

Friday 6 of the Pleasure, which he was about to give to his King, and of the Favours which he was afterwards to receive from him, this Moment found, to his unspeakable Sorrow, that his Royal Patron was gone for ever, and with him all his Hopes. The King indeed reviv'd from his Apoplectick Fit, but three Days after dyed, and Mr Crown by his Death was replung'd in the deepest Melancholy (John Dennis, *Original Letters*, 1721, 1, 53-54). [It is not clear whether the last sentence refers to the day on which Crowne had seen the King and had assurances from His Majesty, the King dying three days later, or whether there was a false rumor of the King's death on 3 Feb. 1684/5.]

April 1685

Monday 13-Saturday 18

PASSION WEEK

Monday 27 COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, 1, 339: The 27th, the playhouse open'd,
[DL or DG] being the first day they acted since his late majesties death.

Tuesday 28 ROLLO. [*The Bloody Brother*, by John Fletcher. *Cast not known*, but see 20 Jan. 1684/5.
[DL or DG] COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 68: The King & Queene & a Box for y^e Maydes of Honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350.

May 1685

Saturday 9 SIR COURTLY NICE; or, It Cannot Be. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1685:
DL Prologue. Epilogue. No actors' names. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 40): Sir Courtly - Mountfort; Hothead - Underhill; Testimony - Gillo; Lord Beaugard - Kynaston; Surly - Griffin; Sir Nicholas Callico - Anthony Leigh; Leonora - Mrs Barry.

COMMENT. The United Company. This play was in rehearsal before the death of Charles II—see 6 Feb. 1684/5—and was staged shortly after the playhouse reopened. Luttrell's date of acquisition of the separately-printed Prologue and Epilogue is 9 May 1685 (in possession of Pickering and Chatto, Ltd., 1938), and the play may have been first given on that date or during the week preceding Saturday 9 May 1685. For Cibber's account of Mountfort as Sir Courtly, see *Apology*, ed. Lowe, 1, 129. The separately-printed Prologue and Epilogue are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 228-30. A separately-printed *Three New Songs in Sir Courtly Nice* (1685) contains three songs, with the music by Samuel Ackroyde and an unknown composer. In addition, two songs, "As I grazed unaware" and "O be kind my dear be kind," both composed by R. King, are in *The Theater of Music*, Second Book, 1685.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 40-41): The first new Comedy after King James came to the Crown, was Sir Courtly Nice, wrote by Mr Crown: . . . The Comedy being justly Acted, and the Characters in't new, Crown'd it with a general Applause: Sir Courtly was so nicely Perform'd, that not any succeeding, but Mr Cyber has Equall'd him. Note, Mr Griffin so Excell'd in Surly, Sir Edward Belfond, The Plain Dealer, none succeeding in the 2 former have Equall'd him, except his Predecessor Mr Hart in the latter.

- The Lover's Session: In Imitation of Sir John Suckling's Session of Poets* (in *Poems on Affairs of State*, II [1703], 162): Saturday 9
DL
- Montrath was in Foppery conceiv'd another
Of Whiteball true Breed, Sir Nices Twin Brother:
None could tell, so alike all their Follies did seem,
Whether be acted Mumford, or Mumford him.*
- SIR COURTLY NICE. See 9 May 1685. Monday 11
DL
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 68: The King & Queene & a Box for y^e Maydes of Honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350.
- OTHELLO, MOOR OF VENICE. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not known.* Saturday 30
[DL or DG]
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 68: The Queene at Othelo. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350.

June 1685

- ALBION AND ALBANIUS. [By John Dryden.] Edition of 1685: No actors' names. Prologue to the Opera, By Mr Dryden. Epilogue to the Opera, by Mr Dryden. Wednesday 3
DG
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 68: The King and Queene & a Box for y^e Maydes of Honor at the Opera. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 1 Jan. 1684/5. The opera was certainly given on 3 June, probably on 10 June, and probably on 13 June, the day that the news of the Duke of Monmouth's landing reached London; as Downes states that it was acted six times, there were three additional performances between 3 and 13 June 1685.
Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 40): In Anno 1685. The Opera of *Albion and Albanus* was perform'd; wrote by Mr Dryden, and Compos'd by Monsieur Grabue: This being perform'd on a very Unlucky Day, being the Day the Duke of Monmouth, Landed in the West: The Nation being in a great Consternation, it was perform'd but Six times, which not Answering half the Charge they were at, Involv'd the Company very much in Debt.
Roger North: The first full opera that was made and prepared for the stage, was the *Albania* of Mr Grabue, in English, but of a French genius. It is printed in full score, but proved the ruin of the poor man, for the King's death supplanted all his hopes, and so it dyed (*Roger North on Music*, ed. John Wilson [London, 1959], p. 311).
The Prologue and Epilogue, published separately, are reprinted in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 244-46. The score and the libretto were published in 1687 (licensing date of 15 March 1686/7): *Albion and Albanus: An Opera. Or, Representation in Musick*. Set by Lewis Grabu, Esquire; Master of His late Majesty's Musick.
- ALBION AND ALBANIUS. See 3 June 1685. Wednesday 10
DG
COMMENT. The United Company. Presumably the Opera was acted on this day. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, 1, 346: The 10th, one capt. Goreing was killed at the playhouse by Mr Deering.
- [ALBION AND ALBANIUS.] See 3 June 1685. Saturday 13
DG
COMMENT. The United Company. The sixth performance presumably occurred on this day, as it was on 13 June 1685 that the news of Monmouth's landing reached London.