

Hales's, where my wife is sitting; and endeed, her face and neck, which are now finished, do so please me, that I am not myself almost, nor was not all the night after, in writing of my letters, in consideration of the fine picture that I shall be maister of. Thence home and to the office, where very late, and so home to supper and to bed.

9. Up, and being ready, to the Cockepitt – to make a visit to the Duke of Albemarle; and to my great joy find him the same man to me that heretofore, which I was in great doubt of through my negligence in not visiting of him a great while; and having now set all to rights there, I am in mighty ease in my mind, and I think shall never suffer matters to run so far backward again, as I have done of late with reference to my neglecting him and Sir W. Coventry. Thence by water down to Deptford, where I met my Lord Brouncker and Sir W. Batten by agreement, and to measuring Mr. Castles new third-rate ship, which is to be called the *Defyance*. And here I had my end, in saving the King some money and getting myself some experience in knowing how they do measure ships. Thence I left them and walked to Redriffe, and there taking water, was overtaken by them in their boat, and so they would have me in with them to Castle's house, where my Lady Batten and Madame Williams were, and there dined and a deal of doings. I had a good dinner, and counterfeit mirth and pleasure with them, but had but little, thinking how I neglected my business. Anon all home to Sir W. Batten's, and there, Mrs. Knipp coming, we did spend the even[ing] together very merry, she and I singing; and God forgive me, I do still see that my nature is not to be quite conquered, but will esteem pleasure above all things; though, yet in the middle of it, it hath reluctancy after my business, which is neglected by my following my pleasure. However, music and women I cannot but give way to, whatever my business is. They being gone, I to the office a while, and so home to supper and to bed.

10. Up and to the office, and there busy sitting till noon. I find at home Mrs. Pierce and Knipp, come to dine with me. We were mighty merry. And after dinner I carried them and my wife out by coach to the New Exchange, and there I did give my valentine, Mrs. Pierce, a dozen pair of gloves and a pair of silk stockings – and Knipp, for company sake (though my wife had by my consent laid out 20s. upon her the other day), six pair of gloves. Thence to