

Announcement*

THOMAS MATHEWS

Mr Richard S[heridan] having attempted, in a letter left behind him for that purpose, to account for his scandalous method of running away from this place, by insinuations derogating from my character, and that of a young lady, innocent as far as relates to me, or my knowledge, since which he has neither taken any notice of letters, or even informed his own family of the place where he has hid himself; I cannot longer think he deserves the treatment of a gentleman, than in this public method, to post him as a L[iar], and a treacherous S[coundrel].

And as I am convinced there have been many malevolent incendiaries concerned in the propagation of this infamous lie, if any of them, unprotected by *age, infirmities*, or profession, will dare to acknowledge the part they have acted, and affirm *to* what they have said *of* me, they may depend on receiving the proper reward of their villainy, in the most public manner. The world will be candid enough to judge properly (I make no doubt) of any private abuse on this subject for the future; as nobody can defend himself from an accusation he is ignorant of. Thomas Mathews.

NOTE

During the absence of Sheridan and Elizabeth Linley in France, Captain Thomas Mathews continued to plague the Sheridan family with his visits and inquiries. Being dissatisfied with what he heard, he caused this violent announcement to be inserted in the *Bath Chronicle*.

* *Bath Chronicle*, 9 Apr. 1772.