

and so home to supper with my girls, and pretty merry; only my eyes, which continue very bad, and my cold, that I cannot speak at all, do trouble me.

27. Up and at the office all the morning, where I could speak but a little. At noon home to dinner, and all the afternoon till night busy at the office again, where forced to speak low and dictate. But that that troubles me most is my eyes, which are still mighty bad, night and day. And so home at night to talk and sup with my cousins; and so all of us in mighty good humour to bed.

✧MARCH✧

1. Up and to Whitehall to the Committee of Tanger, but it did not meet. But here I do hear first that my Lady Paulina Montagu did die yesterday; at which I went to my Lord's lodgings, but he is shut up with sorrow and so not to be spoken with; and therefore I returned and to Westminster hall, where I have not been I think in some months; and here the Hall was very full, the King having, by commission to some Lords, this day prorogued the Parliament till the 19th of October next; at which I am glad, hoping to have time to go over to France this year. But I was most of all surprized this morning by my Lord Bellasses, who by appointment met me at Auditor Wood's at the Temple and tells me of a Duell designed between the Duke of Buckingham and my Lord Halifax or Sir W. Coventry – the challenge being carried by Harry Savill, but prevented by my Lord Arlington and the King told of it. And this was all the discourse at Court this day. But I meeting Sir W. Coventry in the Duke of York's chamber, he would not own it to me, but told me that he was a man of too much peace to meddle with fighting; and so it rested.

2. Up and at the office till noon, when home; and there I find my company come – *viz*, Madam Turner, Dike, The[oph]. and Betty Turner, and Mr. Bellwood, formerly their father's clerk but now set up for himself, a conceited silly fellow but one they make mightily of – my Cosen Roger Pepys and his wife and two daughters. And I had a noble dinner for them as I almost ever had, and mighty merry; and perticularly, myself pleased with looking