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Author

Burwick, Frederick

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June 1-July 31, 1806.

Includes Cornish Adventures.

[2. June. 1806]

... Called & sat a while at Miss Pope's -- while I was there Mr. Shakespear came in -- he & I had a walk together afterwards. At various shops &c. Miss Pope having given me a box ticket for tonight -- Miss Kell & I tried to go to the pit of Drury Lane. ...

XIII, 3

We found the pit full, & she would not try the boxes. I got a very good place in the 2^d tier of boxes at the turn of the house: & at the end of the first act got the front row, where I saw & heard admirably -- ours was the only box to which company did not come, so I was very lucky in getting so capital a place, as the back rows of the 4th tier were all full, & the pit & galleries more crammed than any night I have been -- many in the lobbies all night -- I suppose near £700 -- for the benefit of Johnston the machinist. Miss De Camp was taken ill, & Mrs. Scott in the play & Mrs. Sharp in the Forty Thieves filled her part. The ballet of Paul & Virginia was danced after the play; it was admirably danced by Miss Gayton in Virginia -- she is a most elegant girl & will be a capital dancer indeed.

The Forty Thieves: I left in the middle at near 12, being quite tired of its dullness, and came away -- having seen it before, it would not bear a second performance.

XIII, 4

b.
m 1805

I have only to speak of the Iron Chest, which was well played. I never saw it before & there are some most interesting scenes in it. Elliston in Sir Edward Mortimer is capital; there are some inimitable turns of feeling in his manner, & his more violent parts are most impressive. De Camp was hardly inferior to him in Wilford. He always takes so much pains, & gives so

much pains, is so animated, & gives so much interest to it that nothing could be more affecting. The scenes between him & Elliston were capital. The Music is beautiful, & Bland sung sweetly in Barbara. Miss Mellon made as much as possible of Blanch, & Cherry an excellent Adam Winterton. He is a much better actor than Downton in old parts. Kelly left out his songs not being able now to sing. It went off very well on the whole, & I was much pleased, tho' heartily tired of the long business which followed.

XIII, 8

[4. June. 1806]

...Miss Kell, Miss Mackenzie, & I dined early & walked to D. L. theatre after dinner to the pit. There was a great crowd & I had some difficulty to get them in, but at last succeeded & got excellent places in the 3rd row of the pit. It was a vast immense house, very nearly as great as Monday [2. June. 1806]. Above £600, I dare say, for Dignum's benefit. He has many friends within & without the theatre who make him a good bill of fare, & a good house.

The Siege of Belgrade -- Seraskier, Mr. Braham -- Cohenburg, Barrymore -- Ismael, Cooke -- Anselm, Miller -- Peter, Dignum -- Yuseph, Mathews -- Leopold, Bannister --

XIII, 9

Katherine, Mrs. Mathews -- Fatima, Mrs. Scott -- Ghita, Mrs. Bland -- Lilloe, Signora Storace.

Braham & Storace sung most delightfully -- the Duet from Ainsî Fraterno was most delightful. He sung the air to the Maid of Lodi to new words most charmingly -- & he & Dignum sung "All's well" divinely -- but his "Rose & Lily," and "Confusion" & his "Love & honour" were beyond any thing, especially the last. Sung with such force & expression,

& such grandeur of style. I never saw him to appear to greater advantage. He seemed to enjoy the beauty of the music. Indeed, other than bits of historic pretense & histrionic fanfare, the Siege of Belgrade offers little else for enjoyment. Storace sung as well as she can do -- & with great effect in several parts: they cut out a sweet duet by Mrs. Bland & her, & several other exquisite morceaux: which I regretted much. On the whole however we had some delightful music -- tho' I longed for sweet Mrs. Mountain. It is dreadful thay she, De Camp, & Jordan are all ill.

The Farce of the Wedding Day I never saw before in London.

XIII, 10

I should have greatly preferred seeing Mrs. Jordan in Lady Contest to Miss Duncan -- as the latter, tho' she played it well, is too coarse & too wild: -- & her singing was out of tune in all the lower notes. Cherry played Sir Adam inimitably well indeed: -- just right -- he was truly comic without overdoing the part. Lady Autumn, Miss Tidswell -- Mrs. Hamford, Mrs. Sparks -- Lord Rakeland, Mr. Russel -- & Mr. Contest, Mr. Bartley.

XIII, 15

[6. June. 1806]

... I went Mrs. Matlock's benefit at C. G. Theatre. Very full but not crammed. Got a good place in the 3rd row of the pit. The play, Maids & Bachelors: first night of it; brought out afresh -- but under another name was acted 3 years ago at D. L. theatre. It is pleasant & very interesting, but much spoiled by a foolish divertisement in the 4th act -- the last act is rather flat. Mr. & Mrs. H. Johnston, Mr. Brunton, Mr. Liston did all they could. Miss Tyrer sung 2 songs

sweetly, but Mrs. Glover & Mrs. Mattocks are the strength of the piece. They played inimitably. Mrs. Glover is now thinner & is a most elegant woman -- & much improved in her acting. She is now all ease, grace, & elegance -- certainly the most of a lady of any actress now on the stage. She is really a delightful creature. & Mrs. Mattocks droll as ever in a very good part.

XIII, 16

The Epilogue was very good & admirably spoken by Mrs. Mattocks; altogether it went off extremely well, and was received with great applause; but certainly it is rather flat towards the end.

We had several songs by Incedon, Munden, Fawcett, Emery. In the interlude of the Rival Soldiers, Hill & Taylor sung a pretty duet & Mrs. Atkins looked & sung well. The Farce of We fly by night followed. It is most laughable. I don't know when I have been more amused -- it is admirably acted by Munden, Brunton, Liston, Fawcett, Farley, Simmons, Miss Davies, Miss Tyrer, & Mrs. Davenport & Miss Leserve. Nothing can equal the drollery of Liston's face in Gaby Grim. Poor Munden was taken ill of the gout very bad just before the finale & was obliged to sit in a chair while it was sung.

XIII, 17

[7. June. 1806]

....had a pleasant ride across the country to Mr. Grey's at Highgate. It is situated on a hill -- & commands a beautiful view.

XIII, 18

It is a most elegant house, & the grounds, gardens, hothouses, greenhouse, dairy, cold bath, &c., are capital. Nothing could

be more comfortable or so elegant. There are some very good paintings also: & the rooms are most elegantly furnished. ... We only found Miss Grey at home. She walked with us all about the grounds & shewed us all the lions. ... One of her brothers came in while we were there -- a genteel young man: & a Mr. Taylor, member for Wells, who is an admirer of Miss Grey's, but he is 20 years older than she & is, tho' a gentlemanly person, nothing particular.

XIII, 19

Miss Grey was very civil indeed & acquitted herself very graciously among so many strangers. She is a most elegant girl, but there is a want of animation. She is too quiet.

... Left them soon after dinner & went home, where dressed & went to the opera. Sat with Lord Galloway & had much talk with him about music. ... The opera was Camilla Ossia il Sotteraneo -- pleasing music to the ear, but wants expression much, & few good songs, duets or trios -- no encores -- heavy.

XIII, 20

It is Mad^e. Genlis's story of the Duchess of C. dramatized & is really heavy -- tho' interlarded with comic scenes: yet nothing can atone for the want of sweet song. -- Braham, Grassini, Righi, Naldi, Morelli, & Griglietti did all they could, but it would not do.

The Scotch Divertisement and the Ninette a la cour were acted as on Thursday. The latter is a stupid ballet & was well hissed at the end, which I am glad of. They so seldom play the best operas & ballets. The house was very full: but it will not be so again to the same amusements.

[13. June. 1806]

... Went to the Haymarket theatre -- the first piece of the Spanish Barber was almost over. Mr. Rae, who is to be all in all in place of Elliston, is a good looking man but seems conceited & as an actor of course very inferior. Got an excellent place in the pit next to Scotland who was there alone. He said nothing could be worse than the Spanish Barber.

The next was the Village Lawyer which was excellent.

XIII, 29

Nothing could exceed Fawcett in Scout, unless it was Liston in Sheepface -- they were both most admirable indeed: so excessive comical that they were almost like to laugh at each other. Snail by Mr. Hatton was bad: but on the whole highly amused.

The New farce of Catch him who can followed, written by Mr. T. Hook. The Music by Hook: & all borrowed. Some of it very pretty -- a song by Mrs. Mathews, a song by Miss Tyrer, & a duo by Miss Tyrer & Mr. Taylor all charming. Mathews assumes various most ingenious disguises, & acts with great spirit & glee -- but Liston in the love making soldier is so truly comic that he is the saviour of the farce -- it is such a jumble that what it means cannot be found out, & the dialogue is wretched indeed. Mathews & Liston save it, merely by their antics. Taylor, Mrs. Mathews, Miss Tyrer, De Camp, &c. do all they can, but it is sad stuff.

[14. June. 1806]

Did not get a wink of sleep all last night. Dreadful pain & sickness. Never had a worse bout. Could scarcely dress myself with great labor in 2 hours. Threw up my breakfast & indeed all I took all day. Went to Dr. Pitcairn's in a coach. He ordered me some opium pills. Laid on the bed all day. Went down stairs a little in the evg., having had a little sleep. Went to bed at 11 dreadfully tired, but a little relieved by opium.

XIII, 31

[16. June. 1806]

My stomach & side still extremely painful: but the former got better during the day as did the latter in a slight degree. Had an Interview with Dr. Pitcairn who has ordered

XIII, 32

something which I hope will be of use to me.

XIII, 74

[4. July. 1806]

Last night had a violent attack of pain in breast, & great sweating & weakness Sent for Mr. Morrah, a very intelligent surgeon, who says it is all sympathetic from the biliary ducts, which are disordered & don't secrete properly. I wish it may be so, as I was much afraid of my lungs.

XIII, 76

[6. July. 1806]

... Mr. Morrah called on me & gave me prescriptions.

[7. July. 1806]

XIII, 77

... Mr. Morrah shewed us a curious set of bells played on by means of keys & hammers like a piano. He has been very civil to me I have of his tincture enough for my journey with Griffith, tho' I hope not to have to use it often, for it leaves me as lost as a somnambulist.

[14. July. 1806]

Netley Abbey

Waldie: XIII, 130

... At 4 o'clock, we walked down to the Quay & taking a sail boat, set out to go to Netley Abbey, which is 4 miles off by water tho' seven by land, owing to having to go round the Estary of the Itchin. We had a charming sail & again admired the beautiful scenery of Southampton river. We walked up thro' woods & fields to the Abby which is shaded by surrounding trees as scarcely to be seen till quite close to it. It is not possible to do any justice to the still quiet scene of fallen grandeur which it displays. It is surrounded by noble tall oaks & elms & ash -- and in all the spaces within it are numbers of these fine trees, with a luxuriance of ivy & every

XIII, 131

sort of creeping twining plant, which I never before saw equalled. The abundance of shade throws a gloom over the scene which is really delightful -- the afternoon was rather cloudy, & a breeze whistled thro' the ruins as if trying to recall forgotten melodies -- nothing could be more impressive than the scene. I longed for Jane to take a view of it, or Bessy Chatto. We first entered a large square space, with many fine trees & walls concealed by ivy, called the Fountain Court. We next proceeded thro' the Kitchen, & Pantry, Refectory, fragrant with viands & victuals of wild seasons, & then thro' smaller rooms to the entrance of the church -- all the centre part & north wing of the cross is gone, but the east & west ends & south part still remain. The Shafts of the east window beautifully covered with ivy completely are admirably fine. A corner staircase conducts to the second tier of arches, from whence the view is very fine of broken buildings, trees, ivy, & shade. The church is far the

finest part of the ruins & is a fine specimen of the elder gothic style of architecture. The exterior views of this inimitable place are all fine indeed, & of a chaste & attractive luxuriance of quiet beauty -- the lovely woods around add not a little to the charm of the scene: but the finest view is from the corner of an old exterior court on the east side -- the high east part of the church with the ivy shafted east window, and the trees & branches at the top, & ivy all over it with various fine detached pieces of ruins scattered about, & all inclosed by wood, form altogether a scene I never saw equalled. It is superior to Fountains Abbey, as it is more retired & shady, & ivy covered, & the trees in it & round it are finer, & as the luxuriant vegetation which adorns it is not at all checked by the hand of art

XIII, 133

which almost always does too much in cases like these. Having spent a delightful hour in exploring & viewing in these valuable & venerable remains, we returned to our boat & had a sail up to Southampton with a very strong west wind, & a few drops of rain.

[14. July. 1806]

Stone Henge

Waldie: XIII, 148

... We took the road direct to Salisbury plain & mounting a hill found ourselves on that expansive & immense tract, which tho' called a plain is one a very immense tract of bare undulating ground, sometimes & mostly covered with turf -- but in many places producing good crops of corn. We rode over the turf for an immense distance -- above 6 miles. It is 7 miles from Wilton to Stone Henge.

Approaching this astonishing production of human labour,

XIII, 149

we observed about a mile to the right or east, the high circular hill, fortified in terraces & with some vestiges of a castle, which is now all that remains of the ancient city of Sarum. There is a public house there: and it still retains its priveleges as a town & sends 2 members to parliament.

We observed in various parts of the plain several round artificial hillocks, which have no doubt been druidical stations, as they are too small for roman encampments. Old Sarum has, I dare say, been a roman station. We stopped above half an hour at Stone Henge, contemplating the vast remains. We measured one of the stones (not the largest) & found by calculation that it contained .36 ton weight. The stones are of different kinds -- basaltic, whinstone, free stone, limestone. They are oblong ponderous masses placed edgeways & upright from the ground. The form of the

XIII, 150

building, which I should suppose has been a druidical temple, is circular, & there seems to have been a second circle of stones within the first. I stepped round the whole & found

the circumference to be about 250 feet. It appears to me doubtful whether it has ever been finished, as there are large spaces in the circles where no stones have ever been: & at the distance of about 300 yards are one or two blocks lying on the ground & upright also. On the top of those placed edgeways are laid horizontally smaller ones -- tho' still of immense size. Only a few of these remain. How these huge masses of stone could ever have been worked, or brought to this place, or built in a regular form is to me quite incomprehensible, & nothing I have ever seen bears so much the marks of supernatural means being employed in its execution as this place.

XIII, 151

The sight of it might almost tempt one to believe in the powers of magical force. Certainly these ponderous relics of ancient perserverance & superstition are sublime objects -- particularly when seen, as these are, surrounded by a trackless & deserted waste without a house or tree in sight.

[16. July. 1806]

Bath

Waldie: XIII, 107[a]
[follows 156]

Took Mr. Morrah's medicine last night & the effects were very strong to day.

XIII, 109[a]

[17. July. 1806]

... I read, walked &c., and found out the New Theatre which opened last winter. I walked in at the Stage Door, & found several workmen at work about the machinery. I therefore walked all over the place & very much admired the structure of it, as the passages behind the boxes, the lobbies, & the accommodations behind the scenes are all admirably good, well contrived & spacious. The Stage is very large, the pit small, & the boxes, of which there are two full tiers, very spacious & deep. There is only one gallery & a side tier of boxes on each side above the two principal tiers. I don't admire the style of the decorations. There is too much dark red & gold & nothing else; the ceiling is very gaudy: -- but the structure of the house is very handsome, & the private boxes are well contrived, & do not hurt the appearance of the house.

[19. July. 1806]

Tintern Abbey

Waldie: XIII, 174

...we proceeded a little way along the Monmouth road, & then turned to the right post, up a steep hill thro' a long narrow & shady lane, hung with the finest trees & thickly enclosed by high walls of hedges, which reminded me of the lanes in the Isle of Wight; we at length reached the rocky ridge at top: on each side of us rose majestic rock crowned hills clothed with every possible luxuriance of timber & copse wood. We descended a most precipitous narrow & picturesque descent thro' this forest of beauty, with the sloping cultivation of the back of the winecliff which gradually on this side sweeps down from its alpine height, & thro' these forest glades at length perceived the white cottages in the deep sunk recess of the village of Tintern: & soon caught a glympse of the magnificent ivicovered ruins of Tintern Abbey.

We stopped at the little rustic Inn & then walked along the edge of the Wye with immense tall wood crowned cliffs rising all round us, except on the side of the Abbey, between which & the river are the little cottages of the village. All this romantic tract & the Abbey, & almost all the Forest of Dean in Glostershire, & great part of this county (Monmouth) belongs

XIII, 176

to the Duke of Beaufort.

The Landlord of the little Inn where we had ordered a rural repast, conducted us thro' the Abbey. We entered by a small door under the great western window, & were at once struck with the extensive & beautiful remains which are very perfect: -- & of the most magnificent gothic architecture. It is all in one style; the massy yet ornamented elder gothic.

The whole of the church is quite perfect as to the outside walls -- but tho' the 4 arches which have supported the tower remain, there is no vestige of the tower. The East window, the north, south, & west windows are all remaining & seen at once from the centre look beautiful. The immense height of it is a great cause of the gloomy & striking effect one feels on entering its walls: but to the splendour of the double row of pillars & arches which forms the south aisle of the body of the church & which is from top to bottom covered

XIII, 177

with the most ancient & amazing quantity of ivy whose tortuous & immense thick stems have a curious effect like bundles of snakes, yet even their stilled writhing seems blessed & holy among such luxuriance of foliage. The West window is quite perfect: all the fine tracery remains: & is entirely covered with ivy forming a web as it were of exquisite beauty. Nothing can equal the west window & shafted pillars of the South aisle of the Body of the church. The centre pillar of the East window bare, has a fine effect opposite the richly covered west one. The whole area of the church is kept in fine verdure & in this respect resembles Fountains in Yorkshire: but is not tricked out in the same style, and certainly, tho' its exterior views, which are merely an ivy covered ruin surrounded with woods, are not equal to Fountains, yet the interior of the church is far superior. Nothing can be finer than the centre of the cross formed by the church. The perspective is admirable.

XIII, 178

Going out at the North door, we saw the cells & few remains of the adjoining Monastery which by this door communicated with the church -- but the monastic ruins are slight, & not to be

compared to the irregular & luxuriant beauties of Netley, tho' certainly the church from being equally ivycovered & in such a perfect state is more impressive & awful than either Netley or Fountains. It is altogether a most noble ruin.

We returned to our Inn -- & while dinner was preparing looked at a large iron forge which here interrupts the sacred silence of the woods with its noisy echoes -- the iron ore is sent here by canals from Ulverston, and is made into capital iron both wrought & cast, by means of the immense quantities of charcoal which these far extended woods afford: but I heartily wish the Iron Forge out of the way.

[30. July. 1806]

Plymouth

Waldie: XIII, 257

... I was lucky in having a fine cool morning for all the excursions & sights I have seen, but it began to rain just before I got home & continued most violently all the evening. I walked to the theatre under the protection of an umbrella. The play was for the benefit of Miss Wentworth, whom I remember seeing at Drury Lane -- she is much improved & is a very nice actress. The house was very good -- & genteel & gay with military, being patronised by the Lancashire Militia.

XIII, 258

The play was Zorinski, which I have never seen before. It has some good comic scenes, but Egerton's ranting in Zorinski was very disagreeable. His tragedy I always thought execrable & it is far from having improved. A Mr. Weston in Zarno played with great feeling & dropped down admirably well -- his manner very quiet. A Mr. Barnes in the Miller displayed great humor: the other men all bad. Miss Wentworth in Rachel was very pleasing & sung very prettily. Miss Mills is very pretty & looked well in Winifred but sings out of tune, tho' she has a good voice. A Mrs. Cummins in Rosalia looked well & appeared genteel but has no idea of acting. It is a diverting play but a strange jumble.

Little Peggy's Love followed next, & was most execrably danced.

The farce was the Widow's Vow by Mrs. Inchbald which is very laughable. I never saw it before. Mr. Farren, who played the Marquis is a very genteel figure & acts with great spirit. He married Miss Perry my old acquaintance whof if I had time I should like to have found out. Miss Weston & Miss Wentworth

played the two servants very well indeed & Mr. Barnes played
the old uncle with great humour. A Miss Hague who dunced in
the ballet & played the Widow was most execrable.