

set him work in the robe-chamber to write something for me, I to Westminster hall and there walked from 10 a-clock to past 12, expecting to have met Deb; but whether she had been there before, and missing me went away, or is prevented in coming and hath no mind to come to me (the last whereof, as being most pleasing, as showing most modesty, I should be most glad of) I know not; but she not then appearing, I being tired with walking went home.

20. Up and to the office, and my wife abroad with Mary Batelier with our own coach, but borrowed Sir J. Mennes's coachman, that so our own might stay at home to attend at dinner, our family being mightily disordered by our little boy's falling sick the last night, and we fear it will prove the smallpox. At noon comes my guest, Mr. Hugh May, and with him Sir Henry Capell, my old Lord Capells son, and Mr. Packer; and I had a pretty dinner for them, and both before and after dinner had excellent discourse, and showed them my closet and my office and the method of it, to their great content; and more extraordinary manly discourse, and opportunity of showing myself and learning from others, I have not in ordinary discourse had in my life – they being all persons of worth; but especially Sir H. Capell, whose being a Parliament[-man] and hearing my discourse in the Parliament-house hath, as May tells me, given him a long desire to know and discourse with me. In the afternoon we walked to the old Artillery ground near the Spitalfields, where I never was before; but now, by Capt. Deanes invitation, did go to see his new gun tryed, this being the place where the officers of the Ordnance do try all their great guns; and when we came, did find that the trial had been made, and they going away with extraordinary report of the proof of his gun, which, from the shortness and bigness, they do call "*punchinello*". But I desired Coll. Legg to stay and give us a sight of her performance, which he did; and there, in short, against a gun more then as long and as heavy again, and charged with as much powder again, she carried the same bullet as strong to the mark, and nearer and above the mark at a point-blank then theirs, and is more easily managed and recoyls no more then that – which is a thing so extraordinary, as to be admired for the happiness of his invention, and to the great regret of the old gunners and officers of the Ordnance that were there; only, Coll. Legg did do her much right in his report of her. And so having seen this great and first experiment, we all parted, I seeing my guests into a hackney coach,