

so done by Nell her merry part, as cannot be better done in Nature I think. Thence home, and there I find letters from my brother which tell me that yesterday, when he wrote, my mother did rattle in the throat, so as they did expect every moment her death, which though I have a good while expected, did much surprize me; yet was obliged to sup at Sir W. Penn's, and my wife; and there counterfeited some little mirth, but my heart was sad; and so home after supper and to bed, and much troubled in my sleep with dreams of my being crying by my mother's bedside, laying my head over hers and crying, she almost dead and dying, and so waked; but which is strange, methought she had hair on her face, and not the same kind of face as my mother really has; but yet did not consider that, but did weep over her as my mother – whose soul God have mercy of.

26. Up, with a sad heart in reference to my mother, of whose death I do undoubtedly expect to hear the next post, if not of my father's also, who, by his pain as well as his grief for her, is very ill. But on my own behalf, I have cause to be joyful this day, as being my usual feast-day for my being cut of the stone this day nine years; and through God's blessing am at this day and have long been in as good condition of health as ever I was in my life, or any man in England is, God make me thankful for it. But the condition I am in in reference to my mother makes it unfit for me to keep my usual feast, unless it should please God to send her well (which I despair wholly of); and then I will make amends for it by observing another day in its room.

27. To Whitehall; and our business with the Duke of York being done, W. Penn and I towards the Exchequer and in our way met Sir G. Downing going to chapel; but we stopped, and he would go with us back to the Exchequer and showed us in his office his chests full, and ground and shelves full of money, and says that there is 50000*l* at this day in his office of people's money; who may demand it this day and might have had it away several weeks ago upon the late Act<sup>1</sup> but do rather choose to have it continue there then to put it into the Banquier's hands; and I must confess it is more then I should have believed had I not seen it, and more then ever I could have expected would have arisen for this new act in so short a time;

1. sc. on the credit of the Eleven Months Tax.