

had in my Lord Treasurer's time; when I believe more business was despatched, but it was in his manner, to the King's wrong. Thence took up my wife, whom I had left at her tailor's, and home; and there to save my eyes, got my wife at home to read again, as last night, in the same book, till W. Batelier came and spent the evening talking with us, and supped with us, and so to bed.

20. Up, and all the morning at my office shut up with Mr. Gibson, I walking and he reading to me the order-books of the office from the beginning of the Warr, for preventing the Parliament's having them in their hands before I have looked them over and seen the utmost that can be said against us from any of our orders – and to my great content, all the morning I found none. So at noon home to dinner with my clerks – who have of late dined frequently with me, and I do purpose to have them so still, by that means I having opportunity to talk with them about business, and I love their company very well. All the morning Mr. Hater and the boy did shut up themselves at my house, doing something towards the finishing the abstract-book of our contracts for my pocket, which I shall now want very much. After dinner I stayed at home all the afternoon, and Gibson with me, and he and I shut up till about 10 at night; we went through all our orders and towards the end I do meet with two or three orders for our discharging of two or three little vessels by ticket without money, which doth plunge me; but however, I have the advantage by this means to study an answer – and to prepare a defence, at least for myself.

21. Up, and to the office, where all the morning; and at noon home, where my wife not very well, but is to go to Mr. Mills's child's christening, where she is godmother, Sir J. Mennes and Sir R. Brookes her companions. I left her after dinner (my clerks dining with me) to go with Sir J. Mennes, and I to the office, where did much business till after candlelight; and then, my eyes beginning to fail me, I out and took coach and to Arundell house, where the meeting of Gresham College was broke up; but there meeting Creed, I with him to the tavern in St. Clements churchyard, where was Deane Wilkins, Dr. Whistler, Dr. Floyd, a divine, admitted, I perceive, this day, and other brave men. Among the rest, they discourse of a man that is a little frantic (that hath been a kind of minister, Dr. Wilkins saying that he hath read for him in his church) that is poor and a debauched man, that the College have hired for