(1750–1806), Sheridan's elder brother, gives his version of the encounter with Thomas Mathews. The letter is undated, but Chamberlaine noted on the back that he received it on 13 May 1772.

A Second Duel*

BATH CHRONICLE

This morning [that is, Wednesday, the day of going to press] about three o'clock, a second duel was fought with swords, between Captain Mathews and Mr R. Sheridan, on Kingsdown, near this city, in consequence of their former dispute respecting an amiable young lady,¹ which Mr M. considered as improperly adjusted; Mr S. having, since their first rencontre, declared his sentiments respecting Mr M. in a manner that the former thought required satisfaction. Mr Sheridan received three or four wounds in his breast and sides, and now lies very ill. Mr M. was only slightly wounded, and left this city soon after the affair was over.

NOTES

When Thomas Mathews returned to his estate in Wales after his defeat in the first duel, he discovered that the reputation he had garnered in Bath had followed him, and he found himself universally shunned. Therefore, he precipitated a second duel, which took place on 1 July 1772, on Kingsdown, outside Bath.

1. Elizabeth Linley.

* *Bath Chronicle*, Thursday, 2 July 1772.