

Dear Emma

Fally ought to be enabled to tell you the  
rate & name of ship by which they sailed from  
New York - it was by a sailing ship of the  
Theatrical Line about Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1844 -

She too ought to be able to tell you of her  
companion<sup>Mr & Mrs Bliss</sup> on the voyage, with whom <sup>Charlotte</sup> she  
went to Scotland &c &c before she settled in  
London - At all events she came unheeded  
Lankowen - was ill in Tavistock Street  
went London, & was advised to go away from  
there - (that was previous to her acting) doubtless  
you already know she acted first at the  
Princess' under the management of Mr Maddox  
a shrewd old rascal of the Israelitish persua-  
sion on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> Feby 1845 - her terms  
which was the best she could get being £ 7. per  
night - after her triumphant success she en-  
deavour<sup>d</sup> to get more, but this person knew  
what he was about & he knew too how utterly  
dependant she was upon him, for if she had  
chosen to withdraw from her engagement  
altho' no doubt she could have readily got <sup>one</sup>  
engagement elsewhere, yet her career would  
have been interrupted, & she was too good &  
general to jeopardise the stake she had in  
this game - both Maddox & herself knew the  
cards & knew what were trumps & both

\* you will observe she plays Mrs. Hallen  
more frequently than any other character -  
strange to say altho a repulsive play it was  
to induce tears rather than laughter, it almost  
drew a good house.

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4 times  
Rosalind  
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acted in their respective interests - Charlotte  
acted 3 times a week & sometimes <sup>sometimes less</sup> often <sup>up</sup>  
to the 15<sup>th</sup> July having completed her 84<sup>th</sup>  
night during which time she acted Bianca  
4 times Emilia (Othello) 3 - Lady Macbeth 10 times  
Rosalind (so you like it) 10 - Mrs. Haller (Strangers)  
\* 18.. Beatrice (Much ado about nothing) 5.. Julia  
(Hunchback) 10.. Infatuation - a new play by  
John Kenney which she wrote for her but  
which unhappily was not a success - 4 times;  
Juliana (Honey-moon) 4 - Fortia (Merchant of V.)  
2 - Meg Merrilies 0 - Mariana 9 (The Wife)  
Lady Teazle once. This engagement would  
have ~~been~~ <sup>continued</sup> very much longer but the heat  
was intense & <sup>of the public</sup> people (as partial as they  
~~people~~ were to C) could not be induced to  
go the Theatre in the face of so many out-  
door amusements - besides which C having  
severed her purpose by acting in London  
thought she could make more money in  
the Provinces from which the Managers  
would give her no peace - She had not  
the experience she afterwards acquired &  
often went twice over the same ground by  
making engagements in opposite directions  
2500  
Her agent Mr Lee of Bow St. ought to have known

Haller  
character -  
play & was  
then, it always

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the left page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

\* Mr Ashurst, Madama Venturini's father

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the bottom half of the left page.]*

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better, but his Commission to him - was the one  
thing most desirable to him - Dover was her  
first essay - then followed Brighton - Hull -  
Bristol - Bath - Swansea - Sheffield - Newcastle  
Edinburgh - Glasgow - Manchester - Liverpool -  
Birmingham &c &c all in as rapid Succession  
as could be & all with the same genuine suc-  
-cess - Once she was seriously taken - in  
in the following manner - She was visited  
to by the Managers of some place at Norwich  
introducing the "Royal" into the name of  
his place of Amusement - he agreed to her  
terms & she in the full tide of Success  
concluded it was all right & went,  
but returned almost as soon as she went,  
for she found it a low place, her appearance  
at which would not add to her reputation -  
a correspondence followed which resulted in  
a reference to legal gentlemen,\* & the matter  
Compromised by the payment of a sum of  
money by Chen. which no doubt satisfied  
this trickster, but it taught her a lesson  
for the future which she ever avoided after-  
-wards - On one occasion when performing  
at Leeds. She ran away from an engagement  
in consequence of my being taken suddenly ill

I abused - the finger of Calumny pointed at Eliza  
Cook, but she was a woman who treated the world  
the flesh & the devil with the utmost, & the most  
deserved contempt - in my own estimation  
not a more deserving - upright & honorable woman  
ever walked the earth - how C. ever came to know  
her I now have no remembrance but she is first  
ment in my diary in May of that same year - 1845 -  
we went frequently with her down to Ingress  
Abbey & enjoyed ourselves there very much - I  
send you several pieces of her writings upon China  
I don't know that they will be of any use to you.  
I cannot say if they were ever published - some  
of them are in M.S.D. & others printed slips - I never  
knew or if I did I have forgotten - the cause which  
led to their 'agreeing to differ' - but Miss Cook's un-  
willingness to go to America or on the Continent  
with C. had something to do with it - great re-  
sults from little causes flow - sometimes - & this may  
have been the beginning of what followed - Miss Cook  
could not bear the sea - I have heard her say it w<sup>d</sup>.  
kill her - hence her objection to brave it - but I  
have always thought Miss Cook was sincerely & de-  
votedly fond of Charlotte & the rupture between  
them I do honestly believe to be in a great measure  
the cause of the illness she has greatly suffered  
from almost ever since -

Perhaps I should tell you that when Charlotte's  
success was firmly established - she became the  
idol of the Unitarian clique, for what reason

\* Benjamin Talford also bestowed  
great attention to her

\* you will observe this was very near the  
end of the engagement & when already  
other engagements had been made for  
the province

\* which transcended almost every other which  
she had made

across Mrs. Ben. Rush of Philadelphia, who was  
very attentive & kind to Charlotte - not only at that  
time, but afterward - here among strangers, when  
she sang people would stand in amazed silence &  
listen - in the pauses of the words - say - "Who  
is it? & when it was over give out their ad-  
-miring Bravas - as loud & as long as 'Locusts'  
would permit - \* It was on the 10<sup>th</sup> of ~~May~~  
Gay Mourning was produced. there was a  
~~very good~~ <sup>capital</sup> house notwithstanding the weather was  
awfully hot, I do not know that I need waste  
the time to tell you the result of that night's  
work - the people were almost mad with en-  
-thusiasm - Hats & handkerchiefs waved - Sereches  
of applause followed that really were deafening,  
& when she appeared by the unanimous call. at  
the end of the play with her face changed  
from the old beldame to the Lady - they recog-  
-nized their friend & there delight knew no  
bounds & the audience dispersed feeling conscious  
that if never before - they had now had their money  
worth. The memory of that night can never  
be effaced from my memory it was so gratifying -  
My imagination is constantly painting the scene -  
the sounds of the acclamations still reverberate  
in my ear & excite the warmest emotion in  
my heart - this great success was all the  
more pleasing to me inasmuch as I had been  
the cause of her acting the part, which as



Henry's play

\* and the failure of a "refutation"

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text follows, appearing to be a continuation of a letter or a page from a manuscript. The text is written in cursive and is significantly faded.]*

you will see had been & was objectionable to her.  
It happened on this wise - The houses owing  
to atmospherical causes were fast dwindling  
away, (notwithstanding the receipts on Charlotte  
nights still averaged from £100. to £150.) and  
our Managerial Antocrat was desirous <sup>of producing</sup> some  
thing that would be likely to remunerate him  
for the off nights, as well as for the regular ones  
- which Charlotte were - he consulted her but  
nothing was then definitively fixed upon - in  
a day or two afterwards imagine our surprise  
to see underlined that "Romeo & Juliet was in  
active rehearsal & would speedily be produced  
with new scenery appointments &c" - Now, this would  
never do - Charlotte's motive of action was to  
reserve Romeo & Juliet - which she had fully  
made up her mind to play - till Susan should  
come - consequently this would be disturbing  
all her little arrangements; without letting  
Masdoff have <sup>any</sup> idea whatever of her in-  
-tention she deputed me to go to him & verba-  
-ly to ~~state~~ <sup>say</sup> that circumstances rendered it  
impossible that she could do Romeo, but in-  
-cidentally to mention several other charac-  
-ters which might at the same time meet  
his views & be attractive - Amongst these  
she gave prominence to Jay Manhering but  
subsequently before leaving on my Ambassadorship

she retracted what she had said respecting  
Guy Mannering as it would occasion her  
great trouble, <sup>her</sup> hard work, & after all be  
productive, <sup>perhaps</sup> of but small results - I went  
- the different parts she was willing to act  
had been given to me verbally & in my con-  
- versation I accidentally ~~men~~ named Meg  
Merrilies - but no - nothing seemed to mol-  
- lify him, his aim had been 'Romeo' & to be  
thwarted thus, annoyed & irritated, <sup>him</sup> he would  
accept nothing & so I returned - of course.  
I gave a full account of my interview &  
told her that I had given Meg in the list -  
- she was exceedingly sorry & then it was  
I remembered she had withdrawn that cha-  
- racter in her recapitulation - but however  
she said to me - "Well, let it be so now, it  
is not impossible in his present humour  
& as he would not listen to any of them,  
he may not again think of it" - We heard  
no more of Romeo but in a short time Guy  
Mannering was announced in the bills -  
- ~~As Maddox had~~ It had evidently oc-  
- curred to Maddox's mind that he might  
introduce his Opera Company, <sup>that fill up the off nights</sup> or a part of  
it into the piece & thus add to his ~~exchequer~~  
exchequer

in this he was calculating - as was his habit -  
shrewdly - When Charlotte learned that ~~it~~ my  
inadvertance had been thus taken advantage  
of she made the remark I have never forgot.  
- ten - "Well, I will do it as it never has been  
done before!" and so she did. It might per-  
-haps have been played afterwards & perhaps  
produced the same results - but happening just  
as her provincial engagements were commencing  
it gave her a ~~chef-d'oeuvre~~ to go into the coun-  
-try with & so by carelessness or inattention  
she did that which in after time was the  
means of ~~adding~~ <sup>adding</sup> greatly to her fame & not  
unconsiderably to her fortune - Charlotte's  
first Benefit in London took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> June  
& although a good house was not as satisfactory as  
it ought to have been - 1<sup>st</sup> it was fearfully hot -  
2<sup>d</sup> it rained & 3<sup>d</sup> & chiefly - Maddox who had by  
this time learned to look upon Charlotte apocryphally  
desired to impress <sup>her</sup> with the feeling that the public - who  
at all times I grant you are uncertain & unreliable -  
cared nothing for her & therefore - as we had every  
reason to think from what we subsequently learned  
did what he could - notwithstanding it was contrary  
to his interest - to injure the benefit - the plays  
were *The Wife & Guy Mannering* - she shared the  
house after £50. which was far beyond the mighty  
2508

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\* Ben Brewster was her Agent at that time  
but afterwards when Mother Susan & Ned  
came away from there & our interest seems  
to cease there, Mr George Seabody took  
charge of her means & it was found by her  
to be much more convenient to have them her

# Duchess Eleanor