

THE COMMITTEE. [By Sir Robert Howard.] *Cast not known.* Wednesday 30
[DL or DG]
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350.

Peregrine Bertie to the Countess of Rutland, 31 Dec. 1685: Yesterday was acted *The Committee*. The King and Queen were there and all the whole Court went to see it, but coming a little after it was begun [I] could not get any roome (HMC, 12th Report, Appendix, Rutland MSS., Part v, Vol. II, p. 100).

Bridget Noel to the Countess of Rutland, ca. 6 Jan. 1685/6: [Last Wednesday] my Lady Exeter engaged us to goe to a play with her . . . which was a *Commity*. The King and Queen was at it, and the house as full as ever I saw it (*ibid.*).

CONCERT.

Oldfield

COMMENT. Peregrine Bertie to the Countess of Rutland, 31 Dec. 1685: Last night was a masque at Mr Oldfield's in Soho Square, there was a great deale of very good company (*ibid.*). [Bridget Noel, writing to the Countess of Rutland, ca. 6 Jan. 1685/6, refers to a musicale, but her letter leaves unclear whether she refers to the same one Peregrine Bertie discusses (*ibid.*).]

January 1686

THE BANDITTI; or, A Ladies Distress. [By Thomas D'Urfey.] Edition of 1686: DL
The Prologue. Don Garcia – Gillow; Don Antonio – Kinaston; Don Fernand – Williams; Don Ariell – Leigh; Don Diego – Underhill; Frisco – Jevan; Leon – Griffin; Corigidore – Harris; Domingo – Low; Lopez – Percival; Eugenia – Mrs Cory; Lawra – Mrs Barrer; Dona Elvira – Mrs Cooke; Lucia – Mrs Percival; Christina – Mrs Twiford; Megaera – Ja. Nokes. Epilogue, Spoken by Frisco, Just return'd from Whipping.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was licensed on 1 March 1685/6, suggests a performance in January, possibly as late as February 1686.

Langbaine (*English Dramatick Poets*, 1691, p. 179): This Play was affronted in the Acting, by some who thought themselves Criticks, and others with Cat-calls, endeavour'd at once to stifle the Author's Profit, and Fame.

Three songs, "From drinking of sack by the bottle," "Look down fair nymph and see," and "There is one black and solemn hour," all with music composed by [Samuel] Ackroyde, are in *The Theater of Music*, The Third Book, 1686.

COMMENT. Lady Dorset attended a play. See Peregrine Bertie to the Countess of Rutland, 9 Jan. 1685/6 (HMC, 12th Report, Appendix, Rutland MSS., Part v, II, 101). Wednesday 7

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI. [By John Webster.] *Cast not known.* Wednesday 13
At Court
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/147, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350.

COMMENT. *The Memoirs of Sir John Reresby*, 18 Jan. 1685/6: After dinner the [Lord] Chancellor, having drunke smartly at table (which was his custome) called for one Monfort, a gentleman of his that had been a comedian, an excellent mimick, and to divert the company, as he called it, made him give us a caus, that is, plead before him in a feigned action, wher he acted all the principal lawyers of the age, in their tone of voice, and action or gesture of body; and thus ridiculed not only the lawyers, but the law itself. This, I confess, was very diverting, but not soe Monday 18