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Boaden's Life of Kemble 2 vol.

This puts me in mind of a
curious piece of taffeta¹ ill cut.

The beauty is rather in the ma-
-terial than in the workman-
-ship. The book is interesting

but its style is deficient

in elegance. And yet M^t

Boaden has read & has studied,

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but he has failed in communi-

-cating to his mind the [? dress]² &

polish of the scholar. He is much

too emphatic – & deals in [? Italicks]³

& affectations. The matter of

this work is however remarkably

interesting [~~i.w.~~] embracing as it does

the History of the stage from the

time of Ganick to the death

of Kemble. Indeed after allowing

the mind to grow familiar with

¹ Woven fabric.

² The first letter does not look like a “d”, but Swift uses “dress and polish” to describe the “uncourtly mind”, so I took a guess. I am not sure what other expressions (like “spit and polish”) exist that would fit here.

³ In context this makes sense, if EBB did in fact misspell the word. The end is cut off at the edge of the page. Perhaps the actual manuscript would reveal what the final two letters are? (Her l's and S's are similar, so this word gave me some trouble).

so many striking details the wonder
is that the book containing ^them[^] should
^be[^] so inferior as a work. Nothing

is made of Kemble's fine
character – while M^{rs} Siddons
like Banquo's ghost goes to
fill an empty chair.

I cannot think M^r Boaden
a talented memoir-writer.
