

excellently dressed, in rich petticoats and gowns and Dyamonds – and pearl. After the Bransles, then to a Corant, and now and then a French Dance; but that so rare that the Corants grew tiresome, that I wished it done. Only, Mrs. Steward danced mighty finely, and many French dances, especially one the King called the New Dance, which was very pretty. But upon the whole matter, the business of the dancing itself was not extraordinary pleasing. But the clothes and sight of the persons was indeed very pleasing, and worth my coming, being never likely to see more gallantry while I live – if I should come twenty times. About 12 at night it broke up, and I to hire a coach with much difficulty; but Pierce had hired a chair for my wife, and so she being gone to his house – he and I (taking up Barker at Unthanked) to his house – whither his wife was come home a good while ago, and gone to bed. So away home with my wife – between displeased at the dull dancing, and satisfied at the clothes and persons (my Lady Castlemayne (without whom all is nothing) being there, very rich, though not dancing); and so after supper, it being very cold, to bed.

17. Up, and to the office, where all the morning. At noon home to dinner, and in the afternoon shut myself in my chamber, and there till 12 at night finishing my great letter to the Duke of York; which doth lay the ill condition of the Navy so open to him, that it is impossible, if the King and he minds anything of their business, but it will operate upon them to set all matters right, and get money to carry on the war before it be too late, or else lay out for a peace upon any Tearmes. It was a great convenience tonight, that what I had writ fowle in shorthand, I could read to W. Hewer and he take it fair in shorthand so as I can read it tomorrow to Sir W. Coventry, and then come home and he read to me, while I take it in longhand to present – which saves me much time. So to bed.

20. After church, home, where I met Mr. Gregory who I did then agree with to come to teach my wife to play on the Viall; and he being an able and sober man, I am mighty glad of it. He had dined, therefore went away, and I to dinner; and after dinner by coach to Barkeshire house, and there did get a very great meeting, the Duke of York being there, and much business done, though not in proportion to the greatness of the business, and my Lord Chancellor sleeping and snoring the greater part of the time. Among other things, I declared the state of our Credit as to tallies to raise money