

Transcription of a fragmentary draft of an unidentified play, c.1811

MS. Eng. misc. c. 897 fol.3r

Herbert Hall – Housekeeper's room

Miss Lapell

Sola

Brighton! Ah Brighton! I must & ^I will^ go to Brighton for I've bought the sweetest second hand pelisse o'purpose – and have laid myself out for the season at Brighton. ^So^ let me consider – yes, that's the way it shall be – This old dowager Lady Herbert is going there with her grand daughter little Lady Flora next week – and I'll go with them as sure as my name's Lapell! – Shuffleton too ^ [xxx] would give her ^two^ eyes to go – and I'm ^a little^ afraid of her outplotting me, for she is as cunning as twenty foxes in one – But cunning as she bees I hope & trust she's on the wrong scent now—what she goes upon is, that being Miss Millicent's maid she must be taken as part of her baggage & Shuffleton I know reckons that Miss Milly will be the cousin axed to go on account of my Lady Flora's taking such a fancy to her – may be so – But now my plan's are on surer ground – My scheme is to get to be my Lady Flora's own maid & then no matter which cousin is axed I must go with my Lady – and Luckily my Lady Flora's maid's just gone & here's the place open & a word from Mrs. Wright the housekeeper who rules the roost with young & old above stairs as well as below will get me the situation – and I can easy win Mm Wright by a genteel Douceur of a paper or a bond of my making instead of the dowdy she wears – or maybe I without ^going to^ that expense – a few fair words – oh leave that