

chairs, playing at "I love my love with an A because he is so and so; and I hate him with an A because of this and that;" and some of them, but peticularly the Duchess herself and my Lady Castlemaine, were very witty. This done, they took barge, and I with Sir J. Smith to Capt. Cox's and there to talk, and left them and other company to drink while I slunk out to Bagwells and there saw her and her mother and our late maid Nell, who cried for joy to see me; but I had no time for pleasure there nor could stay; but after drinking, I back to the yard, having a month's mind para have had a bout with Nell – which I believe I could have had – and may another time. So to Cox's and thence walked with Sir J. Smith back to Redriffe, and so by water home; and there my wife mighty angry for my absence and fell mightily out; but not being certain of anything, but think[s] only that Pierce or Knepp were there, and did ask me, and I perceive the boy, many questions, but I did answer her; and so after much ado, did go to bed and lie quiet all night; but had another bout with me in the morning, but I did make shift to quiet her; but yet she was not fully satisfied, poor wretch, in her mind, and thinks much at my taking so much pleasure from her; which ended is a fault, though I did not design or foresee it when I went.

6. Up and to the office, where all the morning. Only before the office, I stepped to Sir W. Coventry at the Tower and there had a great deal of discourse with him – among others, of the King's putting him out of the Council yesterday – with which he is well contented, as with what else they can strip him of – he telling me, and so hath long, that he is weary and surfeited of business. But he joins with me in his fears that all will go to naught as matters are now managed. He told me the matter of the play that was intended for his abuse – wherein they foolishly and sillily bring in two tables like that which he hath made, with a round hole in the middle, in his closet, to turn himself in; and he is to be in one of them as maister, and Sir J. Duncomb in the other as his man or imitator – and their discourse in those tables, about the disposing of their books and papers, very foolish. But that that he is offended with, is his being made so contemptible, as that any should dare to make a gentleman a subject for the mirth of the world; and that therefore he had told Tom Killigrew that he should tell his actors, whoever they were, that did offer at anything like representing him, that he would not complain to my Lord Chamberlain, which was too weak, nor get him beaten, as Sir Ch. Sidly is said to do, but that he would cause his