

about Brampton, and my intentions to build there if I could be free of my engagement to my Uncle Tho. and his son, that they may not have what I have built, against my will, to them, whether I will or no, in case of my and my brothers being without heirs males – which is the true reason why I am against laying out money upon that place, together with my fear of some inconvenience by being so near Hinchinbrooke; being obliged to be a servant to that family, and subject to what expenses they shall cost me, and to have all that I shall buy or do esteemed as got by the death of my Uncle; when ended, what I have from him is not worth naming. After supper, I to read and then to bed.

27. Up, and there comes Greeting my Flagelette-maister and I practised with him. There came also Richardson the bookbinder with one of Ogilby's Bible's in quires for me to see and buy, it being Mr. Cade's my stationer's; but it is like to be so big, that I shall not use it, it being too great to stir up and down without much trouble, which I shall not like nor do intend it for. So by water to Whitehall and there found Sir G. Carteret at home; and talked with him a while and find that the new Commissioners of the Treasury did meet this morning. So I to find out Sir W. Coventry, but missed; only, I do hear that they have chosen Sir G. Downing for their Secretary; and I think in my conscience they have done a great thing in it – for he is a busy active man, and values himself upon having of things do well under his hand; so that I am mightily pleased in their choice. So home; and there to sing with my wife before dinner, and then to dinner; and then abroad by [water] and stopped at the Bear-garden stairs, there to see a Prize fought; but the house so full, there was no getting in there; so forced to [go] through an alehouse into the pit where the bears are baited, and upon a stool did see them fight, which they did very furiously, a butcher and a waterman. The former had the better all along, till by and by the latter dropped his sword out of his hand, and the butcher, whether not seeing his sword dropped or I know not, but did give him a cut over the wrist, so as he was disabled to fight any longer. But Lord, to see how in a minute the whole stage was full of watermen to revenge the foul play, and the butchers to defend their fellow, though most blamed him; and there they all fell to it, to knocking down and cutting many of each side. It was pleasant to see, but that I stood in the pit and feared that in the tumult I might get some hurt. At last the rabble broke up, and so I away to Whitehall; and so to St. James's,