

I hope Campbell's plan of lectures will answer.<sup>1</sup> I think the brogue may be got over, if he will not trouble himself by attempting to correct it, but read with fire and feeling; he is an animated reciter, but I never heard him read.

I have a great mind, before sealing this long scrawl, to send you a list of the contents of the purse as they at present stand:—

1st, Miss Elizabeth Baillie's purse-penny, called by the learned a denarius of the Empress Faustina.

2d, A gold brooch, found in a bog in Ireland, which, for aught I know, fastened the mantle of an Irish Princess in the days of Cuthullin, or Neal of the Nine Hostages.

3d, A toadstone—a celebrated amulet, which was never lent to any one unless upon a bond for a thousand merks for its being safely restored. It was sovereign for pro-

this final farewell was contemplated: "I hear a rumor that Mrs. Siddons means to be solicited out on the stage again. . . . She might return with as much credit if she had been a year in her winding-sheet. I should like, if it were possible, to anatomize Mrs. Siddons's intellect, that we might discover in what her unrivalled art consisted: she has not much sense, and still less sound taste, no reading but in her profession, and with a view to the boards, and on the whole has always seemed to me a vain, foolish woman spoiled (and no wonder) by unbounded adulation to a degree that deserved praise tasted faint on her palate. And yet take her altogether, and where shall we see, I do not say her match, but anything within a hundred degrees of what she was in her zenith."

His correspondent in her reply protests,—"I think you are hard upon the great Mrs. Siddons. Her manner is too solemn and her voice too deep for familiar society, and having her mind little stored except with what is connected with her profession, and thinking at the same time that every one who spoke to her expected to hear her mouth utter some striking thing, she uttered many things not very well suited to the occasion, but I think she has a mind which has been occupied in observing what passed within itself, and has therefore drawn her acting from a deeper source than actors generally do, besides her native talent for expressing emotions; and I think she has a quick perception of humor and character in others; at least she tells a humorous anecdote, notwithstanding her deep-toned voice, very drolly. . . . I heartily agree with you that we shall never see her like again, or one approaching within many degrees of her excellence."

—*Familiar Letters*, vol. ii. pp. 42, 47.]

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thomas Campbell had announced his first course of Lectures on English Poetry about this time.