See also Bernard Grebanier, *The Great Shakspeare Forgery*, London, 1966.]

Oracle, 4 Apr., states that the first three acts were listened to with patience, but beginning with the fourth act the play was damned, when "one tremendous yell of indignation from the pit burst simultaneously." "At four o'clock the doors of the theatre were besieged; and, a few minutes after they were opened, the pit was crowded solely with gentlemen. Before six not a place was to be found in the boxes, and the passages were filled . . . The audience betrayed symptoms of impatience early in the representation; but, finding its taste insulted by bloated

terms, which heightened the general insipidity, its reason puzzled by discordant images, false ornaments, and abortive efforts to elevate and astonish, pronounced its sentence of condemnation at the conclusion of the play" (*Gentleman's Magazine*, Apr. 1795, pp. 346-47). "Ireland's play of Vortigern I went to. Prologue spoken at 35 minutes past 6 [see 29 Mar.]: Play over at 10. A strong party was evidently made to support it, which clapped without opposition frequently through near 3 acts, when some ridiculous passages caused a laugh, mixed with groans—Kemble requested the audience to hear the play out abt. the end of the 4th act and prevailed.—The Epilogue was spoken by Mrs Jordan who skipped over some lines which claimed the play as Shakespeares. Barrymore attempted to give the Play out for Monday next but was hooted off the stage. Kemble then came on, & after some time, was permitted to say that "School for Scandal would be given," which the House approved by clapping. Sturt of Dorsetshire was in a Stage Box drunk, & exposed himself indecently to support the Play, and when one of the stage attendants attempted to take up the green cloth [i.e. a carpet which, by custom, was laid on the stage during the concluding scene of a tragedy], Sturt seized him roughly by the head. He was slightly pelted with oranges" (Joseph Farington, *Diary*, 1922, I, 145).

Saturday 2
DI.

Account-Book, 4 Apr.: Paid Ireland his share for the 1st Night of Vortigern £102 13s. 3d. *Morning Chronicle*, 29 Mar. 1799: This Day is published VORTIGERN and HENRY THE SECOND (4s.). Receipts: £555 6s. 6d. (528/6/0; 26/9/6; 0/11/0).

THE LIE OF THE DAY. As 30 Mar. Also LOCK AND KEY. As 2 Feb., but omitted: Linton, Street, Gray, Mrs Castelle, Mrs Norton, Miss Kirton. Also HARLEQUIN'S TREASURE. As 19 Mar. CG

COMMENT. [More than one contemporary account alludes to THE LIE OF THE DAY as being acted, presumably by coincidence, on the same night as Ireland's Shakespeare forgery.] Receipts: £273 1s. 6d. (270/9/6; 2/12/0).

I DUE GOBBI. As 15 Mar.

King's

DANCING. End of Act I *Le Bouquet*, as 15 Mar.; End of Opera a new Ballet (taken from the Incas of Marmontel; composed by Onorati) *Alonso e Cora* by Didelot, Mme Rose, Mlle Parisot, Mme Hilligsberg.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. As 26 Sept. 1795, but Joseph Surface – Barrymore. Also HARLEQUIN CAPTIVE. As 1 Mar., but omitted: Dubois, Keys, Whitmell, Wells, Butler, W. Banks, Nicolini, Garman, Master Gregson, Master De Camp; from Vocal Parts: Mrs Bland. Monday 4
DL

COMMENT. Receipts: £297 19s. 6d. (283/5/0; 5/14/6; tickets not come in: 9/0/0).

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR. As 28 Mar. Also HARLEQUIN'S TREASURE. As 17 Mar. CG

COMMENT. Receipts: £246 10s. (231/5; 15/5).

FIRST LOVE. As 17 Sept. 1795, but Frederick Mowbray – Benson; omitted: Servants, Waiting-woman. Also THE DOCTOR AND THE APOTHECARY. As 1 Apr., but omitted: Perez, Shopman. Tuesday 5
DL

COMMENT. Receipts: £196 18s. (146/11; 42/1; 8/6).

FONTAINBLEAU. Lackland – Lewis; Lepoche – Quick; Squire Tallyho – Munden; Sir John Bull – Fawcett; Lord Winlove – Inledon; Col. Epaulette – Farley; Henry – Johnstone // Caelia (1st time) – Mrs Serres; Rosa – Mrs Mountain; Lady Bull – Mrs Davenport; Mrs Casey (1st time) – Mrs Clendining; Nannette (1st time) – Mrs Martyr; Miss Dolly Bull – Mrs Mattocks. Also BRITISH CG