

their privileges, and consequently on June 27, 1640, William Beeston was removed from their management, and William Davenant appointed in his place. Davenant was to hold this position so long as the lease of the Cockpit was held by 'Mrs. Elizabeth Beeston, alias Hutcheson.'<sup>1</sup>

This company, of course, broke up when the playhouses were closed in 1642. There are no records of them in the provinces.

<sup>1</sup> Malone by Boswell, iii. 242; Collier, ii. 32, 33 *n.* Mr. Fleay supposes that Mrs. Elizabeth Beeston was Christopher Beeston's widow (*Stage*, 356). But Christopher Beeston's wife was called Jane, not Elizabeth (cf. *Mild. Co. Records*, ii. 107, 110, 114, 120, 128). Malone says William Beeston was Elizabeth Beeston's son (Malone by Boswell, iii. 242). Collier conjectures that William Beeston was Christopher's brother (Collier, i. 24). In 1639, one George Lilgrave attempted to turn his house, 'adjoining Mrs. Beestone's playhouse,' into a tavern. This was prohibited, because 'the disorder being likely to be such in the tavern joined to the playhouse as will not be possible to be suppressed' (*Cal. State Papers*, 1639).

## COURT PERFORMANCES

1637. Feb. 7, . . . . .	<i>Cupid's Re-</i>	} (Beeston's boys). <sup>1</sup>
	<i>venge.</i>	
Feb. 14, . . . . .	<i>Wit v' thout Money.</i>	( " ) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Malone by Boswell, iii. 239. From the Herbert office-book.

<sup>2</sup> Malone by Boswell, iii. 239. From the Herbert office-book. On May 10, 1637, Christopher Beeston was paid [£20] for 'two plays acted by the New Company.' This payment was no doubt for the plays of Feb. 7 and 14 by Beeston's boys (Chalmers, *Apology*, 510).

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