

the new act, and owns his own folly in thinking once so well of it as to give way to others' endeavours about it. And is grieved at heart to see what pass things are like to come to. Thence to the Excize Office to the Commissioners to get a meeting between them and myself and others about our concernments in the Excise for Tanger. And so to the Change a while, and thence home with Creed and find my wife at dinner with Mr. Cooke, who is going down to Hinchinbrooke; after dinner Creed and I and wife and Mercer out by coach, leaving them at the New Exchange, while I to Whitehall and there stayed at Sir G. Carteret's chamber till the Council rose; and then he and I, by agreement this morning, went forth in his coach by Tiburne to the park – discoursing of the state of the Navy as to money, and the state of the Kingdom too; how ill able to raise more. And of our office, as to the condition of the officers – he giving me caution as to myself, that there are those that are my enemies too, as well as his; and by name, my Lord Bruncker, who hath said some odd speeches against me. So that he advises me to stand on my guard – which I shall do; and unless my too-much addiction to pleasure undo me, will be hard enough for any of them. We rode to and again in the park a good while; and at last home and set me down at Charing cross; and thence I to Mrs. Pierce's to take up my wife and Mercer – where I find her new picture by Hales doth not please her, nor me ended, it making no show nor is very like nor no good painting. Home to supper and to bed – having my right eye sore and full of humour of late, I think by my late change of my brewer and having of 8s. beere.

25. Up betimes, and to my chamber to do business, where the greatest part of the morning. Then out to the Change to speak with Capt. [Cocke], who tells me my silver plates are ready for me, and shall be sent me speedily. And proposes another proposition of serving us with a thousand tons of hemp, and tells me it shall bring me 500l if the bargain go forward – which is a good word. Thence I to Sir G. Carteret, who is at the pay of the tickets with Sir J. Mennes this day; and here sat with them a while, the first time I ever was there. And thence to dinner with him – a good dinner. Here came a Gentleman over from France, arrived here this day, Mr. Browne of St. Mellos – who, among other things, tells me the meaning of the setting out of dogs every night out of the town walls, which are said to secure the city; but it is not so, but only to secure the Anchors, cables, and ships that lie dry, which might otherwise in the night be