

May 1687

- Monday 9*
At Court
KING LEAR. [Altered from William Shakespeare by Nahum Tate.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 361. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 351.
- Thursday 12*
DL
BELLAMIRA; or, The Mistress. [By Sir Charles Sedley.] Edition of 1687:
Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue.
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 361: The King at ye Mistress. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 351. There is no indication as to whether this performance was the premiere. As the play was licensed on 24 May 1687, the premiere may have been as late as 12 May, but possibly was earlier.
Sir George Etherege to Will Richards, 19 May 1687: I have heard of the success of *The Eunuch*, and am very glad the town has so good a taste to give the same just applause to Sir Charles Sedley's writing, which his friends have always done to his conversation (*Letterbook*, ed. Rosenfeld, p. 212).
Sir George Etherege to Middleton, 23 June 1687: I saw a play about ten years ago Called the *Eunuch*, so heavy a lump the players durst not charge themselves with the dead weight, but it seems Sir Charles Sedley has animated the mighty mass and now it treads the stage lightly (*ibid.*, p. 227). [See also 26 March 1687 and season of 1676-77.]
Thomas Shadwell, *The Tenth Satyr of Juvenal* (licensed, 25 May 1687.) Dedication to Sir Charles Sedley: Your late great obligation in giving me the advantage [presumably the third day's gain] of your comedy, call'd *Bellamira, or the Mistress*, has given me a fresh subject for my Thanks; and my Publishing this Translation affords me a new opportunity of owing to the world my grateful resentments to you. I am heartily glad that your Comedy (as I never doubted) found such success, that I never met with any Man of Sence but applauded it: And that there is abundance of Wit in it, your Enemies have been forced to confess. . . . For the Judgment of some Ladies upon it that it is obscene, I must needs say they are Ladies of a very quick apprehension, and did not find their thoughts lye very much that way, they could not find more obscenity in that than there is in every other Comedy.
A song, "Thyrsis unjustly you complain," headed "A Song in Bellamira, or, the Mistress. Set by Mr Tho. Shadwell," is in *Vinculum Societatis*, 1687 (licensed 8 June 1687).
- Monday 16*
At Court
VALENTINIAN. [Adapted from John Fletcher by John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester.]
Cast not known. See also 11 Feb. 1683/4.
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 361: Valentinian at Whitehall. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 351.

July 1687

- Sunday 24*
COMMENT. On this day the news of the death of the Duchess of Modena was brought to Windsor, and newsletters stated that the Court was to go into mourning the following Sunday. Acting at the theatres may have been curtailed during the late summer.