

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but as the play was licensed to be published, 21 May 1688, it was probably first acted early in April 1688, perhaps in late March. In 1688 also was separately printed *New Songs Sung in The Fool's Preferment*: In I, "I sigh'd and pin'd" and "There's nothing so fatal as Woman," the music composed by Henry Purcell. In III, "Fled is my love," the music composed by Henry Purcell, and sung by Mountfort. "'Tis death alone" and "I'll mount to yon blue coelum," the music composed by Henry Purcell. In IV, "I'll sail upon the Dog-star," and A Dialogue by Jockey and Jenny, "Jenny, gin you can love," the composer not stated. In V, "If thou wilt give me back my love," composed by Henry Purcell and sung by Mountfort. See also Purcell's *Works*, The Purcell Society, XX (1916), iv-vi. When this play was revived at Drury Lane on 16 July 1703, the bill was headed: Not Acted these Fifteen Years.

DG

Monday 9-Saturday 14

PASSION WEEK

DARIUS, KING OF PERSIA. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1688: No actors' names. Prologue. The Epilogue, spoke by her that acts Barzana [Mrs Barry].

Late April
DL

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but Lord Granville, writing on 5 May 1688, refers to the King's presence on the third day, and since *The Squire of Alsatia* may have begun its run about 2 May 1688, Crowne's play must have been produced by the end of April.

Lord Granville to Sir William Leveson, 5 May 1688: The town is as empty of news as the Court; we have had a new play called *The Fall of Darius* (written by Crown), by which the poet, though he could get no fame, yet had a most extraordinary third day by reason of the King's presence at it; the first day of its acting Mrs Bower [Barry] was taken so violently ill in the midst of her part that she was forced to be carried off, and instead of dying in jest was in danger of doing it in earnest. Mrs Cook is dead and Mrs Boute . . . is again come upon the stage, where she appears with great applause. We are promised this week another new play of Shadwell's, called the *Alsatia Bully*, which is very much commended by those who have had the private perusal of it (HMC, 5th Report, Part II, pp. 197-98).

Dedication, Edition of 1688: A misfortune fell upon this Play, that might very well dizzy the Judgments of the Audience. Just before the Play began, Mrs Barry was struck with a very violent Fever, that took all Spirit from her, by consequence from the Play; the Scenes She acted fell dead from her; and in the 4th Act her distemper grew so much upon her, She cou'd go on no further, but all her part in that Act was wholly cut out and neither Spoke nor Read; that the People went away without knowing the contexture of the Play, yet thought they knew all. . . . [My] Thanks to His Majesty for the Honor of his Presence, on the Day which was to be for my Advantage; which He was pleased to Grant me. [See L. C. 5/148, p. 195—in Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 356—for a grant of £20 as a gift from the King to Crowne for this play.]

May 1688

THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA. [By Thomas Shadwell.] Edition of 1688: Prologue, to the Squire of Alsatia, Spoken by Mr Mountfort. Sir William Belfond – Leigh; Sir Edward Belfond – Griffin; Belfond Sr – Jevon; Belfond Jr – Mountfort; Freeman – Bowman; Cheatly – Samford; Shamwell – Powel Jun; Captain Hackum – Bright;

Wednesday 3
DL