

January 1683

- Thursday 11* [DL or DG] THE AMOROUS WIDOW; or, The Wanton Wife. [By Thomas Betterton.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120: at y^e Wanton Wife with y^e Q. & a box for y^e Maides of honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349.
- Thursday 18* [DL or DG] OTHELLO, MOOR OF VENICE. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120: At Othello with y^e Queene & a box for y^e Maydes of Honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349.
- Friday 19* DL THE CITY POLITIQUES. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1683: The Prologue, Spoken by Mr Smith. The Epilogue spoken by Mr Lee in the Character of Bartaline the Old Lawyer.
COMMENT. The United Company. *Newdigate newsletters*, 20 Jan. 1682/3: Yesterday was acted at the Theatre Royall the first of a new play Entituled the City Politiques the novelty of w^{ch} drew a Confluence of Spectators under both Qualifications of Whigg and Tory to hear and behold a L^d Mayor Sheriffs & some Aldermen with their wives in y^r usuall formalities buffooned & Reviled a great Lawyer with his young Lady Jeared and Intreagued Dr Oates pfectly represented berogued & beslaved the papist plott Egregiously Rediculed the Irish Testemoyes Contradictionrily disproved & befoold the Whiggs totally vanquished & undon Law & property men oreruld & there wanted nothing of Artifice in behaviour and discourse to render all those obnoxious & dispised in fine such a medly of occurences intervned that twas a question whether more of Loyalty designe or Rhetorique p^rvailed but there were mighty clappings among the poeple of both partyes in Expressing either their satisfaction or displeasure (Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 81).
The Prologue and Epilogue, separately printed, have 20 Jan. 1682/3 as Luttrell's date of acquisition (Huntington Library) and are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 166-69.
*John Dennis, To Mr * * * In which are some Passages of the Life of Mr John Crowne, Author of Sir Courtly Nice, June 23, 1719*: About that time he writ *The City Politicks*, on purpose to Satyrize and expose the Whiggs; a Comedy so agreeable, that it deserv'd to be writ in a much better Cause: But after he had writ he met with very great Difficulties in the getting it acted. Bennet Lord Arlington, who was then Lord Chamberlain of the King's Houshold, and who had secretly espous'd the Whiggs, who were at that time powerful in Parliament, in order to support himself against the Favour and Power of the Lord Treasurer Danby, who was his declared Enemy, us'd all his Authority to suppress it. One while it was prohibited on the account of its being Dangerous, another while it was laid aside on the pretence of its being Flat and Insipid; till Mr Crowne at last was forc'd to have Recourse to the King himself, and to engage him to give his absolute Command to the Lord Chamberlain for the acting of it; which Command the King was pleas'd to give in his own Person (I, 49-50).
Morrice Entry Book, Vol. 1, Morrice MS. P (Dr. Williams' Library, London): 27 Jan. 1682/3: Mr Crowne [was cudgled on Wednesday last in St Martin's Lane and] hee that beat him said hee did it at the suite of the Earle of Rochester some time since deceased who was greatly abused in the play for his penetency &c. (p. 353. I owe this note to the courtesy of Professor David M. Vieth of the University of Kansas and Professor G. H. Jones of Kansas State University).