

- Drury Lane in actors, but both sets are exceedingly bad, so bad—that I almost wish *Caractacus* was not to appear. Very seldom do I go to the play, for there is no bearing such strollers” (Walpole [to the author, 8 Oct. 1776], IX, 419—20). “I attended *Caractacus* last winter, and was greatly interested, both from my friendship for Mr Mason and from the excellence of the poetry. I was out of all patience; for though a young Lewis played a subordinate part very well, and Mrs Hartley looked her part charmingly, the Druids were so massacred, and *Caractacus* so much worse, that I never saw a more barbarous exhibition” (Walpole [13 July 1777], X, 81—82).
- Public Advertiser*, 7 Dec. 1776: This Day is published the Lyrical Part of *CARACTACUS* (6d.). [The publisher, J. Wilkie, states that he also has the “whole Drama, as altered by the Author, 18d.” *Ibid.*, 9 Dec., contains an advertisement from Mason stating that this version is unauthorized.] *Ibid.*, 12 Dec.: This Day is published [by A. Ward of York] a new Edition of *CARACTACUS*, now altered for Representation at the Theatre-Royal in Covent Garden (1s. 6d.). Receipts: £163 10s. (163/6; 0/4).
- THE OLD BATCHELOR. As 20 Nov., but *Prologue* omitted [and thereafter]. *Friday 6*
Also *SELIMA AND AZOR*. As 5 Dec. *CG*
COMMENT. Receipts: £217 19s.
- THE DUENNA. As 13 Nov. Also *HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS*. As 30 Nov. *CG*
DANCING. As 23 Nov.
COMMENT. Receipts: £271 19s. (270/8; 1/11).
- LA FRASCHETANA. As 5 Nov. *King's*
DANCING. End of Act I *Les Amans Heureux*, as 2 Nov.; End of Act II *Serious Ballet*, as 30 Nov.; End of Opera a new Comic Dance, composed by Zuchelli, *La Force de l'Amour*, by Sg and Sga Zuchelli.
- LOVE FOR LOVE. As 29 Nov. Also *SELIMA AND AZOR*. As 5 Dec. *Monday 9*
COMMENT. Receipts: £181 16s. 6d. *DL*
- CARACTACUS*. As 6 Dec. Also *CROSS PURPOSES*. As 16 Oct. *CG*
COMMENT. Receipts: £194 9s. (193/9/6; 0/19/6).
- ROMEO AND JULIET. Romeo – Brereton; Fryar Lawrence – Packer; Capulet – *Tuesday 10*
Aickin; Benvolio – Davies; Tibalt – Grist; Prince – Norris; Paris – Farren; Peter – *DL*
Burton; Apothecary – Waldron; Balthazar – Chaplin; Mercutio – Dodd // Lady Capulet – Mrs Johnston; Nurse – Mrs Love; Juliet – A Young Lady (1st appearance upon any stage [Mrs Robinson]). Also *SELIMA AND AZOR*. As 5 Dec.
DANCING. In Act 1 of mainpiece a Masquerade; and *Dance* by Giorgi, Blurton, Mrs Sutton, &c. [This was included, as here assigned, in all subsequent performances.]
SINGING. Mainpiece: with the Funeral Procession. Vocal Parts by Gaudry, Legg, Kear, Fawcett, Brown, Carpenter, Follett, Chaplin, &c. // Miss Abrams, Miss Collett, Mrs Scott, Mrs Greville, Mrs Davies, Miss Jarratt, Miss Boyd, Mrs Booth, Mrs Pitt, &c.
COMMENT. Juliet by Mrs Robinson—a genteel Figure—a very tolerable first Appearance, and may do in time. [Note added by J. P. Kemble: Mrs Mary Robinson, whose maiden name was Darby, died Dec. 26, 1800 at Englefield Green. See her Life, of which the first part, namely as far as to her Acquaintance with the Prince of Wales, was written by herself] (Hopkins Diary). Receipts: £170 8s. (133/15; 31/15; 4/18).
- CARACTACUS*. As 6 Dec. Also *HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS*. *Cast not listed*, *CG*
but see 30 Nov.
COMMENT. Receipts: £131 18s. 6d. (130/19/6; 0/19/0).

- Tuesday 10** LA FRASCHETANA. As 5 Nov.
King's *DANCING.* End of Act I *Les Amans Heureux*, as 2 Nov., but omitted: Mme Vallouy;
End of Act II *Serious Ballet*, as 30 Nov.; End of Opera *La Force de l'Amour*, as 7 Dec.
- Wednesday 11** THE OLD BATCHELOR. As 20 Nov. Also SELIMA AND AZOR. As 5 Dec.
DL *COMMENT.* Benefit for the Author of the Alterations [of mainpiece, who is named in the Account-Book, but not on the playbill]. Receipts: £174 7s. 6d. (132/8/0; 36/2/6; 5/17/0; tickets: none listed) (charge: £84).
- CG *CARACTACUS.* As 6 Dec. Also POLLY HONEYCOMBE. As 6 Dec.
DANCING. As 23 Nov.
COMMENT. By Command of Their Majesties.
Rec'd. of Condell on Acct of Fruit Rent this Season £20. Receipts: £240 1s. (239/3; 0/18).
- Thursday 12** ROMEO AND JULIET. As 10 Dec. Also SELIMA AND AZOR. As 5 Dec.
DL *DANCING.* End of Act II of mainpiece *The Triumph of Love*, as 7 Nov.
SINGING. As 10 Dec., but added: Mrs Smith.
COMMENT. Receipts: £139 11s. 6d. (113/2/0; 26/9/6; 0/0/0).
- CG *CARACTACUS.* As 6 Dec. Also CATHERINE AND PETRUCHIO. Petruchio - Lewis // Catherine - Mrs Green. *No other parts listed*, but see 11 Oct.
COMMENT. Receipts: £120 9s. (118/16/6; 1/12/6).
- Friday 13** GENERAL FAST.
- Saturday 14** SEMIRAMIS. Principal Characters by Smith, Bensley, Grist, Farren, Hurst, DL
Chaplin, R. Palmer, Reddish // Mrs Reddish, Mrs Yates. [Cast from text (J. Dodsley, 1776), and *Town and Country Magazine*, Dec. 1776, p. 659: Ninias (known first as Arzaces) - Smith; Assures - Bensley; Mithranes - Grist; Otanes - Farren; Ghost of Ninus - Hurst; Cedarus - Chaplin; Oroes - Reddish // Azema - Mrs Reddish (in text: Miss Hopkins [see 16 Dec.]); Semiramis - Mrs Yates. R. Palmer is unassigned.] *Prologue* spoken by Reddish. *Epilogue* spoken by Mrs Yates. [These were spoken, as here assigned, at the first 9 performances only (see 1 Feb. 1777.)] Also THE IRISH WIDOW. Whittle - Parsons; Kecksey - Dodd; Sir Patrick O'Neale - Moody; Bates - Baddeley; Nephew - Davies; Thomas - Burton // Widow Brady (with an *Epilogue Song*) - Mrs Greville.
DANCING. End of Act I of afterpiece *The Irish Fair*, as 31 Oct.
COMMENT. Mainpiece [1st time; T 5, by George Edward Ayscough, based on SÉMIRAMIS, by Voltaire. Prologue by the author. Epilogue by Richard Brinsley Sheridan (see text)]: With New Scenes and Dresses.
This Tragedy is a translation from Voltaire by Captain Ayscough. Mrs Yates played finely, and met with the Applause she deserved. Mrs Reddish, alias Mrs Canning, who played the part of Azema, was hissed all through, and must never perform again. Indeed she was very bad. The Play was greatly applauded (Hopkins Diary). *Public Advertiser*, 24 Dec. 1776: This Day is published SEMIRAMIS (1s. 6d.). Receipts: £226 3s. 6d. (224/16/6; 0/0/0; 1/7/0).
- CG *THE DUENNA.* As 13 Nov. Also THE LYAR. As 20 Nov.
DANCING. As 20 Nov.
COMMENT. Receipts: £247 4s. (245/18/6; 1/5/6).
- King's *PIRAMO E TISBE.* Principal Characters by Rauzzini, Giulinani, Savoi // Sga Prudom. [Cast from libretto (no pub., 1776): Piramo - Rauzzini, Eupalte - Giulinani; Corebo - Savoi // Tisbe - Sga Prudom.]