

*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<sup>e</sup> 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.