

for being at a conventicle. They go like lambs, without any resistance. I would to God they would either conform, or be more wise and not be kethched. Thence parted with him, mightily pleased with his company, and away homeward, calling at Dan Rawlinson and supped there with my Uncle Wight; and then home and eat again for form sake with her, and then to prayers and to bed.

10. Up; and being ready, abroad to do several small businesses; among others, to find out one to engrave my tables upon my new sliding-Rule with silver plates, it being so small that Browne that made it cannot get one to do it. So I found out Cocker, the famous writing master, and got him to do it; and I sat an hour by him to see him design it all, and strange it is to see him with his natural eyes to cut so small at his first designing it, and read it all over without any missing, when for my life I could not with my best skill read one word or letter of it – but it is use; but he says that the best light, for his life, to do a very small thing by (contrary to Chaucer's words to the sun: that he should lend his light to them that small seals grave), it should be by an artificiall light of a candle, set to advantage as he could do it. I find the fellow, by his discourse, very ingenuous; and among other things, a great admirer and well read in all our English poets and undertakes to judge of them all, and that not impertinently. Well pleased with his company and better with his beginning upon my Rule, I left him and home; whither Mr. Deane by agreement came to me and dined with me, and by chance Gunner Batters's wife. Thence I to Cockers again and sat by him, with good discourse again for an hour or two; and then left him and by agreement with Capt. Sylas Taylor (my old acquaintance at the Exchequer) to the post-office to hear some Instrument Musique of Mr. Berchenshaws before my Lord Brunkard and Sir Rob. Murrey. I must confess, whether it be that I hear it but seldom, or that really voices is better, but so it is, that I found no pleasure at all in it, and methought two voyces were worth twenty of it. So home to my office a while, and then to supper and to bed.

12. Up, and all the morning busy at the office with Sir W. Warren about a great contract for New England Masts; wherein I was very hard with him, even to the making him angry. But I thought it fit to do it, as well as just for me on the King's behalf. At noon to the Change a little; and so to dinner and then out by coach, setting my wife and maid down, going to Stevens the Silversmith's to change