

Tuesday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1683

THE RESTORATION; or, Right Will Take Place. [An adaptation of *Philaster*, possibly by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.] Prologue to *Philaster*, By the Duke of Buckingham. The Epilogue to be spoken by the Governor in *Philaster*, By the Duke of Buckingham. *Cast not known.* [DL or DG]

COMMENT. The United Company. The Prologue and Epilogue are printed in *Miscellaneous Works, Written by His Grace, George, late Duke of Buckingham* (London, 1704), pp. 9-13. There is no certainty that Buckingham wrote the adaptation itself, but, in view of his writing both the Prologue and Epilogue, it seems likely. The Epilogue alludes to Shaftesbury, who had taken refuge in Holland and who had died there on 21 Jan. 1682/3, suggesting that the play, if acted, was probably presented in February 1682/3 or soon thereafter. The adaptation was apparently never printed.

THE CHANCES. [By John Fletcher, adapted by Duke of Buckingham.] *Cast not known.* Friday 2
MT

COMMENT. The United Company. The players received the customary fee of £20. See *A Calendar of the Middle Temple Records*, ed. Hopwood, p. 179. Newdigate newsletters, 3 Feb. 1682/3: Yesterday the Govern[ors] of y^e Temple Invited the Greate Lds: of [. . .] together with the Ld: Keeper to dinner where afterwards they were entertayned with variety of songs & a play was Acted before them Called the Chances by the Kings players (Wilson, "More Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 59).

April 1683

Monday 2-Saturday 7

PASSION WEEK

COMMENT. In the Bindley Collection, William Andrews Clark Jr Library, is a broadside: A Lenten Prologue Refus'd by the Players. Luttrell's date of acquisition is 11 April 1683. Wednesday 11

COMMENT. Charles II had begun negotiations for bringing Italian players to England again. See the correspondence in HMC, 7th Report, Appendix, pp. 285, 286, 331; and L. C. 5/144, p. 407, in Boswell, *Restoration Court Stage*, p. 61. See also HMC, 7th Report, p. 288 (1 May 1683) and Boswell, *Restoration Court Stage*, p. 125. Mid-April

May 1683

DAME DOBSON; or, The Cunning Woman. [By Edward Ravenscroft.] Edition of 1684: Prologue, Spoken by Mrs Currer. Dame Dobson - Mrs Corey; Decoy - Saunders; Beatrice - Mrs Twiford; Mrs Francis - Mrs Baker; Goslin - Richards; Thursday 31
DG

Tuesday 31
DG

Collonel – Kynaston; Gillet – Jevon; Gerrard – Wilshire; Hartwell – Monfort; Farmer – Bright; Jenkin – Leigh; Lady Noble – La. Slingsby; Lady Rich – Mrs Petty; Mrs Cleremont – Mrs Butler; Mrs Featly – Mrs Currer; Mrs Jenkin – Mrs Percival; Mrs Prudence – Mrs Leigh; Mrs Hellen – Mrs Osborn; Mrs Susan – Mrs Percival. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Jevorn.

COMMENT. The United Company. Newdigate newsletters, 2 June 1683: The same day [31 May] their Royall highnesses . . . in y^e afternoone Countenanced a new play with their presences (Wilson, “More Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters,” p. 59). Wilson proposes that this play is *Dame Dobson*, as the separately printed Prologue bears Luttrell’s acquisition date of 1 June 1683 (Bindley Collection, William Andrews Clark Jr Library). The separately printed Prologue and Epilogue are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 176–78.

July 1683

DG

THE ATHEIST; or, The Second Part of the Souldiers Fortune. [By Thomas Otway.] Edition of 1684: Prologue. Epilogue by Mr Duke of Cambridge. Father to Beaugard – Leigh; Beaugard – Betterton; Courtine – Smith; Daredevil – Underhill; Theodoret – Wilshire; Gratian – Perin; Porcia – Mrs Barry; Lucretia – Mrs Butler; Sylvia – Mrs Currer; Mrs Furnish – Mrs Osborn; Phillis – Mrs Percival; Chloris – Mrs Norris; Rosard – Saunders; Plunder – Richards.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but, as the play was advertised in *The Observer*, 8 Aug. 1683, it was probably first acted not later than July 1683. A song, “Welcome mortal to this place,” set to music by Captain Pack for this play, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, 1684.

August 1683

Windsor

COMMENT. For the King’s intention of securing Italian comedians to perform at Windsor, see mid-April 1683, and Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 239.

Tuesday 14
[DL or DG]

COMMENT. Newdigate newsletters, 14 Aug. 1683: The Manager of y^e Kings Theatre intend wth in short time to pforme an Opera in like manner of y^t of france. Mr Betterton wth other Act^{rs} are gone ov^{er} to fetch y^e designe (Wilson, “Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters,” p. 82). See also a letter from Lord Preston to the Earl of Sunderland, Paris, 25 Aug. 1683 N.S. concerning Betterton’s visit to Paris (HMC, 7th Report, Appendix, p. 288).