

EPSOM WELLS. [By Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* For a previous cast, see 2 Dec. 1672. Friday 20
At Court

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This is another in the series of Court performances in L. C. 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 11 Feb. 1679/80.

Mountstevens to Henry Stevens, 20 Feb. 1679/80: Upon Sunday the Court is to be in mourning for the death of the Princess Elizabeth, sister to Prince Rupert (R. W. Blencowe, *Diary of the Time of Charles the Second* [London, 1843], I, 283).

Wednesday 25

ASH WEDNESDAY

COMMENT. Luttrell (*A Brief Relation*, I, 34-35): The 26th, Mrs Ellen Gwyn being at the dukes playhouse, was affronted by a person who came into the pitt and called her whore; whom Mr Herbert, the earl of Pembrokes brother, vindicating, there were many swords drawn, and a great hubbub in the house. Thursday 26
DG

SHE WOULD IF SHE COULD. [By Sir George Etherege.] *Cast not known.* For an earlier cast, see 6 Feb. 1667/8. Friday 27
At Court

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This is another in the series of Court performances in L. C. 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 11 Feb. 1679/80. It should be noted that not only is this date a Friday in Lent but it is also during the period of mourning for the Princess Elizabeth. Yet to place this performance in 1681 would make it fall on Sunday.

THE ORPHAN; or, The Unhappy Marriage. [By Thomas Otway.] Edition of 1680: Acasto – Gillow; Castalio – Batterton; Polydore – Jo. Williams; Chamont – Smith; Ernesto – Norris; Paulino – Wiltshire; Cordelio—By the little Girl [Anne Bracegirdle]; Chaplain – Percivall; Monimia – Mrs Barry; Serina – Mrs Boteler; Florella – Mrs Osborn. Prologue. Epilogue. Late February
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the premiere is not known. Pepys saw it on 6 March 1679/80, calling it a "New Play," and that may have been the first day. The Prologue alludes also to the Duke of York's triumphant return from Scotland on 24 Feb. 1679/80, and the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, May 1680. For Mrs Bracegirdle as the "little Girl," see Edmund Curll, *History of the English Stage* (1741), p. 26, and Lucyle Hook, "Anne Bracegirdle's First Appearance," *Theatre Notebook*, XIII (1959), 134. For Batterton as Castalio and Mrs Barry as Monimia, probably as they performed in the next decade, see Cibber, *Apology*, ed. Lowe, I, 116, 160.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 37) gives the same cast except for omissions and except for Serina—Mrs Mountfort, who acted it later. Downes (pp. 37-38) adds: [Monimia, Belvidera in *Venice Preserved*, and Isabella in *The Fatal Marriage*] These three Parts, gain'd her the Name of Famous Mrs Barry, both at Court and City; for when ever She Acted any of these three Parts, she forc'd Tears from the Eyes of her Auditory, especially those who have any Sense of Pity for the Distress't. These 3 Plays, by their Excellent Performances, took above all the Modern Plays that succeeded.

A song for this play, "Come all the youths whose hearts have bled," the music by Forcer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Third Book, 1681.

March 1680

THYESTES. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1681: Prologue. No actors' names. DL
Epilogue.