

- Thursday 29* COMMENT. Henry Muddiman, 29 Nov. 1666: The Players have upon great proffers of disposing a large share to charitable uses prevailed to have liberty to act at Both Houses, which they begin this day (CSPD, Charles II, clxxvii, 6, in Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 250). A manuscript prologue for the opening of the theatre in Bridges Street is in J. Payne Collier's MS *Restoration Stage History*, Part I, p. 106, in the Houghton Library, Harvard. *The Diary of John Milward, Esq.*, ed. Caroline Robbins (Cambridge, 1938), p. 49: This day at my coming to the House [of Commons] it moved that plays might be tolerated and acted in the common theatres, and whether any members of the House of Commons should be admitted to go to acts of the playhouses, but it was not resolved.

December 1666

- Monday 3*
At Court THE ADVENTURES OF FIVE HOURS. [By Sir Samuel Tuke.] *Cast not known.*
For a previous cast, see 8 Jan. 1662/3.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125: Adventure of five houres at Court. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.
- Friday 7*
Bridges THE MAID'S TRAGEDY. [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] Pepys: [Evadne] – Rebecca Marshall. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 5): King – Winterset; Melantius – Mohun; Amintor – Hart; Calianas – Shatterel; [Aspatia – Mrs Boutel, but she probably did not come on the stage until 1670]. See also 17 Nov. 1660.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse, where two acts were almost done when I come in; and there I sat with my cloak about my face, and saw the remainder of "The Mayd's Tragedy"; a good play, and well acted, especially by the younger Marshall, who is become a pretty good actor, and is the first play I have seen in either of the houses since before the great plague, they having acted now about fourteen days publickly. But I was in mighty pain lest I should be seen by any body to be at a play.
Elegy on that Worthy and Famous Actor, Mr Charles Hart, who departed this Life Thursday August the 18th., 1683:
Such Pow'r He had o'r the Spectators gain'd,
As forc'd a Real passion from a Feign'd.
For when they saw Amintor bleed, straight all
The House, for every Drop, a Tear let fall;
And when Ar baces wept by sympathy,
A glowing Tide of Wo gush'd from each Eye.
[Reprinted in Thorn-Drury, *A Little Ark*, pp. 47ff; Spraguc, *Beaumont and Fletcher*, p. 38.]
- Saturday 8*
Bridges THE ENGLISH MONSIEUR. [By James Howard.] [Lady Wealthy] – Nell Gwyn.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: And myself to the King's playhouse, which troubles me since, and hath cost me a forfeit of 10s., which I have paid, and there did see a good part of "The English Monsieur," which is a mighty pretty play, very witty and pleasant. And the women do very well; but, above all, little Nelly, that I am mightily pleased with the play, and much with the House, more than ever I expected, the women doing better than ever I expected, and very fine women.
- Monday 10*
At Court THE SILENT WOMAN or THE SCORNFUL LADY. [By Ben Jonson or by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] For *The Silent Woman* the cast may be