

Saturday 26
King's

Pit 10s. 6d. Gallery 5s. No Money to be returned. The Doors to be opened at 6:30. To begin at 7:30 [same throughout opera season]. The Nobility are entreated to give direction to their Servants to set down and take up at the Theatre with the Horse's head toward Pall Mall. On account of the abuses practised in the names of the Subscribers, it is become necessary to require the production of the Subscription Ticket at the Doors and the Boxes. At the Chair-door in Market-Lane, Subscribers only will be admitted.

"Braham sustained his part so well that we trust he will give us an example that shall induce us to chace from an English stage the degrading and disgusting form of a *Castrato*" (*Morning Chronicle*, 28 Nov.). [The playbill omits Rovedino, but his performance is reviewed in *True Briton*, 28 Nov. The only other male part in the opera is that of Sandro. And see 14 Feb. 1797.]

Monday 28
DL

THE LONDON MERCHANT; or, George Barnwell. Thoroughgood – Aickin; Barnwell – Packer; George Barnwell – C. Kemble; Trueman – Holland; Blunt – R. Palmer; Servant – Evans; Jailor – Maddocks // Maria – Miss Miller; Millwood – Mrs Siddons; Lucy – Miss Pope (Their 1st appearance in those characters [but see below]). Also THE ADOPTED CHILD. Sir Bertrand – Trueman; Le Sage – Sedgwick; Record – Suett; Michael – Bannister Jun.; Spruce – Russell; Flint – Phillimore; Boy – Mast. Welsh // Clara – Miss Leak; Lucy – Miss De Camp; Jannette – Miss Tidswell; Nell – Mrs Bland.

DANCING. As 12 Nov.

COMMENT. Mainpiece: Not acted these 7 years. [Mrs Siddons's 1st appearance as Millwood was at Liverpool, 11 Oct. 1776.] Receipts: £503 17s. 6d. (420/4/0; 81/4/0; 2/9/6).

CG

ABROAD AND AT HOME. As 21 Nov. Also THE IRISHMAN IN LONDON. As 21 Oct.

COMMENT. Receipts: £316 14s. 6d. (313/14/6; 3/0/0).

Tuesday 29
DL

ISABELLA. Probably as 19 Nov., but Count Baldwin – read by Wroughton. Also THE PRISONER. As 11 Oct.

COMMENT. [Mainpiece in place of THE FORCE OF RIDICULE; afterpiece of RICHARD COEUR DE LION, both advertised on playbill of 28 Nov.] "The new Comedy last night was deferred upon the pretext of Miss Farren's illness . . . The Manager sent after Mrs Siddons, who was found at Covent-Garden Theatre, seeing *Abroad and at Home*. Brandon, however, ordered her a chair, and she kindly performed *Isabella*. Wroughton read the *Father*" (*Oracle*, 30 Nov.). "For near an hour the audience waited patiently . . . At half past seven Palmer addressed the audience." He said that Miss Farren was ill, that to those who preferred to leave the theatre their money would be returned, and that instead of the new play Mrs Siddons would act *Isabella*, "as soon as the dresses could be prepared for that purpose. This address was by no means favourably received, and hundreds of persons immediately left the house. A few minutes after eight, the curtain drew up to the tragedy, which was well performed, and much applauded by the few who remained to witness it" (*Morning Herald*, 30 Nov.). "November 30. Miss Farren last night refused to appear in a new Play at Drury Lane which made much confusion in the House. The cause assigned was indisposition but that was not believed by the audience; and the fact Lysons says is, that as she cannot obtain payment from the Theatre, she resolutely told them she wd. not appear unless her demands were paid . . . Such is the unprincipled conduct of Sheridan" (Joseph Farington, *Diary*, 1922, I, 174). [On 1 Dec. *Morning Herald* prints a letter from Miss Farren, from Green-street, Grosvenor-square, saying that she really was ill. The editor of the paper adds a note in which he affirms his positive knowledge that rumours about a dispute as to Miss Farren's unpaid salary were without foundation.] Receipts: £134 2s. (82/2; 50/18; 1/2).