

here, took leave; and I saw my wife a little way down¹ (it troubling me that this absence makes us a little strange instead of more fond) and so parted, and I home to some letters and then home to bed. Above 700 dead of the plague this week.

14. My Lady Jem is beyond expectation come to Dagenhams, where Mr. Carteret is to go to visit her tomorrow; and my proposal of waiting on him, he being to go alone to all persons strangers to him, was well accepted and so I go with him. But Lord, to see how kind my Lady Carteret is to her – sends her most rich Jewells, and provides bedding and things of all sorts most richly for her – which makes my Lady and me out of our wits almost, to see the kindness she treats us all with – as if they would buy the young lady. Thence away home; and foreseeing my being abroad two days, did sit up late, making of letters ready against tomorrow and other things; and so to bed – to be up betimes by the help of a larum-wach, which by chance I borrowed of my watchmaker today while my own is mending.

15. Up, and after all business done at the office, though late, I to Deptford. But before I went out of the office, saw there young Bagwells wife returned; but could not stay to speak to her, though I had a great mind to it. And also another great lady, as to fine clothes, did attend there to have a ticket signed; which I did do, taking her through the garden to my office, where I signed it and had a salute of her; and so I away by boat to Redriffe, and thence walked; and after dinner, at Sir G. Carteret, where they stayed till almost 3 a-clock for me; and anon took boat, Mr. Carteret and I, to the ferry-place at Greenwich and there stayed an hour, after crossing the water to and again to get our coach and horses over, and by and by set out and so toward Dagenham. But Lord, what silly discourse we had by the way as to matter of love-matters, he

1. The Carterets were staying at the Navy Treasurer's official house at Deptford. Because of the Plague, Elizabeth Pepys had been staying since 5 July at Woolwich at the house of the Clerk of the Cheque, William Sheldon. Pepys joined her there occasionally during the next few weeks, but continued to base himself on Seething Lane. In mid-August the Navy Board moved to rooms in the royal palace at Greenwich, and at the end of the month Pepys found it convenient to settle at Woolwich. He had to spend occasional nights in lodgings at Greenwich, however, and by 11 October had established himself there at Mrs Clarke's. On 7 January 1666 he moved back to London where the Navy Board resumed its meetings on the 9th. Elizabeth had returned to Seething Lane on 2 December.