

commended it. I took the viall and played some things from one of their books, Lyra lessons, which they seemed to like well. Thus we passed an hour or two after dinner, and towards the evening we bade them Adieu and took horse, being resolved that we would go to Epsum; so we set out; and being gone a little way, I sent home Will to look to the house, and Creed and I rid forward – the road being full of citizens going and coming towards Epsum – where, when we came, we could hear of no lodging, the town so full. But which was better, I went towards Ashted, my old place of pleasure, and there (by direction of one goodman Arthur, whom we met on the way) we went to Farmer Page's, and there we got a lodging in a little hole we could not stand upright in, upon a low truckle-bed. But rather then go further to look, we stayed there. And while supper was getting ready, I took him to walk up and down behind my Cosen Pepys's house that was, which I find comes [a] little short of what I took it to be when I was a little boy (as things use commonly to appear greater then then when one comes to be a man and know more); and so up and down in the Closes which I know so well methinks, and account it good fortune that I lie here, that I may have opportunity to renew my old walks. So to our lodging to supper; and among other meat, had a brave dish of creame, the best I ever eat in my life – and with which we pleased ourselves much. And by and by to bed, where with much ado, yet good sport, we made shift to lie, but with little ease.

26. *Lords day.* Up and to the Wells, where great store of Citizens; which was the greatest part of the company, though there were some others of better Quality. I met many that I knew; and we drunk each of us two pots and so walked away – it being very pleasant to see how everybody turns up his tail, here one and there another, in a bush, and the women in their Quarters the like. Thence I walked Creede to Mr. Minnes's house, which hath now a good way made to it, and finely walled round; and thence to Durdans and walked round it and within the Courtyard and to the bowling-green, where I have seen so much mirth in my time; but now no family in it (my Lord Barkely, whose it is, being with his family at London); and so up and down by Minnes's wood, with great pleasure viewing my old walks and where Mrs. Hely and I did use to walk and talk, with whom I had the first sentiments of love and pleasure in woman's company, discourse and taking her by the hand – she being a pretty woman. So I led him to Ashted church (by