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Royal Hotel Birmingham
May 8th 1845.

My dear Mrs Gates,

I have not forgotten any
of the circumstances you mention;
neither the little trembling Desde-
mona, nor the sunny cheerful
hours that I have passed with
old John Brunton as you
call him, but who is, I believe
a younger man than I am;
if not ⁱⁿ years, assuredly in health
and spirits: and had I nerves
for such an undertaking

I should unhesitatingly comply
with your request; but I have
not; and am reluctantly compelled
to say I cannot. "For Age with
stealing step hath claw'd me in
his clutch" and I know you
would not wish to see your
old acquaintance "made a
spectacle in his decline & dotage"

ever, with sincere regard,
most truly yours,

NO. 4

C. Kemble