

4. Up, and to the office, where we sat all the morning. And this morning Sir W. Pen went to Chatham to look after the ships now going out thence – and particularly that wherein the Duke and himself goes. He took Sir G. Ascue with him, whom I believe he hath brought into play. At noon to the Change; and thence home, where I find my aunt James and the two she-Joyces. They dined and were merry with us. Thence after dinner to a play, to see *The Generall*; which is so dull and so ill acted, that I think it is the worst I ever saw or heard in all my days. I happened to sit next to Sir Ch. Sidly; who I find a very witty man, and did at every line take notice of the dullness of the poet and badness of the action, and that most pertinently; which I was mightily taken with – and among others, where by Altemira's command Clarimont the Generall is commanded to rescue his Rivall whom she loved, Lucidor, he after a great deal of demurre breaks out – “Well – Ile save my Rivall and make her confess. That I deserve, while he doth but possesse.” “Why, what! Pox!” says Sir Ch. Sydly, “would he have him have more, or what is there more to be had of a woman then the possessing her?” Thence, setting all them at home, I home with my wife and Mercer, vexed at my losing my time and above 20s. in money and neglecting my business to see so bad a play. Tomorrow, they told us, should be acted, or the day after, a new play called *The Parsons Dreame*, acted all by women. So to my office and there did business; and so home to supper and to bed.

5. Up betimes and to my office. And thence by coach to New Bridewell to meet with Mr. Poyntz to discourse with him (being master of the workhouse there) about making of Bewpers for us – but he was not within. However, his clerk did lead me up and down through all the houses. And there I did with great pleasure see the many pretty works and the little children imployed, everyone to do something; which was a very fine sight and worthy encouragement. I cast away a Crowne among them, and so to the Change – and among the Linnen wholesale Drapers to enquire about Callicos, to see what can be done with them for the supplying our want of Bewpers for flags. And I think I shall do something therein to good purpose for the King. So to the Coffee-house and there fell in discourse with the Secretary of the Virtuosi of Gresham College, and had very fine discourse with him. He tells me of a new-invented Instrument to be tried before the College anon, and I intend to see it. So to Trinity house, and there I dined among the old dull fellows.