

1774

1.

National Theatre  
Boston 16. Dec. 1848

Dear Madam

You may remember that on the close of your brilliant career in the United States you made me the almoner of your bounty, and also did me the honour to unite my name with those of Philip Home Esq. and General G. S. Morris, as trustees for the establishment of a fund to be applied to the relief of the distressed children of the drama. The sum of money you were kind enough to enclose me was placed to our joint credit in the New York Saving Bank where it now remains subject to your disposal. The principal and interest will amount on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to something over \$300.

You may remember too my dear Madam that this sum was to be devoted to the above purpose provided the actors in America established a theatrical fund within twelve months. Many obstacles occurred to prevent the fulfilment of your wishes and as I see no prospect of their being realized I have taken the liberty of requesting your permission to devote the money to an object that will carry out your intentions for the relief of the distressed

and confer blessings on a poor widow and her interesting little family.

It is probable that no details of the sudden and melancholy death of Mr. Simpson have reached you, nor any account of it unless through the public journals. For thirty eight years he was manager of the Park theatre, and died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July literally of a broken heart, leaving a wife and sea children totally unprovided for. He was once a man of independent fortune, ever the warm and constant friend of genius and talent, and had the honour of introducing to the American public all the great artists of Europe who have crossed the Atlantic.

The first citizens of New York attended his funeral, deplored the time and circumstances of his death, remembered his many virtues and generosity in the hour of his prosperity, and no name is dearer to the patrons of the drama, and few will be more honourably mentioned in the pages of dramatic history, than that of Edmund Simpson.

A brilliant tribute to his memory was given at the Park theatre on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant and others will be offered at different establishments from which the widow's friends hope to realize \$5000.

My dear Madam, that goodness of heart and generous sympathy for the distressed you have always exhibited must be my apology for thus troubling you and petitioning that the money now

in the Saving Bank may be added as your donation  
to the fund for the relief of the widow and the education  
of her young children. And their tears will bless  
you for the deed and the orphans prayers be lifted up  
to that power who never suffers a good act to pass  
unrewarded.

That your life may be a scene of triumph  
without alloy is

My dear Madam  
The sincere wish of  
Your grateful friend  
And obliged obls serv<sup>t</sup>  
Thos Barry

New York Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1808

The subscribers, joint Trustees with Mr Barry  
of the fund which was left with great liberality  
by Miss Estlin on her departure from this  
Country. do concur in the statements made in  
the foregoing letter, and concur in the request  
of Mr Barry to be permitted to dispose as he  
suggests of the money entrusted to our care.

Geo. T. Morris.  
Philip Hone