

1. Baker Street Portman Square
London. Oct 17th 1847

Dear Friends.

It is so very long since I have written to you, that I am almost ashamed. I should be so, but that my excuse has been a miserable illness for nearly seven months. I had been so dispirited, that I had felt little inclination to write to anybody. Knowing this you will pardon my long silence. I am better, though still far from well a strong, for some up to your work, before acting. I felt there was little chance for me ever to get well. An entire nervous prostration, & ~~disorder~~ had completely shattered me, but I am better & hope by great care to get on.

Since we opened [or "H"]. I have been very hard at work. Macbeth. The opening night was grand. The houses have been very fair, but to Murry 8th on Monday. The overflow was tremendous. I send you a notice from the Chronicle, & one from the Dispatch. Can them copied when they will do me good. I shall feel obliged. The Haymarket is getting on grandly, with as bad a company, as you would find in a day's march. Newcastle, too, will be severely felt. Mrs. Nisbet & Miss Fawcett with Raupen in one afternoon & Mr. Keleys, in another, make a good house, but this is not unexpected, as "Brother Ben" will find. The Advertiser must continue to coin money. You can't keep the people away, but it is a vulgar plan as you know, a certain audience

will go there. & those can't be kept away. they would go
there & laugh at anything. & this after all is the true thing
we find trifling enough at our own fireside, & we ought
to laugh at the Theatre. Romy & More. & stupid farces. which
by constant repetition. get loaded with the actors own
jokes. & so pass current. has been drawing few houses for
a long time. Celeste says it is the only respectable theatre
in London! Jullien with his concerts is cramming & my
Lam might at 1/2 per head. Brown at the Surrey (the
best property in England) is felling his pockets literally!
A new comedy in which Miss Faucit plays a serious part, by
Marston / comes out shortly at the Haymarket. Massey
is about bringing out a new play for Massey & myself.
& then one for Susan & myself. I will send you newspapers.
for I may not be able always to write, as I would wish.
The Specimen under Vestris. & the Queens Patronage. given
on Monday. with a translation of La Boquetiere. by
Planché. & another translation called The Light Dragoon,
but being strictly for their own company. will I fear but
ill fit any other. She has a beautiful company. &
will go on swimmingly. She is a great artist in her
way. & is clever enough to get on any where.

Massey told me he was very sorry. that he had
not come to America this season. You seem to have
no stars. so much the better for you. unless the gentle-

manly, Edwin" with his \$3000 play, should sweep off
the most of your income. But most likely he will go to the
Broadway Theatre. The Park was always too good for him.
I very much wonder at his having a dinner given to him in
America, for his private worth, after having behaved in such
an ungentlemanly way by Macready! But there is no knowing
what may be done! — I should fear there would be no stars
to come to America in a long time now. The Keleys, Celestia,
Kistis, Macready &c are all so engaged for a length of time
that you will be thrown upon your own resources, which
will be much better for you. I am sure America hereafter
will be the only ground for the Drama. ^{Here?} It is dying out as
fast as it possibly can, & by & by, when we have in
State, a drama of our own, & which we ought to have.
My word for it, there will be none in England. The Rascals
of the Drama, have effected their own ends, but destroyed the
main trunk of the tree. The axe has been laid at the root, & while
two or three little branches are lingering on in a sort of isolated
grandeur, the stem is dying fast! I see this more & more the
longer I am here. Translations, & two or three not quite so
carrying the day, & while the English taste is so fast growing
French, this must be the inevitable consequence.

I purpose coming to America in August next, & shall
begin to work in October, gallop through the country as
fast as I can, & make as much money as I can. I shall
make you my agent, solely, & will make no engagements myself

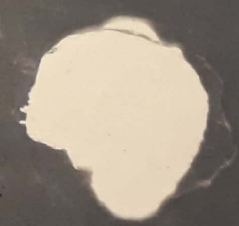
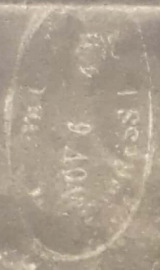
Sadlow & Smith have written to me regularly, but my answer has always been "You cannot afford to pay me enough to induce me to come". I shall take your counsel as to my route, but I can act but 4 nights a week. I will play but 12 nights, in N.Y., Boston & Phila. & then on as fast as I can to the South & West, when I shall look for my harvest. A gentleman wrote to me the other day asking me to let him make my engagements, offering newspaper connexion as an inducement, but I must trust to

Mr. James J. Phelps Esq

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Agent. Park Place

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Note you have the enclosed articles copied when they will be added to do my good.

you. Mr. Gilbert, a Boston actor, is getting on very fine here. He is making himself an immense favourite, although a Mr. Mills was engaged first for the old man. Mr. S. is stepping beyond him.

Susan desires her kindest love to you. Send me newspapers, but be careful of the marginal writings, if discovered, each line is \$100 penalty. Remember me to all friends. I believe in you
 Truly yours
 Charlotte Cushman