

him – to my great content. Then dined and then abroad by coach, and I set him down at Hatton Guarden and I to the King's house by chance, where a new play; so full as I never saw it, I forced to stand all the while close to the very door, till I took cold, and many people went away for want of room. The King and Queen and Duke of York and Duchesse there and all the Court, and Sir W. Coventry. The play called *The Change of Crownes*, a play of Ned Howard's, the best that I ever saw at that House, being a great play and serious; only, Lacy did act the country gentleman come up to Court, who doth abuse the Court with all the imaginable wit and plainness, about selling of places and doing everything for money. The play took very much. Thence I to my new bookseller's and there bought Hookers *Policy*, the new edition, and Dugdale's history of the Inns of Court, of which there was but a few saved out of the Fire – and Playfords new ketch-book, that hath a great many new fooleries in it. Then home; a little at the office, and then to supper and to bed, mightily pleased with the new play.

18. To the office, where the news is strong that not only the Dutch cannot set out a fleet this year, but that the French will not; and that he hath given that answer to the Dutch Imbassador, saying that he is for the King of England's having an honourable peace – which, if true, is the best news we have heard a good while. At the office all the morning; and there pleased with the little pretty Deptford woman I have wished for long, and she hath occasion given her to come again to me. After office, I to the Change a little and then home and to dinner; and then by coach with my wife to the Duke of York's House and there saw *The Wits*, a play I formerly loved and is now corrected and enlarged – but though I like the acting, yet I find not much in the play now. The Duke of York and W. Coventry gone to Portsmouth makes me thus to go [to] plays. So home; and to the office a little and then home, where I find Goodgroome and he and I did sing several things over and tried two or three three-parts in Playford's new book, my wife pleasing me in singing her part of the things she knew; which is a comfort to my very heart. So he being gone, we to supper and to bed.

19. Up, and to the office all the morning, doing a great deal of business. At noon to dinner betimes; and then my wife and I by coach to the Duke's House, calling at Lovetts, where I find my Lady Castlemaynes picture not yet done, which has lain so many months