

Monday 11
At Court

COMMENT. The United Company. An order, 9 Feb. 1683/4, in L. C. 5/145, p. 14 (Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 356), and another, L. C. 1, specify requirements for a play to be acted at Whitehall on 11 Feb. 1683/4, and name *Valentinian* as the drama. The first Prologue and the Epilogue Written by a Person of Quality were printed separately; Luttrell's copy (Bindley Collection, William Andrews Clark Jr Library) is dated 20 Feb. 1683/4. They are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 249-51. It is not certain on what date the first performance occurred, for premieres at Court are quite rare in the Restoration period. In Nahum Tate's *Poems by Several Hands* (1685): Sir Francis Fane: A Masque Made at the Request of the Earl of Rochester, for the Tragedy of Valentinian. Downes (p. 40): The well performance, and the vast Interest the Author made in Town, Crown'd the Play, with great Gain of Reputation; and Profit to the Actors.

For an intended cast of Rochester's alteration of the play by John Fletcher, see the introductory note to the season of 1675-76. In *A Pastoral in French* by Lewis Grabu (published in 1684; advertised in the *London Gazette*, No. 1947, 17 July 1684) are two songs for this play for which Grabu apparently composed the music: "Injurious charmer of my vanquished heart" and "Kindness hath resistless charms." In *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Fourth Book, 1684, is: A new Song in the late reviv'd Play, call'd *Valentinian*: "Where would coy Aminta run," [the composer of the music not being indicated].

Saturday 23
[DL or DG]

THE SCORNFUL LADY. [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349.

March 1684

Mid-March
DL

THE NORTHERN LASS. [By Richard Brome.] Edition of 1684: Sir Phillip Luckless - Kynaston; Tridewell - Wilshire; Sir Paul Squelch - Lee; Bullfinch - Haines; Widgine - Gevon; Anvile - Griffen; Nonsense - Monfort; Pate - Lisle [Carlisle]; Beavis - Saunders; Howdee - Bright; Clark - Lowe; Mrs Fitchow - Mrs Barrey; Constance - Mrs Butler; Mrs Trainwell - Mrs Cory; Constance Holdup - Mrs Percivall. Prologue to the Northern Lass. By J. H. [Joseph Haines]. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Butler.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of this revival is not precisely known but that it occurred in mid-March is indicated by Luttrell's date of 21 March 1683/4 on his copy of the separately-printed Prologue and Epilogue (Bindley Collection, William Andrews Clark Jr Library). It should be noted, however, that Friday 21 March is a Friday in Lent, a day on which the companies sometimes did not act. The Prologue and Epilogue are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 202-6. When this play was advertised to be acted on 8 Nov. 1704, the bill bore the heading: "Not Acted these 20 Years."

Langbaine (*English Dramatic Poets*, p. 37): This Play was reviv'd by the Players, since the Union of the Two Houses, and reprinted in quarto Lond. 1684 with a new Prologue and Epilogue, the former written by Jo. Haynes the Comedian.

Monday 24-Saturday 29

PASSION WEEK

Thursday 27
DL

COMMENT. On this day Luttrell purchased a copy (Bindley Collection, William Andrew Clark Jr Library) of *The Beggars Delight*. *As it was Sung at the Theatre Royal*, published in 1684 by J. Dean.