

February 1663

- Monday 2*
MT AN UNIDENTIFIED PLAY.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company, the receipt for £20 being signed by Richard Baddeley (*A Calendar of the Middle Temple Records*, ed. Hopwood, p. 170). W. J. Lawrence (*Review of English Studies*, IX (1933), 221) suggests *The Adventures of Five Hours* as a possibility. Pepys, *Diary*: I met Madam Turner . . . she and her daughter having been at the play to-day at the Temple, it being a revelling time with them.
- Thursday 5*
Vere THE WILD GALLANT. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known*. Edition of 1667: Prologue and Epilogue, but no actors' names.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Apparently this was the premiere. Prologue: First Astrol. reads. A Figure of the heavenly Bodies in their several Apartments, Feb. the 5th half an hour after three after Noon, from whence you are to judge the success of a new Play call'd the *Wild Gallant*. Evelyn, *Diary*: I saw the *Wild Gallant*, a Comedy.
- Friday 6*
Bridges COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: Thence to Lincoln's Inn Fields; and it being too soon to go to dinner, I walked up and down, and looked upon the outside of the new theatre, now a-building in Covent Garden, which will be very fine.
- Monday 9*
At Court AN UNIDENTIFIED PLAY.
COMMENT. L. C. 5/137, p. 389, in Boswell, *Restoration Court Stage*, p. 281. By the Duke's Company. Charles II to Madame (his sister), 9 Feb. 1662/3: I am just now called for to goe to the Play (C. H. Hartman, *Charles II and Madame* [London, 1934], p. 68).
- Monday 23*
LIF THE SLIGHTED MAID. [By Sir Robert Stapylton.] Edition of 1663: Salerno – Harris; Iberio – Betterton; Filomarini – Metborn; Lugo – Smith; Arviedo – Cadiman; Corbulo – Young; Peralta – Underhill; Gioseppe – Noke the Elder; Vindex – Sanford; Decio – Mrs Gibbs; Pyramena – Mrs Betterton; Diacelia – Mrs Long; Leandra – Mrs Williams; Menanthe – Noke the Younger; Joan – Turner. The Instrumental, Vocal, and Recitative Musick, was composed by Mr [John] Banister. The Prologue to the King. The Prologue to the House. The Epilogue spoke by The Slighted Maid. Epilogue to the King.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: So resolved to take my wife to a play at Court to-night, and the rather because it is my birthday. . . . While my wife dressed herself, Creed and I walked out to see what play was acted to-day, and we find it "The Slighted Mayde." But, Lord! to see that though I did know myself to be out of danger, yet I durst not go through the street, but round by the garden into Tower Street. By and by took coach, and to the Duke's house, where we saw it well acted, though the play hath little good in it, being most pleased to see the little girl [Moll Davis] dance in boy's apparel, she having very fine legs, only bends in the hams, as I perceive all women do.
- At Court THE WILD GALLANT. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known*.
COMMENT. The King's Company. See 5 Feb. Pepys, *Diary*: [*The Slighted Maid*] being done, we took coach and to Court, and there got good places, and saw "The Wilde Gallant," performed by the King's house, but it was ill acted, and the play so poor a thing as I never saw in my life almost, and so little answering the name, that from beginning to end, I could not, nor can at this time, tell

certainly which was the Wild Gallant. The King did not seem pleased at all, all the whole play, nor any body else, though Mr Clerke whom we met here did commend it to us. . . . Now as my mind was but very ill satisfied with these two plays themselves, so was I in the midst of them sad to think of the spending so much money and venturing upon the breach of my vow, which I found myself sorry for, I bless God, though my nature would well be contented to follow the pleasure still. But I did make payment of my forfeiture presently, though I hope to save it back again by forbearing two plays at Court for this one at the Theatre, or else to forbear that to the Theatre which I am to have at Easter. But it being my birthday and my day of liberty regained to me, and lastly, the last play that is likely to be acted at Court before Easter, because of the Lent coming in, I was the easier content to fling away so much money.

Monday 23
At Court

March 1663

COMMENT. In the Prologue to *The Cheats* (mid-March 1663) are allusions to three plays which apparently were popular on the stage at this time: Jonson's *The Silent Woman* ("Sir Poll"); Jonson's *The Devil is an Ass* ("No little Pugge, nor Devil"); and Davenant's *The Siege of Rhodes* ("No tedious Sieges in the Musick-room").

Wednesday 4
ASH WEDNESDAY

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. This play was seen by Jacques Thierry and Will Schellinks (Seaton, *Literary Relationships*, pp. 334, 336), but no theatre is named. The most recent dated performance was given by the Duke's Company, 5 Dec. 1661.

Monday 9
[IIF]

COMMENT. Jacques Thierry and Will Schellinks saw a ballet somewhere in London (Seaton, *Literary Relationships*, pp. 334, 336).

Monday 16

THE CHEATS. [By John Wilson.] Cast in MS (Library of Worcester College, Oxford): Bilboe – Shottrell; Titere Tu – Clunn; Dilligence – Loueday; Mrs Dilligence – Mrs Marshall; Jolly – Hart; Afterwit – Burt; Mrs Margt [Hughes, in edition, edited by Nahm, p. 145] or [Rutter, in J. H. Wilson, *All the King's Ladies*, p. 185]. There is a Prologue, but no actors' name in edition of 1664. Edition of 1693 adds: Whitebroth – Cartwright; Runter – Wintersal; Scruple – Lacy; Mopus – Mohun; Mrs Whitebroth – Mrs Covey [Corey].

Mid-March
Vere

COMMENT. For an account of the play, see *John Wilson's The Cheats*, ed. Milton C. Nahm (Oxford, 1935). It was licensed on 6 March (p. 124), acted, then forbade on 22 March in an order: Letter to Mr Tho. Killigrew: Signifying the Ks Pleasure that the New Play called the Cheates be no more represented till it be reuiewed by Sir Jo. Denham & Mr Waller. 22 March. 1662-3 (p. 130). Abraham Hill to John Brooke, 28 March 1663: P.S. The new play, called *The Cheats*, has been attempted on the Stage; but it is so scandalous, that it is forbidden (*Familiar Letters* [of] *Abraham Hill*, [London, 1717], p. 103).

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 16) concerning Lacy:

*For bis just Acting, all gave bim due Praise,
His Part in the Cheats, Jony Thump, Teg and Bayes,
In these Four Excelling, The Court gave bim the Bays.*