

FEIGN'D INNOCENCE; or, Sir Martin Marall. [By John Dryden.] Edition of Thursday 15
1668: No actors' names. Prologue. Epilogue. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 28): LIF
Sir Martin Marall – Nokes; Sir John Swallow – Smith; Lord Dartmouth – Young;
Old Moody – Underhill; Warner – Harris; Lady Dupe – Mrs Norris; Mrs Milli-
sent – Mrs Davies.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. It is not certain that this is the first performance, but it may well have been. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.

Pepys, *Diary*: Sir W. Pen and I to the Duke's house, where a new play. The King and Court there: the house full, and an act begun. And so went to the King's.

Downes (p. 28): Sir Martin Marral, The Duke of New-Castle, giving Mr Dryden a bare Translation of it, out of a Comedy of the Famous French Poet Monseur Moleire: He Adapted the Part purposely for the Mouth of Mr Nokes, and curiously Polishing the whole. . . . All the Parts being very Just and Exactly perform'd, 'specially Sir Martin and his Man, Mr Smith, and several others since have come very near him, but none Equall'd, nor yet Mr Nokes in Sir Martin: This Comedy was Crown'd with an Excellent Entry: In the last Act at the Mask, by Mr Priest and Madam Davies; This, and Love in a Tub, got the Company more Money than any preceding Comedy.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not* Bridges
known, but see 9 Nov. 1660.

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: [After going to LIF] went to the King's, and there saw "The Merry Wives of Windsor": which did not please me at all, in no part of it.

FEIGN'D INNOCENCE; or, Sir Martin Marall. See 15 Aug. Friday 16
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: After dinner my wife and I to the Duke's playhouse, where we saw the new play acted yesterday, "The Feign Innocence, or Sir Martin Marr-all"; a play made by my Lord Duke of Newcastle, but, as every body says, corrected by Dryden. It is the most entire piece of mirth, a complete farce from one end to the other, that certainly was ever writ. I never laughed so in all my life. I laughed till my head [ached] all the evening and night with the laughing; and at very good wit therein, not fooling. The house full, and in all things of mighy content to me.

[FEIGNED INNOCENCE; or, Sir Martin Marall.] See 15 Aug. Saturday 17
LIF

COMMENT. The sequence of known performances of this play—15, 16, 19, 20, and 21 Aug.—suggests that its run was continuous and that it was probably given also on this day, yet Pepys, 20 Aug., states that that day was the fourth performance.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S TROUBLES, AND THE HISTORY OF EIGHTY EIGHT. [By Thomas Heywood.] *Cast not* Bridges
known.

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: My wife and I and Sir W. Pen to the King's playhouse, where the house extraordinary full; and there was the King and Duke of York to see the new play, "Queen Elizabeth's Troubles, and the History of Eighty Eight." I confess I have sucked in so much of the sad story of Queen Elizabeth, from my cradle, that I was ready to weep for her sometimes; but the play is the most ridiculous that sure ever come upon the stage; and, indeed, is merely a shew, only shews the true garbe of the Queen in those days, just as we see Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth painted; but the play is merely a puppet play, acted by living puppets. Neither the design nor language better; and one stands by and tells us the meaning of things: only I was pleased to see Knipp dance among the milkmaids, and to hear her sing a song to Queen Elizabeth; and