

Whitehall and walked long in the galleries till (as they are commanded to all strange persons) one came to tell us, we not being known and being observed to walk there four or five houres (which was not true), he was commanded to ask who we were; which being told, he excused his Question and was satisfied. These things speak great fear and jealousys. So walk to the Exchange and there took many turnes with him. Among other things, observing one very pretty Exchange lass with her face full of black patches, which was a strange sight. So bid him good-night.

29. *Lord Mayors day.* Entended to have made me fine and by invitation to have dined with my Lord Mayor today; but going to see Sir Wm. Batten this morning, I find Sir G. Carteret and Sir J. Mennes going with Sir W. Batten and myself to examine Sir G. Carteret's accounts for the last year; whereupon I settled to it with them all the day long, only dinner time (which Sir George gave us); and by night did as good as finish them.

30. This morning, walking with Mr. Coventry in the garden, he did tell me how Sir G. Carteret hath carried the business of the Victuallers money to be paid by himself, contrary to old practice; at which he is angry I perceive. And yet he did not deny Sir G. Carteret his due, in saying that he is a man that doth take the most pains and gives himself the most to do business of any man about the Court, without any desire of pleasure or divertisements – which is very true. But, which pleased me mightily, he said, in these words, that he was resolved, whatever it cost him, to make an experiment and see whether it was possible for a man to keep himself up in Court by dealing plainly and walking uprightly without any private game a-playing. In the doing whereof, if his ground doth slip from under him, he will be contented; but he is resolved to try and never to baulke taking notice of anything that is to the King's prejudice, let it fall where it will – which is a most brave resolution. I would not forget two passages of Sir J. Mennes at yesterday's dinner. The one, that to the Question how it comes to pass that there are no boars seen in London, but many Sowes and pigs, it was answered that the Constable gets them a-nights. The other, Tho. Killegrew's way of getting to see plays when he was a boy. He would go to the Red bull, and when the man cried to the boys, "Who will go and be a divell, and he shall see the play for nothing?" – then would he go in and be a devil upon the stage, and so got to see [the] play.