

Batten, prevented in obtaining a bargain for Capt. Cocke which would, I think, have [been] at this time (during our great want of hemp) both profitable to the King and of good convenience to me. But I matter it not – it being done only by the folly, not any design, of Sir W. Batten. Thence to Westminster hall; and it being fast-day,<sup>1</sup> there was no shops open; but meeting with Doll Lane, did go with her to the Rose tavern and there drank and played with her a good while. She went away, and I stayed a good while after, and was seen going out by one of our neighbours near the office and two of the Hall people that I had no mind to have been seen by; but there was no hurt in it, nor can be alleged from it – therefore I am not solicitous in it; but took coach and called at Faythornes to buy some prints for my wife to draw by this winter; and here did see my Lady Castlemaynes picture, done by him from Lillys, in red chalke and other colours, by which he hath cut it in copper to be printed. The picture in chalke is the finest thing I ever saw in my life I think, and did desire to buy it; but he says he must keep it awhile to correct his Copper plate by, and when that is done, he will sell it me.

By the Duke of York his discourse today in his chamber, they have it at Court, as well as we here, that a fatal day is to be expected shortly, of some great mischiefe in the remainder of this week; whether by the papists, or what, they are not certain. But the day is disputed; some say next Friday, others a day sooner, others later; and I hope all will prove a foolery. But it is observable how everybody's fears are busy at this time.

8. Mr. Grey did assure me this night that he was told this day by one of the greater Ministers of State in England and one of the King's Cabinet, that we had little left to agree on between the Dutch and us towards a peace, but only the place of Treaty – which doth astonish me to hear, but am glad of it, for I fear the consequence of the war. But he says that the King having all the money he is like to have, we shall be sure of a peace in a little time.

9. Up and to the office, where did a good deal of business. And then at noon to the Exchange and to my little goldsmith's, whose wife is very pretty and modest, that ever I saw any. Upon the Change, where I have seldom of late been, I find all people mightily at a loss what to expect, but confusion and fears in every man's head

I. For the Plague.