

- to discover the chief of the plot of the play by the reading of a long letter, which was so long and some things (the people being set already to think too long) so unnecessary that they frequently begun to laugh, and to hiss twenty times, that, had it not been for the King's being there, they had certainly hissed it off the stage. But I must confess that, as my Lord Barkeley says behind me, the having of that long letter was a thing so absurd, that he could not imagine how a man of his parts could possibly fall into it; or, if he did, if he had but let any friend read it, the friend would have told him of it; and, I must confess, it is one of the most remarkable instances that ever I did or expect to meet with in my life of a wise man's not being wise at all times, and in all things, for nothing could be more ridiculous than this, though the letter of itself at another time would be thought an excellent letter, and indeed an excellent Romance, but at the end of the play, when every body was weary of sitting, and were already possessed with the effect of the whole letter, to trouble them with a letter a quarter of an hour long, was a most absurd thing. After the play done, and nothing pleasing them from the time of the letter to the end of the play, people being put into a bad humour of disliking (which is another thing worth the noting), I home by coach, and could not forbear laughing almost all the way home, and all the evening to my going to bed, at the ridiculousness of the letter, and the more because my wife was angry with me, and the world, for laughing, because the King was there, though she cannot defend the length of the letter.
- Saturday 19**
Bridges
- MUSTAPHA.** [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] See 4 Sept. 1667.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.
- Tuesday 22**
LIF
- THE BLACK PRINCE.** See 19 Oct.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse, and there saw "The Black Prince" again: which is now mightily bettered by that long letter being printed, and so delivered to every body at their going in, and some short reference made to it in heart in the play, which do mighty well; but, when all is done, I think it is the worst play of my Lord Orrery's. But here, to my great satisfaction, I did see my Lord Hinchinbroke and his mistress, with her father and mother; and I am mightily pleased with the young lady, being handsome enough—and, indeed, to my great liking, as I would have her. I could not but look upon them all the play.
- Wednesday 23**
Bridges
- THE VILLAIN.** [By Thomas Porter.] Monsieur Brisac – Smith. See also 18 Oct. 1662.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the Duke of York's playhouse; but there Betterton not being yet well, we would not stay, though since I hear that Smith do act his part in "The Villaine," which was then acted, as well or better than he, which I do not believe.
- Thursday 24**
LIF
- PUPPETRY.**
COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: [After looking in at LIF], to Charing Cross, there to see Polichinelli. [It being begun, Pepys did not stay. See Speaight, *English Puppet Theatre*, p. 75.]
- CC**
- ENTERTAINMENTS.**
COMMENT. Aston Papers, Add. Mss. 36916, Vol. XVI, f. 8: In the Afternoon their Maties were pleased to be present in the Banqueting house wth the principall L^{ds} and Ladyes of the Court at a divertisement of a dancing on the Ropes Tumbling and other Agilities of Body shown with great applause by a Company of English. [See also *The Bulstrode Papers*, 1879, I, 4; HMC, 12th Report, Part VII, Fleming Mss., p. 53.]
- Friday 25**
At Court