

- Saturday 19* this Night or on Monday & will Continue to Act as formerly and tis S. the Sentinell who dischargd his Musquet was tryed by a Court Martial and acquitted (Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 82).
- Tbursday 31* [DL or DG] THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The United Company. *Gentleman's Journal*, p. 56, Jan. 1691/2: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, an Old Play, hath been reviv'd, and was play'd the Last Day of the Year.

January 1692

- DL THE MARRIAGE-HATER MATCHED. [By Thomas D'Urfey.] Edition of 1692: L. Brainless – Bowman; Sir Philip Freewit – Monfort; Sir Lawr. Limber – Sandford; Capt. Darewell – Hodson; Myn Here Van Grin – Leigh; Bias – Bright; Solon – Dogget; Callow – Bowen; MacBuffle – Trefuse; Thummum – Smeaton; Splutter – Colly [Cibber]; Lady Subtle – Mrs Barry; Lady Bumfiddle – Mrs Cory; Phaebe – Mrs Bracegirdle; Berenice – Mrs Lassels; La Pupsey – Mrs Butler; Margery – Mrs Lawson. Prologue, Mr Monford Enters, meets Mrs Bracegirdle dressed in Boy's Cloaths, who seeing her [him], Endeavours to go back, but he taking hold of her, speaks. Epilogue. Spoken by La Pupsey, with her Lapdog in Masquerade.

COMMENT. The United Company. The exact date of the first production is not known, but the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, February 1691/2, and mentioned in the *Gentleman's Journal*, February 1691/2 (licensed 12 February 1691/2). In all probability, it was first acted not later than January 1691/2. The music to one song, "As soon as the Chaos," was composed by Henry Purcell. See his *Works*, Purcell Society, xx (1916), xvii. Two songs—"Bonny lad prithee lay thy pipe down," with music by Tollet; "Great Jove once made love like a bull," with music by Mountfort—are in *The Banquet of Musick*, The Sixth and Last Book, 1692.

Dedication, Edition of 1692: Having at last so well acquitted it self on the Stage (tho' the thronging, imperfect Action, and worse than all, the faulty length, which I will never be guilty of again, render'd it little Diversion the first day).

A Letter to Mr D'Urfey [by Charles Gildon], Edition of 1692: If there be any fault in this Play, 'tis that which few are guilty of; that is, there are too many good Characters, too full of Humour, a very pardonable failing, which only proceeds from Variety, the life of Pleasure and Wit, tho' that gave it the disadvantage of seeming too long the first days Acting, tho' the Stage's being throng'd with Spectators, did not a little contribute to the imperfect Acting of it, which accidental Misfortunes concurring with the Endeavours of an opposite Faction, must needs have damn'd it, had it not by the Force and Vigour of its own Worthy, rais'd it self the second day with the general Applause of all that saw it. . . . But the *Marriage-bater* went further, and in spite of all the disadvantages it labour'd under of Action and Audience, pleas'd on, after several times Repetition.

See also *Poeta Infamis; or, A Poet not worth Hanging* (1692) for a variety of comments upon this play. *London Mercury*, 26 Feb. 1691/2: Query 4. Whether in Justice he [D'Urfey] is not obliged to present Mr Dogget (who acted Solon to so much Advantage) with half the Profit of his Third Day, since in the Opinions of most Persons, the good Success of his Comedy was half owing to that admirable Actor? Query 5. Whether, if there be any Wit in bringing a Person upon the Stage with an extravagantly broad-brimmed Hat, and a Muff of the same Size, so it will

not be a very easy Matter for the next Poet that writes a Play, to Out-hat and Out-muff his Predecessors, and consequently to Out-wit him? DL

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 42: Mr Dogget perform'd the part of Solon Inimitably. *Gentleman's Journal*, p. 454, February 1691/2 (licensed 12 Feb. 1691/2): I send you the Marriage-hater match'd, a new Comedy by Mr Durfey; it hath met with very good success, having been plaid six days together, and is a diverting Play.

Gentleman's Journal, January 1691/2: Now I speak of Music I must tell you that we shall have speedily a new Opera, wherein something very surprising is promised us; Mr Purcel who joyns to the Delicacy and Beauty of the Italian way, the Graces and Gayety of the French, composes the Music, as he hath done for the *Propbetess*, and the last Opera called *King Arthur*, which hath been plaid several times the last Month [presumably December 1691].

COMMENT. A prologue entitled *Haynes His Reformation Prologue, Spoke in Black* (beginning "Thus Cloath'd with shame, which is one step to Grace") was printed in 1692. Luttrell's date of acquisition is dated 2 Jan. 1691/2. This copy is in the possession of Mr. Louis Silver of Wilmette, Illinois, who has graciously permitted me to list it and the date. Saturday 2 [DL or DG]

KING ARTHUR. [By John Dryden.] See May 1691. Thursday 7

COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/151, p. 369: y^e Q a Box & a Box for y^e Maids Honr K Arthur. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 352. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 331: The queen and queen dowager went this evening to the play of Mr Drydens opera. [See also the reference to this play under January 1691/2 above.] DG

COMMENT. Thomas Shadwell to Earl of Dorset, 19 Jan. 1691/2 (summary): Asks that he will order 'The Innocent Impostors' to be the next new play to be acted. He would have had it acted in Roman Habits and then, with a mantle to have covered her hips, [if] Mrs Barry would have acted the part; but Thomas Davenant has with a great slight turned him off, and says he will trouble himself no more about the Play. Asks Dorset to favour the author and him. Complains of priority being given to Durfey's play and a play by Dryden (HMC, 4th Report, Appendix [1874], pp. 280-81). Tuesday 19

Saturday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1692

THE RAPE; or, The Innocent Impostors. [By Nicholas Brady.] Edition of 1692: DL
Prologue Spoke by Mr Betterton. Epilogue, By Mr Shadwell, Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle. Gunderic - Betterton; Genselaric - Williams; Briomer - Hodgson; Albimer - Zibber; Rodoric - Freeman; Almeric - Harris; Agilmond - Mrs Butler; Valdaura - Mic. Lee; Amalazontha - Mrs Betterton; Rhadegonda - Mrs Lee; Eurione - Mrs Bracegirdle; Merinda - Mrs Richardson.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the *Gentleman's Journal*, March 1692 (licensed 9 March 1691/2), refers to its having already been produced. See also a letter concerning it dated 19 Jan. 1691/2. Probably the play was given in early February 1692. A song, "How long must women wish in vain," the music by Robert King, is in *Comes Amoris*, The Fourth Book, 1693.