



—JANUARY—

1. Up, and presented from Capt. Beckford with a noble silver warming-pan, which I am doubtful whether to take or no. Up, and with W. Hewer to the New Exchange, and there he and I to the cabinet-shops to look out, and did agree for a Cabinett to give my wife for a New-year's gift; and I did buy one, cost me 11*l*, which is very pretty, of Walnutt tree, and will come home tomorrow. So back to the Old Exchange and there met my uncle Wight; and there walked and met with the Houblons and talked with them, gentlemen whom I honour mightily. And so to my uncles and met my wife, and there, with W. Hewer, we dined with his family and had a very good dinner, and pretty merry; and after dinner my wife and I with our coach to the King's playhouse and there in a box saw *The Mayden Queene*. Knepp looked upon us, but I durst not show her any countenance and, as well as I could carry myself, I found my wife uneasy there, poor wretch. Therefore I shall avoid that House as much as I can. So back to my aunts and there supped and talked, and stayed pretty late, it being dry and moonshine; and so walked home, and to bed in very good humour.

3. *Lords day*. Up, and busy all the morning, getting rooms and dinner ready for my guests; which were my uncle and aunt Wight and two of their cousins, and an old woman and Mr. Mills and his wife; and a good dinner and all our plate out, and mighty fine and merry. Dinner done, I out with W. Hewer and Mr. Spong, who by accident came to dine with me, and good talk with him, to Whitehall by coach and there left him, and I with my Brethren to attend the Duke of York. So home and to supper and read; and there my wife and I treating about coming to an allowance to my wife for clothes, and there I, out of my natural backwardness, did hang off; which vexed her and did occasion some discontented talk in bed when we went to bed – and also in the morning; but I did recover all in the morning.