

woman. All their talk is of her and my two she-Cosen Joyces and Will's little boy Will (who was also here today) [going] down to Brampton to my father's next week – which will be trouble and charge to them; but however, my father and mother desire to see them, and so let them. They eyed mightily my great Cupboard of plate, I this day putting my two Flaggons upon my table; and ended, it is a fine sight and better then ever I did hope to see of my own. Mercer dined with us at table, this being her first dinner in my house. After dinner left them and to Whitehall, where a small Tanger committee; and so back again home and there my wife and Mercer and Tom and I sat till 11 at night, singing and fiddling; and a great joy it is to see me maister of so much pleasure in my house, that it is, and will be still I hope, a constant pleasure to me to be at home. The girle plays pretty well upon the Harpsicon, but only ordinary tunes; but hath a good hand. Sings a little, but hath a good voyce and eare. My boy, a brave boy, sings finely and is the most pleasant boy at present, while his ignorant boy's tricks last, that ever I saw. So to supper, and with great pleasure to bed.

10. Up and to my office, where we sat all the morning. And I much troubled to think what the end of our great sluggishness will be, for we do nothing in this office like people able to carry on a warr. We must be put out, or other people put in. Dined at home. And then my wife and I and Mercer to the Dukes house and there saw *The Rivalls*, which is no excellent play, but good action in it – especially, Gosnell comes and sings and dances finely; but for all that, fell out of the Key, so that the Musique could not play to her afterward; and so did Harris also, go out of the tune to agree with her. Thence home, and late writing letters; and this night I received by Will 1051 – the first fruits of my endeavours in the late Contract for victualling of Tanger – for which God be praised. For I can with a safe conscience say that I have therein saved the King 5000l per annum, and yet got myself a hope of 300l per annum without the least wrong to the King. So to supper and to bed.

11. *Lords day*. Up, and to church in the best manner I have gone a good while; that is to say, with my wife and her woman Mercer along with us and Thom my boy waiting on us. A dull sermon. Home; dined. Left my wife to go to church alone; and I walked in haste, being late, to the Abby at Westminster according to promise to meet Jane Welsh; and there wearily walked, expecting her till 6 a-