

company this night was. Among other humours, Mr. Eveling's repeating of some verses made up of nothing but the various acceptations of May and Can, and doing it so aptly, upon occasion of something of that nature, and so fast, did make us all die almost with laughing, and did so stop the mouth of Sir J. Mennes in the middle of all his mirth (and in a thing agreeing with his own manner of Genius) that I never saw any man so out-done in all my life; and Sir J. Mennes's mirth too, to see himself out-done, was the crown of all our mirth. In this humour we sat till about 10 at night; and so my Lord and his mistress home, and we to bed – it being one of the times of my life wherein I was the fullest of true sense of joy.

13. Up, and walked to Greenwich, taking pleasure to walk with my minute wach in my hand, by which I am now come to see the distances of my way from Woolwich to Greenwich. And do find myself to come within two minutes constantly to the same place at the end of each quarter of an hour. Here we Rendezvoused at Capt. Cocke's and there eat oysters; and so my Lord Brouncker, Sir J. Mennes and I took the boat; and in my Lord's coach to Sir W. Hicke's, whither by and by my Lady Batten and Sir Wm. comes. It is a good seat – with a fair grove of trees by it, and the remains of a good garden. But so let to run to ruine, both house and everything in and about it – so ill furnished and miserably looked after, I never did see in all my life. Not so much as a latch to his dining-room door – which saved him nothing, for the wind blowing into the room for want thereof, flung down a great Bowpott that stood upon the side-table, and that fell upon some Venice glasses and did him a crown's worth of hurt. He did give us the meanest dinner – of beef – shoulder and umbles of venison which he takes away from the keeper of the Forest – and a few pigeons; and all in the meanest manner that ever I did see – to the basest degree. After dinner we officers of the Navy stepped aside to read some letters and consider some business, and so in again. I was only pleased at a very fine picture of the Queene Mother – when she was young, by Van Dike; a very good picture and a lovely sweet face.

14. Up, and walked to Greenwich and there fitted myself in several businesses to go to London, where I have not been now a pretty while. But before I went from the office, news is brought by word of mouth that letters are now just now brought from the Fleete of our taking a great many more of the Dutch fleet – in which