

- Tbursday 5*
DL THE ENGLISH MERCHANT. As 21 Feb., but *Prologue* and *Epilogue* omitted.
Also THE CUNNING MAN. As 21 Nov. 1766.
DANCING. End of Play: *The Lilliputian Camp* as 27 Feb.
COMMENT. Paid printer's bill £9 6s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book). Receipts: £215 19s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book).
- CG LOVE FOR LOVE. As 6 Dec. 1766. Also MIDAS. As 14 Oct. 1766.
COMMENT. Receipts: £210 18s. (Account Book).
- King's SIFARE. *Cast not listed*.
SINGING. A *Cantabile Song* accompanied by Mr Abel on the viola de gamba.
COMMENT. A new serious Opera, for this night only. Benefit for Guarducci.
- Friday 6*
CG ESTHER. *Cast not listed*. Parts were: Habdonah, Haman, Officer, Chorus of Israelites, 1st Israelite, 2nd Israelite, Esther, Ahasuerus.
MUSIC. *Concerto* on Organ by Stanley.
COMMENT. By Command of their Majesties. With the latest improvement by Mr Handel. Pit and boxes to be put together. Tickets will be deliver'd that day, at the Office in the theatre at Half a Guinea each. First Gallery 5s. Second Gallery 3s. 6d. Galleries to be opened at Half an Hour past Four. Pit and Boxes at Five. To Begin at Half an Hour after Six (*Public Advertiser*, 4 March). [N.B. This is an Advance notice. No notice occurs on this day, but the following: "This Day publish'd *Esther*: An Oratorio, with the last improvements by Mr Handel. To be performed, by Their Majesties Command at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. Price 1s.] Went into the First Gallery at Covent Garden to hear the Oraortio, *Esther*, composed by Handel. The Stage was formed into an orchestra, like one side of an amphitheatre divided by an organ, atop of which was a head of Handel in a radiated frame. In the front sat the vocal performers, Champney, Vernon, Mrs Arne, Mrs Pinto, Miss Young, and Mrs Frasi. Stanley played on the Organ but retired after the 1st or 2nd act. The house was not much crowded, tho the King and Queen, those idols of fools, were there (Neville MS Diary). Charges: £35 (Account Book).
- Saturday 7*
DL RULE A WIFE AND HAVE A WIFE. Leon - Garrick; Duke - Havard; Cacafoggo - Love; Juan - Packer; Sancho - Aickin, Copper Captain - Palmer; Alonzo - Ackman; Altea - Mrs Lee; Margareta - Mrs Hopkins; Old Woman - Baddeley; Maid - Weston; Estifania - Mrs Pritchard. Also THE DEVIL TO PAY. As 20 Sept. 1766, but Lady Loverule - Miss Pearce.
COMMENT. [*Rich's Register* lists *The English Merchant*.] Paid Blandford (tallow chandler) £49 8s. 10d. Paid George Garrick for use of the managers £15 15s.; Paid French on account £20; Advanced to Granier on note £4 2s. 10d.; to Keen on note £4 4s. Rec'd stopages 16s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book). Sylas Neville (Neville MS Diary): With difficulty got into the Pit at Drury Lane, where I stood at the side so jambed up that I could not read the newspaper I carried: But I saw the play very well. It was *Rule a Wife and Have a Wife*, with the Farce of the *Devil to Pay*. Duke by Havard, Cacafago by Love, very well. Copper Capt. by Palmer, pretty well. Old woman pretty well by Mrs Baddeley, Estifania by Mrs Pritchard excellently, tho she is too old for the first part of this character. Leon inimitably by Garrick. I think he shows a good deal of Abel drugger, [both published and unpublished portions of the Neville Diary.] Receipts: £261 15s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book).
- CG THE MAID OF THE MILL. As 17 Feb. Also THE CITIZEN. As 31 Dec. 1766.
DANCING. II: *The Female Archer*, as 15 Dec. 1766.
COMMENT. Mainpicce: By Desire. Paid Joseph Stevenson, Music Porter, as per bill £1 8s. (Account Book). Receipts: £252 12s. 6d. (Account Book).