

– one complaining that nothing is done, another swearing that he hath been there these two hours and nobody came. At last it came to this: my Lord Annesly, says he, “I think we must be forced to get the King to come to every committee, for I do not see that we do anything at any time but when he is here.” And I believe he said the truth. And very constant he is at the council table on council days; which his predecessors, it seems, very rarely did. But thus, I perceive, the greatest affair in the world at this day is likely to be managed by us. But to hear how my Lord Berkely and others of them do cry up the discipline of the late times here, and in the former Dutch warr, is strange – wishing with all their hearts that the business of religion were not so severely carried on as to discourage the sober people to come among us, and wishing that the same law and severity were used against drunkenness as there was then – saying that our evil-living will call the hand of God upon us again. Thence to walk alone a good while in St. James park with Mr. Coventry, who I perceive is grown a little melancholy, and displeased to see things go as they do – so carelessly.

28. At the office all the morning. At noon dined at home. After dinner my wife and I to my Lady Batten’s, it being the first time my wife hath been there, I think, these two years; but I have a mind in part to take away that strangeness, and so we did, and all very quiet and kind. Came home; I to the taking my wife’s kitchen account at the latter end of the month, and there find 7*s.* wanting – which did occasion a very high falling out between us; I ended too eagerly insisting upon so poor a thing, and did give her very provoking words, calling her “beggar” and reproaching her friends;* which she took very stomachfully, and reproached me justly with mine; and I confess, being myself, I cannot see what she could have done less. I find she is very cunning, and when she least shows it, hath her wit at work; but it is an ill one, though I think not so bad but with good usage I might well bear with it; and the truth is, I do find that my being over-solicitous and jealous and froward, and ready to reproach her, doth make her worse. However, I find that now and then a little difference doth do not hurt – but too much of it will make her know her force too much. We parted, after many high words, very angry; and I to my office to my month’s accounts, and find myself worth 1270*l* – for which the Lord God be praised. So, at almost 2 a-clock in the morning, I home to supper and to bed.

And so ends this month, with great expectation of the Hol-