

20. Up betimes as I use to do, and in my chambers begun to look over my father's accounts, which he brought out of the country with him by my desire, whereby I may see what he hath received and spent. And I find that he is not anything extravagant, and yet it doth so far outdo his estate that he must either think of lessening his charge or I must be forced to spare money out of my purse to help him through; which I would willing do, as far as 20*l* goes. Somewhat troubled at Ashwell's desiring and insisting over-eagerly upon her going to a ball to meet some of her old companions at a dancing school here in town next Friday; but I am resolved she shall not go.

26. *Lords day*. All the afternoon upon my accounts, and find myself worth full 700*l*, for which I bless God, it being the most I was ever yet worth in money. In the evening (my father being gone to my brother's to lie tonight) my wife, Ashwell, and the boy and I, and the dog, over the water and walked to Halfway house and beyond, into the fields gathering of Cowslips; and so to Halfway house with some cold lamb we carried with us, and there supped; and had a most pleasant walk back again – Ashwell all along telling us some parts of their maske at Chelsy school, which was very pretty; and I find she hath a most prodigious memory, remembering so much of things acted six or seven years ago. So home; and after reading my vowes, being sleepy, without prayers to bed; for which God forgive me.

27. At home with my wife and Ashwell, talking of her going into the country this year; wherein we had like to have fallen out, she thinking that I have a design to have her go, which I have not; and to let her stay here I perceive will not be convenient, for she expects more pleasure then I can give her here, and I fear I have done very ill in letting her begin to learn to dance.

30. Up; and after drinking my morning draught with my father and W. Stankes,<sup>1</sup> I went forth to Sir W. Batten, who is going (to no purpose, as he uses to do) to Chatham upon a Survey. So to my office, where till towards noon; and then to the Exchange and back home to dinner, where Mr. Hunt, my father, and W. Stankes; but Lord, what a stir Stankes makes with his being crowded in the

1. Their bailiff at Brampton.