

Creede with me to dinner; and after dinner John Cole my old friend came to see and speak with me about a friend. I find him ingenious, but do more and more discern his City pedantry; but however, I will endeavour to have his company now and then, for that he knows much of the temper of the City and is able to acquaint therein as much as most young men – being of large acquaintance, and himself I think somewhat unsatisfied with the present state of things at Court and in the Church.

14. After dinner my wife and I, by Mr. Rawlinsons conduct, to the Jewish Synagogue – where the men and boys in their Vayles, and the women behind a lettice out of sight; and some things stand up, which I believe is their Law, in a press, to which all coming in do bow; and at the putting on their veils do say something, to which others that hear him do cry Amen, and the party doth kiss his veil. Their service all in a singing way, and in Hebrew. And anon their Laws, that they take out of the press, is carried by several men, four or five, several burthens in all, and they do relieve one another, or whether it is that everyone desires to have the carrying of it, I cannot tell. Thus they carried [it] round, round about the room while such a service is singing. And in the end they had a prayer for the King, which they pronounced his name in Portugall; but the prayer, like the rest, in Hebrew. But Lord, to see the disorder, laughing, sporting, and no attention, but confusion in all their service, more like Brutes then people knowing the true God, would make a man forswear ever seeing them more; and endeed, I never did see so much, or could have imagined there had been any religion in the whole world so absurdly performed as this.

20. Up and to the office, where we sat; and at noon Sir G. Carteret, Sir J. Mennes and I to dinner to my Lord Mayors, being invited; where was the Farmers of the Customes, my Lord Chancellors three Sons, and other great and much company, and a very great noble dinner, as this Mayor is good for nothing else. No extraordinary discourse of anything, every man being intent upon his dinner, and myself willing to have drunk some wine to have warmed my belly; but I did for my oath sake willingly refrain it, but am so well pleased and satisfied afterwards thereby, for it doth keep me always in so good a frame of mind that I hope I shall not ever leave this practice. Thence home and took my wife by coach to Whitehall; and she set down at my Lord's lodgings, I to a Committee