

Saturday 12
DL

Wilford – Bannister Jun.; Adam Winterton – Dodd; Rawbold – Barrymore; Samson – Suett; Boy – Master Welsh; Armstrong – Kelly; Orson – R. Palmer; Robbers – Dignum, Sedgwick, Phillimore, Bannister; Robber's Boy – Master Webb; Peter – Banks; Cook – Hollingsworth; Gregory – Trueman; Simon – Webb; Walter – Maddocks // Helen – Miss Farren; Blanch – Mrs Gibbs; Dame Rawbold – Miss Tidswell; Barbara – Sga Storage; Girl – Miss Granger; Judith – Miss De Camp. Keys, Whitmell are unassigned.] Also HARLEQUIN CAPTIVE. *Cast not listed*, but see 22 Jan.

SINGING. Mainpiece: The General Chorus by Cooke, Danby, Evans, Welsh, Wentworth, J. Fisher, Master De Camp, Master Gregson, Atkins, Brown, Denman, Fisher, Tett, Aylmer, Caulfield Jun., Dibble, Gallot, Willoughby, Annereau, Bardoleau, Cook, &c. // Miss Arne, Mrs Boimaison, Mrs Bramwell, Mrs Butler, Miss Mellon, Miss Wentworth, Mrs Maddocks, Miss Chatterley, Miss Menage, Miss Stuart, Miss Jackson, &c.

COMMENT. Mainpiece [1st time; MD3, by George Colman, the younger]: The Scenery and Dresses are entirely new. The Musick composed by Storage. The Scenes designed and executed by Greenwood and Capon [the Gothic library was painted by Capon (*Oracle*, 21 Mar. 1796)]. The Dresses by Johnston, Gay and Miss Rein. Books of the Songs to be had in the Theatre.

[When Colman published his play he prefaced it with an acrimonious attack on Kemble, in which he accused him of deliberately trying to make the play a failure. But almost without exception the contemporary reviews excused Kemble's performance on the grounds of his obvious indisposition, and agreed that the play itself was unsatisfactory. "The play failed, and we are sorry to say did not merit to succeed . . . Kemble, who was tormented with an incessant cough, said he could not but be sensible that much of the displeasure of the house proceeded from *his* deficiency in a principal character . . . The whole audience with one voice cried out, 'No, no, Kemble—it is not your fault'" (*Oracle*, 14 Mar.). "The dialogue is extremely heavy, and there is little or no incident to relieve the tedium of more than four hours representation . . . Sir Edward Mortimer is a being distracted, with no adequate cause; a prey to remorse, which he of all men was the last to feel from the principles that make up his being. This therefore is the radical moral defect of the piece. But there is another which, though not equally strong, is equally fatal: there is no progression of interest, there is no involution of plot, there is no development of character" (*Star*, 14 Mar.). Other notices of the opening night were much in the same vein. Subsequently Colman revised the play, and it held the stage for many years. "The curtailments which have been made shorten the representation near an hour and a half, and the alterations are many and judicious" (*Morning Herald*, 21 Mar. 1796).

Morning Herald, 23 July 1796: This Day is published THE IRON CHEST (2s.). Receipts: £471 9s. (468/13; 2/16).

CG THE WAY TO GET MARRIED. As 27 Feb. Also LOCK AND KEY. As 2 Feb.

COMMENT. Receipts: £268 17s. (261/6; 7/11).

King's LA BELLA ARSENE. *Cast not listed*, but see 10 Mar.
DANCING. End of Act I *Divertissement*, as 10 Mar.; End of Opera *Le Bouquet*, as 5 Mar.

Monday 14
DL THE CHILD OF NATURE. As 29 Dec. 1795, but Amanthis – Miss Mellon. Also THE HUMOURIST. As 12 Dec. 1795, but omitted: Beaumont, Blunt, Servants. Also NO SONG NO SUPPER. As 7 Mar.

COMMENT. [There are two Kemble playbills for this night. The first announces NO SONG NO SUPPER and THE CHILD OF NATURE (with Mrs Jordan as Amanthis) and THE SPOIL'D CHILD (with Mrs Jordan as Little Pickle). The second carries the notice: The Publick are most respectfully informed that, on

- account of the sudden Indisposition of Mrs Jordan, Miss Mellon will undertake the character of Amanthis, and humbly solicits their indulgence. The Entertainments this Evening will be [as above.] Receipts: £265 2s. (173/0/6; 81/6/0; 10/15/6). Monday 14
DL
- THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR. Mr Ford – Pope; Dr Caius – Quick; Mr Page – Macready; Sir Hugh Evans – Townsend; Slender – Knight (Their 1st appearance in those characters); Fenton – Toms; Justice Shallow – Powel; Host of the Garter – Thompson; Jack Rugby – Farley; Falstaff – Fawcett (1st appearance in that character) // Mrs Page – Mrs Mattocks; Anne Page (1st time) – Miss Mansel; Dame Quickly (1st time) – Mrs Davenport; Mrs Ford – Mrs Pope. Also HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS. Duke's Servant (for that night only) – Lewis; Lovell – Munden; Sir Harry's Servant (with a *Mock Minuet*) – Knight; Philip – Davenport; Freeman – Macready; Tom – Rees; Robert – Thompson; Coachman – Powel // Lady Charlotte – Miss Logan; Cook – Mrs Norton; Lady Bab – Mrs Davenport; Kitty (with a *song* and *Mock Minuet*, for that night only) – Mrs Pope. MONOLOGUE. End of mainpiece Collins's *Ode on the Passions* (1st and only time) by Mrs Pope. CG
- SINGING. After the monologue *My Mother had a Maid called Barbara* (words by Shakespeare, music by Shield) by Incedon, Bowden, Townsend, Linton, Mrs Clendining; The Minstrel's Song [*Where is that tow'ring spirit fled?*] from THE DAYS OF YORE, by Mrs Clendining, accompanied on the harp by Weippert; *O why to be bappy* (music by Shield) by Incedon, Linton, Bowden; *Ye Gentlemen of England* by Incedon, Bowden, Townsend, Linton, &c.
- COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Pope. Mainpiece: Not acted these 6 years. Afterpiece: Not acted these 5 years. *Oracle*, 25 Feb.: Tickets to be had of Mrs Pope at her house in Half Moon-street, Piccadilly. Receipts: £498 5s. (319/2; 8/12; tickets: 170/11).
- THE JEW. As 3 Oct. 1795, but Frederick Bertram – C. Kemble // Eliza Ratcliffe – Mrs Goodall; Mrs Goodison – Mrs Heard. Also THE DOCTOR AND THE APOTHECARY. As 5 Mar. Tuesday 15
DL
- COMMENT. [Mainpiece in place of FIRST LOVE, advertised on playbill of 14 Mar. In it the playbill retains Palmer as Frederick Bertram and Miss Farren as Eliza Ratcliffe, but "The Publick are most respectfully informed that in consequence of the Indisposition of Palmer and Miss Farren, the Characters of Charles [*sic*] Bertram and Eliza in THE JEW will be performed by C. Kemble and Mrs Goodall" (printed slip attached to Kemble playbill).] Receipts: £145 14s. 6d. (102/3/0; 38/5/0; 5/6/6).
- SPECULATION. As 7 Nov. 1795, but omitted: Blurton, Master Curties. Also HARLEQUIN'S TREASURE; or, Jewels New Set. *Pantomimic Characters*. Persian Merchant and Lover – Farley; Harlequin – Simpson; Clown – Follett; Pantaloon – Hawtin; Fop's Servant – Simmons; Miser – Powel; Sailor – Blurton; Jew – Crowe; Quaker – Davenport; Punch – Rayner; Smuggler – King; Lemon Merchant – Wilde; Landlord – Thompson; Cook – Rees; Surveyor – Claremont; Servant – Abbot; Waiters – Findlay, Lee, &c.; Persians and Arabs – Cranfield, Platt, Bayzand, T. Cranfield, Goosetree, &c. // Columbine – Mlle St. Amand. *Vocal Characters*. Farmer – Bowden; Sailor – Haymes; Gambler – Townsend // Pleasure – Mrs Martyr; Virtue – Mrs Mountain; Arabian Girl – Mrs Clendining. *Glees and Chorusses* by Linton, Street, Spofforth, Williamson, Holland, &c.
- PART I. A View of the Desarts of Arabia, with the passing of the Caravan. The Banditti, &c. (from THE MAGIC CAVERN) painted by Richards, the music by Shield. A Garden—*song* by Mrs Clendining, composed by Shield. The Hotel (from THE CHOICE OF HARLEQUIN) with the Views of the Temple of Virtue and Pleasure painted by Richards, Dall, and Smirk; the music by Michael CG