

of it, having no good excuse, and too late now to mend, he being coming home. Thence home, whither by agreement by and by comes Mercer and Gayett, and two gentlemen with them, Mr. Montouth and Pelham, the former a swaggering young handsome gentleman – the latter a sober citizen merchant; both sing, but the latter with great skill; the other, no skill but a good voice and a good basse – but used to sing only tavern tunes; and so I spent all this evening till 11 at night singing with them, till I tired of them because of the swaggering fellow with the basse, though the girl Mercer did mightily commend him before to me. This night yo had agreed para andar at Deptford, there para haber lain con the moher de Bagwell, but this company did hinder me.

30. Up, and put on a new summer black bombazin suit, and so to the office; and being come now to an agreement with my barber to keep my perriwigs in good order at 20s. a year, I am like to go very spruce, more then I used to do. All the morning at the office; and at noon home to dinner, and so to the King's playhouse and there saw *Philaster*; where it is pretty to see how I could remember almost all along, ever since I was a boy, Arethusa's part which I was to have acted at Sir Rob. Cooke's; and it was very pleasant to me, but more to think what a ridiculous thing it would have been for me to have acted a beautiful woman. Thence to Mrs. Pierces, and there saw Knepp also, and were merry; and here saw my little Lady Kath. Mountagu, come to town about her eyes, which are sore, and they think the King's Evil, poor pretty lady. Here I was freed from a fear that Knepp was angry or might take advantage; did parlar the esto that yo did the otra day quand yo was con her in ponendo her mano upon mi cosa – but I saw no such thing; but as pleased as ever, and I believe she can bear with any such thing. Thence to the New Exchange, and there met Harris and Rolt and one Richards, a tailor and great company-keeper; and with these over to Foxhall and there fell into the company of Harry Killigrew, a rogue, newly come back out of France but still in disgrace at our Court, and young Newport and others, as very rogues as any in the town, who were ready to take hold of every woman that came by them. And so to supper in an arbor; but Lord, their mad bawdy talk did make my heart ake. And here I first understood by their talk the meaning of the company that lately were called "Ballers", Harris telling how it was by a meeting of some young blades, where he was among them, and my Lady Bennet and her ladies, and there dancing naked,