

my authority. Public matters are in an ill condition – parliament sitting and raising four subsidys for the King, which is but a little, considering his wants; and yet that parted withal with great hardness – they being offended to see so much money go, and no debts of the public paid, but all swallowed by a luxurious Court – which the King, it is believed and hoped, will retrench in a little time, when he comes to see the utmost of the Revenue which shall be settled on him.

My differences with my uncle Tho. at a good quiett, blessed be God, and other matters. The weather wett for two or three months together, beyond belief; almost not one fair day coming between till this day, which hath been a very pleasant, and the first pleasant this summer.

— JULY —

4. With Creede to the King's head ordinary; but coming late, dined at the second table very well for 12d.; and a pretty gentleman in our company who confirms my Lady Castlemaynes being gone from Court, but knows not the reason. He told us of one wife the Queene a little while ago did give her, when she came in and found the Queene under the dresser's hands and had been so long – "I wonder your Majesty," says she, "can have the patience to sit so long a-dressing:" "Oh," says the Queene, "I have so much reason to use patience, that I can very well bear with it." He thinks that it may be the Queene hath commanded her to retire, though that is not likely. Thence with Creede to hire a coach to carry us to Hide parke, today there being a general muster of the King's Guards, horse and foot, yet methought all these gay men are not the soldiers that must do the King's business, it being such as these that lost the old King all he had and were beat by the most ordinary fellows that could be. This day in the Dukes chamber, there being a Roman story in the hangings and upon the standards written these four letters, SPQR, Sir G. Carteret came to me to know what the meaning of those four letters were – which ignorance is not to be borne in a Privy Counsellor methinks, that a schoolboy should be whipt for not knowing.

8. Being weary and going to bed late last night, I slept till 7 a-