

and then to an alehouse; where the maid of the house is a confident merry lass and, if modest, is very pleasant to the customers that come thither. Here we eat it, and thence to walk in the parke a good while – the Duke being gone a-hunting; and by and by came in and shifted himself, he having in his hunting, rather then go about, light and led his horse through a River up to his breast, and came so home; and when we were come, which was by and by, we went into to him; and being ready, he retired with us and we had a long discourse with him; but Mr. Creeds accounts stick still, through the perverse ignorance of Sir G. Carteret, which I can[not] safely control as I would. Thence to the park again and there walked up and down an hour or two till night with Creede, talking; who is so knowing and a man of that reason, that I cannot but love his company, though I do not love the man, because he is too wise to be made a friend of and acts all by interest and policy.

23. Up by 4 a-clock and so to my office. But before I went out, calling, as I have of late done, for my boy's Copybook, I find that he hath not done his taske, and so I beat him and then went up to fetch my ropes end; but before I got down the boy was gone; I searched the cellar with a Candle, and from top to bottom could not find him high nor low. So to the office; and after an hour or two, by water to the Temple to my Cosen Roger, who I perceive is a deadly high man in the parliament business, and against the Court – showing me how they have computed that the King hath spent, at least hath received, about four Millions of money since he came in. So home to dinner alone; and there I find that my boy had got out of doors, and came in for his hat and band and so is gone away to his brother. But I do resolve even to let him go for good and all.

24. Up before 4 a-clock, and so to my lute an hour and more and then by water, drinking my morning draught alone in an alehouse in Thames streete, to the Temple; and there, after a little discourse with my cousin Roger about some business, away by water to St. James and there an hour's private discourse with Mr. Coventry. We did talk highly of Sir W. Batten's corruption, which Mr. Coventry did very kindly say that it might be only his heaviness and unaptness for business that he doth things without advice and rashly and to gratify people that do eat and drink and play with him. And that now and then he observes that he signs bills only in anger and fury, to be rid of them. From that, we discoursed of the evil of