Monday 8

PUPPETRY.

CC

COMMENT. Pepys, Diary: [After the play] away to Polichinello, and there had three times more sport than at the play.

Tuesday 9 LIF THE COMICAL REVENGE; or, Love in a Tub. [By Sir George Etherege.] Cast not known, but see March 1663/4.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is in the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125: Love in a Tubb. See also Nicoll, Restoration Drama, p. 346.

Bridges

SAUNY THE SCOT; or, The Taming of a Shrew. [Adapted from William Shake-speare by John Lacy.] Sauny – Lacy.

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, Diary: I took coach and to the King's house, and by and by comes after me my wife with W. Hewer and his mother and Barker, and there we saw "The Tameing of a Shrew," which hath some very good pieces in it, but generally is but a mean play; and the best part, "Sawny," done by Lacy, hath not half its life, by reason of the words, I suppose, not being understood, at least by me.

Monday 15 Bridges THE CHANGE OF CROWNS. [By Edward Howard.] Country Gentleman – Lacy.

COMMENT. The King's Company. For an edition of this play from the MS prompt copy, see *The Change of Crownes*, ed. F. S. Boas (Oxford University Press, 1949). For the consequences of Lacy's ad libbing, see 16, 20, and 22 April, and 1 May.

Pepys, Diary: I to the King's house by chance, where a new play: so full as I never saw it; I forced to stand all the while close to the very door till I took cold, and many people went away for want of room. The King and Queene, and Duke of York and Duchesse there, and all the Court, and Sir W. Coventry. The play called "The Change of Crownes"; a play of Ned Howard's, the best that ever I saw at that house, being a great play and serious; only Lacy did act the country-gentleman come up to Court, who do abuse the Court with all the imaginable wit and plainness about selling of places, and doing every thing for money. The play took very much. . . . Gervase Jaquis to the Earl of Huntington, 16 April: Here is another play house erected in Hatton buildings called the Duke of Cambridgs play-house, and yester-day his Matie the Duke & many more were at the kings Playe house to see some new thing Acted (Hastings MSS., HA 7654, Huntington Library).

Tuesday 16 Bridges THE SILENT WOMAN. [By Ben Jonson.] Cast not known, but see 10 Dec. 1666.

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, Diary: In haste to carry my wife to see the new play I saw yesterday, she not knowing it. But there, contrary to expectation, find "The Silent Woman." However in; and there Knipp come into the pit . . . [and] tells me the King was so angry at the liberty taken by Lacy's part to abuse him to his face, that he commanded they should act no more, till Moone [Mohun] went and got leave for them to act again, but not this play. The King mighty angry; and it was bitter indeed, but very true and witty. I never was more taken with a play than I am with this "Silent Woman," as old as it is, and as often as I have seen it. There is more wit in it than goes to ten new plays.

Nathaniel Wanby, Coventry, 1667: We have known in our time that the Silent Woman hath had the loud applause of a whole theatre (BM Harleian MS. 6430, p. 23).

Wednesday 17 Bridges ROLLO. [The Bloody Brother, by John Fletcher.] Downes (Roscius Anglicanus, pp. 5-6): Rollo - Hart; Otto - Kynaston; Aubrey - Major Mohun; La Torch - Burt; Dutchess - Mrs Corey; Edith - Mrs Marshal. See also 6 Dec. 1660.



COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse... and saw a piece of "Rollo," a play I like not much, but much good acting in it: the house very empty.

Wednesday 17 Bridges

THE WITS. [By Sir William Davenant.] Cast not known, but see 15 Aug. 1661.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, Diary: With my wife to the Duke of York's house, and there saw "The Wits," a play I formerly loved, and is now corrected and enlarged: but, though I like the acting, yet I like not much in the play now.

Thursday 18 LIF

THE MAYDEN QUEENE. [Secret Love; or, The Maiden Queen.] See 2 March 1667.

At Court

COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. lists, 5/139, p. 129, and 5/12, p. 17: The Mayden Queene at Court. See also Nicoll, Restoration Drama, p. 343.

MACBETH. [Altered from William Shakespeare by Sir William Davenant.] Cast not known, but see 5 Nov. 1664.

Friday 19 LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, Diary: To the Duke's house . . . not much company come, which I impute to the heat of the weather, it being very hot. Here we saw "Macbeth," which, though I have seen it often, yet is it one of the best plays for a stage, and variety of dancing and musique, that ever I saw. So being very much pleased.

Saturday 20 Bridges

COMMENT. Pepys, Diary: With my wife to the King's house, but there found the bill torn down and no play acted. . . . Here [at LIF; see below] met with Mr Rolt, who tells me the reason of no play to-day at the King's house. That Lacy had been committed to the porter's lodge for his acting his part in the late new play [see 15 April], and that being thence released he come to the King's house, there met with Ned Howard, the poet of the play, who congratulated his release; upon which Lacy cursed him as that it was the fault of his nonsensical play that was the cause of his ill usage. Mr Howard did give him some reply, to which Lacy [answered] him, that he was more a fool than a poet; upon which Howard did give him a blow on the face with his glove; on which Lacy, having a cane in his hand, did give him a blow over the pate. Here Rolt and others that discoursed of it in the pit this afternoon did wonder that Howard did not run him through, he being too mean a fellow to fight with. But Howard did not do any thing but complain to the King of it; so the whole house is silenced, and the gentry seem to rejoice much at it, the house being become too insolent.

THE WITS. [By Sir William Davenant.] Cast not known, but see 15 Aug. 1661.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, Diary: To the Duke of York's house, and there saw "The Witts" again, which likes me better than it did the other day, having much wit in it. . . . Here were many fine ladies this afternoon at this house as I have at any time seen. . . . Resolving by the grace of God to see no more plays till Whitsuntide, I having now seen a play every day this week.

Monday 22 Bridges

COMMENT. Newsletter: Lacy, the famous comedian, is at length, by great intercession, released from his durance under the groom porter, where he stood committed by His Majesty's order for having 'on his own head' added several indecent expressions in the part he acted in a late play called *The Change of Crowns*, written by Mr Edward Howard (HMC, Fleming MSS, 12th Report, Part VII [1890], p. 47).

Saturday 27 Bridges

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR. [By Ben Jonson.] Cast not known.

COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 129, and 5/12, p. 17; Bartholomew fayre at the Theatre. See also Nicoll, Restoration Drama, p. 343.

