COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, Diary: So she [Mrs Pepys] and I to the King's playhouse, and there sat to avoid seeing Knepp in a box above where Mrs Williams happened to be, and there saw "The Usurper"; a pretty good play, in all but what is designed to resemble Cromwell and Hugh Peters, which is mighty silly.

Wednesday 2 Bridges

THE USURPER. See 2 Dec. 1668.

COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list 5/12, p. 17: King here. See also Nicoll, Restoration Drama, p. 344.

Thursday 3 Bridges

THE UNFORTUNATE LOVERS. [By Sir William Davenant.] Cast not known. COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, Diary: With my wife, to the Duke of York's playhouse, and saw "The Unfortunate Lovers"; a mean play, I think, but some parts very good, and excellently acted. We sat under the boxes, and saw the fine ladies; among others, my Lady Kerneguy, who is most devilishly painted.

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THE USURPER. See 2 Dec. 1668.

COMMENT. The King's Company. This play is on the L. C. list, 5/12, p. 17: at Court. See also Nicoll, Restoration Drama, p. 344.

Monday 7 At Court

TRYPHON. [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] Cast not known. The edition of 1669 lists no actors' names. The Prologue Spoke by Mr Nokes and Mr Angell. Epilogue.

Tuesday 8

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list at

Harvard. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 13.

Diary of Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington: Heer dined with mee my lord of Canterbury my ld Sandwich and my brother and sister Orrery, and in the afternoone wee all went but his Grace to see my brothers new play cald Tryphon which was much applauded (Volume IV, in the Library at Chatsworth. This excerpt supplied by Kathleen Lynch).

Pepys, Diary: My wife tells me of my Lord Orrery's new play "Tryphon," at the Duke of York's house . . . and [we] went thither, where, with much ado, at half-past one, we got into a blind hole in the 18d. place, above stairs, where we could not hear well, but the house infinite full, but the prologue most silly, and the play, though admirable, yet no pleasure almost in it, because just the very same design, and words, and sense, and plot, as every one of his plays have, any one of which alone would be held admirable, whereas so many of the same design and fancy do but dull one another; and this, I perceive, is the sense of every body else, as well as myself, who therefore showed but little pleasure in it.

TRYPHON. See 8 Dec. 1668.

Wednesday 9

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, Diary: To the Duke of York's house, where mighty full again, but we come time enough to have a good place in the pit, and did hear this new play again, where, though I better understood it than before, yet my sense of it and pleasure was just the same as yesterday, and no more, nor any body else's about us.

WOMEN PLEASED. [By John Fletcher.] Cast not known.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list at Harvard. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 13. Charles II to Madame, Whitehall, 14 Dec.: I can say no more to you now for I am called to goe to the Play (C. H. Hartmann, Charles II and Madame [London, 1934], p. 227).

Monday 14 At Court

CATILINE'S CONSPIRACY. [By Ben Jonson.] Edition of 1669: [Catiline] -Hart; [Cethegus] - Mohun; [Cicero] - Burt; [...] - Beeston; [...] - Kynaston; [...] - Reeves; [...] - Wintershall; [...] - Cartwright; [...] - Gradwell; [...] -

Friday 18 Bridges

