

See Letters vol. 16
Answered, Nov, 1st - 1822 -
" " " "

see page 49 - vol II answers
Oct, 19th 1822 - has 16 nights
250/-

Charles Lamb Esq
20, Rufol Street C. Garden, Paris October 6. 1822.
London.

My dear Sir,

I this moment learn that a piece of mine, upon which I never built any thing like a hope, is accepted and to come out immediately at Covent Garden. It is what I mentioned when you were here - Ali Pacha. - I am rather sorry that my connection with that house should begin with such a trifle - but if you have the power to make it better thought of among your critical friends than it deserves, it may get me a footing where I may be treated less ungratefully than I was by Elliston. Should my first attempt in the rival house fail, I may lose that and find it hard to regain the other. The history of the affair is simply this. Bishop, the Composer, was over here, and asked me if I had any thing by me. I replied I had a trifling piece which he might take on the venture. He went back, and immediately sent me word (September 30) that the scenery was in great forwardness and the drama would be out in ten days. - So I have promised him another in Ten days more.
"I can

See Letters vol. 11
Answered, Nov 13 1822

See page 49 - vol II Aug 18
Oct, 19th 1822 - saw 16 nights
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"I can be moved as quickly as another in a good cause."

The piece in question would have a chance if acted by powerful speakers. It has not enough action for a melodramatic company. The Covent-Garden Managers, I fear, will put their mere postured masters in it, who will gesticulate my sentences, not being able to speak them. All the better for the hearers, perhaps.

I have found out that Talma's picture of Phèbe-pere is a counterfeit, manufactured in London by a man who has made a great deal of money by various readings of the same text, all "the only genuine."

Should the result of my playhouse experiment disappoint my fears, I may have the pleasure of thanking you in London for the flattering kindness with which you have remembered me in your letters.

Pray offer my best regards to Miss Lamb and tell her I wish I may succeed, for the sake of overcoming the resolution she seemed to take when we last supped together, of being without seeing me again.

My respects to Miss James; and to M^r Guichet the Pensioner (as I learn there is a Bay Guichet on the town, whose bristling mirth made Hamlet almost like the other by comparison) — and pray tell him that Louis XVIII begins to put restrictions on the Priests. He has lately forbidden them to wear straw hats. This fastidiousness looks ill for Piquy. Guichet the Pensioner will drink to Louis le Desiré.

I expect to see the Kennings today; I shall present the compliments you mean to send in answer to this letter.

Believe me, my dear Sir, Yours ever faithfully

C. J. I have not a sheet of paper in my pocket. Pray excuse this. I will
send the next best when I next return.