

there, as I think it was when I was a little child, that one of my father's servants, John Bassum I think, carried me in his arms thither), I did tell him of it and he did lead me thither; where after staying an hour, they begin to play at about 8 at night – where to see how differently one man took his losing from another, one cursing and swearing, and another only muttering and grumbling to himself, a third without any appearing discontent at all – to see how the dice will run good luck in one hand for half an hour together – and another have no good luck at all. To see how easily here, where they play nothing but guinnys, 100l is won or lost. To see two or three gentlemen come in there drunk, and putting their stock of gold together – one 22 pieces, the second 4, and the third 5 pieces; and these to play one with another, and forget how much each of them brought, but he that brought the 22 think that he brought no more then the rest. To see the different humours of gamesters to change their luck when it is bad – how ceremonious they are as to call for new dice – to shift their places – to alter their manner of throwing; and that with great industry, as if there was anything in it. To see how some gamesters, that have no money now to spend as formerly, do come and sit and look on; as among others, Sir Lewes Dives, who was here and hath been a great gamester in his time. To hear their cursing and damning to no purpose; as one man, being to throw a seven if he could and failing to do it after a great many throws, cried he would be damned if ever he flung seven more while he lived, his despair of throwing it being so great, while others did it as their luck served, almost every throw. To see how persons of the best quality do here sit down and play with people of any, though meaner; and to see how people in ordinary clothes shall come hither and play away 100, or 2 or 300 guinnys, without any kind of difficulty. And lastly, to see the formality of the Groome porter, who is their judge of all disputes in play and all quarrels that may arise therein; and how his under-officers are there to observe true play at each table and to give new dice, is a consideration I never could have thought had been in the world, had I not now seen it. And mighty glad I am that I did see it; and it may be will find another evening, before Christmas be over, to see it again; when I may stay later, for their heat of play begins not till about 11 or 12 a-clock; which did give me another pretty observation, of a man that did win mighty fast when I was there: I think he won 100l at single pieces in a little time; while all the rest envied him his good fortune, he cursed it, saying, "A pox on it that it should come so earely upon