



## —\*JANUARY\*—

1. Up, and all the morning in my chamber making up some accounts against this beginning of the new year; and so about noon abroad with my wife, who was to dine with W. Hewer and Willet at Mrs. Pierce's; but I had no mind to be with them, for I do clearly find that my wife is troubled at my friendship with her and Knepp, and so dined with my Lord Crew, with whom was Mr. Browne, Clerk of the House of Lords, and Mr. John Crew. Here was mighty good discourse, as there is alway; and among other things, my Lord Crew did turn to a place in the *Life of Sir Ph. Sidney*, wrote by Sir Fulke Grevill, which doth foretell the present condition of this nation in relation to the Dutch, to the very degree of a prophecy; and is so remarkable that I am resolved to buy one of them, it being quite through a good discourse. Thence I after dinner to the Duke of York's playhouse, and there saw *Sir Martin Marrall*, which I have seen so often; and yet am mightily pleased with it and think it mighty witty, and the fullest of proper matter for mirth that ever was writ. And I do clearly see that they do improve in their acting of it. Here a mighty company of citizens, prentices and others; and it makes me observe that when I begin first to be able to bestow a play on myself, I do not remember that I saw so many by half of the ordinary prentices and mean people in the pit, at 2s.—6d. apiece, as now; I going for several years no higher then the 12d., and then the 18d. places, and though I strained hard to go in then when I did — so much the vanity and prodigality of the age is to be observed in this perticular. Thence I to Whitehall, and there walked up and down the House a while.

By and by I met with Mr. Brisban; and having it in my mind this Christmas to (do what I never can remember that I did) go to see the manner of the gaming at the Groome porter's (I having in my coming from the playhouse stepped into the two Temple halls, and there saw the dirty prentices and idle people playing — wherein I was mistaken in thinking to have seen gentlemen of quality playing