

pleases me infinitely. And so to the office, where busy all the afternoon, though my eyes mighty bad with the light of the candles last night; which was so great as to make my eyes sore all this day, and doth teach me, by a manifest experiment, that it is only too much light that doth make my eyes sore. Nevertheless, with the help of my Tube, and being desirous of easing my mind of five or six days Journall, I did adventure to write it down from ever since this day sennit, and I think without hurting my eyes any more then they were before; which was very much. And so home to supper and to bed.

17. Going to Whitehall I had pleasant *rancontre* of a lady in mourning, that by the little light I had seemed handsome; I passing by her, I did observe she looked back again and again upon me, I suffering her to go before, and it being now duske. I observed she went into the little passage towards the privy water-gate, and I fallowed but missed her; but coming back again, I observed she returned and went to go out of the Court. I fallowed her, and took occasion in the new passage now built, where the walke is to be, to take her by the hand to lead her through; which she willingly accepted, and I led her to the great gate and there left her, she telling me of her own accord that she was going as far as Charing cross; but my boy was at the gate, and so yo durst not go out con her – which vexed me; and my mind (God forgive me) did run après her todo the night, though I have reason to thank God, and so I do now, that I was not tempted to go further.

19. Up, and after seeing the girls, who lodged in our bed with their Mayd Martha (who hath been their father's maid these twenty years and more), I with Lord Brouncker to Whitehall, where all of us waited on the Duke of York; and after our usual business done, W. Hewer and I to look my wife at the Black Lion, Mercer's, but she is gone home; and so I home and there dined, and W. Battelier and W. Hewer with us; and all the afternoon I at the office while the young people went to see Bedlam; and at night home to them to supper, and pretty merry; only, troubled with a great cold at this time – and my eyes very bad, ever since Monday night last that the light of the candles spoiled me. So to bed. This morning, among other things, talking with Sir W. Coventry, I did propose to him my putting in to serve in Parliament, if there should, as the world begins to expect, be a new one chose. He likes it mightily, both for