

made an unnecessary sermon upon Originall Sin, neither understood by himself nor the people. Home, where Michell and his wife, and also there came Mr. Carter, my old acquaintance of Magdalen College, who hath not been here of many years. He hath spent his time in the North with the Bishop of Carlisle much. He is grown a very comely person and of good discourse, and one that I like very much. We had much talk of all our old acquaintance of the College, concerning their various fortunes; wherein, to my joy, I met not with any that have sped better then myself.

12. Up, and to the office, where we sat all the morning – with several things (among others) discoursed relating to our two new Assistant-Controllors; but especially Sir W. Penn, who is mighty troublesome in it. At noon home to dinner, and then to the office again and there did much business; and by and by comes Mr. Moore, who in discourse did almost convince me that it is necessary for my Lord Sandwich to come home and take his command at Sea this year, for that a peace is like to be. Many considerations he did give me hereupon which were very good, both in reference to the public and his private condition. By and by with my Lord Brouncker by coach to his house, there to hear some Italian Musique; and here we met Tom Killigrew, Sir Rob. Murray, and the Italian Seignor Baptista – who hath composed a play in Italian for the Opera which T. Killigrew doth intend to have up; and here he did sing one of the acts. Himself is the poet as well as the Musician, which is very much; and did sing the whole from the words without any Musique pricked, and played all along upon a Harpsicon most admirably; and the composition most excellent. The words I did not understand, and so know not how they are fitted; but believe very well, and all in the Recitativo very fine. But I perceive there is a proper accent in every country's discourse; and that doth reach in their setting of notes to words, which therefore cannot be natural to anybody else but them; so that I am not so much smitten with it as it may be I should be if I were acquainted with their accent. But the whole composition is certainly most excellent; and the poetry, T. Killigrew and Sir R. Murray, who understood the words, did say was excellent. I confess I was mightily pleased with the music. He pretends not to voice, though it be good but not excellent. This done, T. Killigrew and I to talk; and he tells me how the Audience at his House is not above half so much as it used to be before the late fire. That Knipp is like to make