

little order things are there; and there it is a shame to see how the King is served. Thence to the Chamberlain of London and satisfy ourselves more perticularly how much credit we have there, which proves very little. Thence to Sir Rob. Long's [in his] absence – about much the same business, but have not the satisfaction we would have there neither. So Sir W. Coventry parted, and my Lord and I to Mrs. Williams's and there I saw her closet, where endeed a great many fine things there are – but the woman I hate. Here we dined, and Sir J. Minnes came to us – and after dinner we walked to the King's playhouse, all in dirt, they being altering of the Stage to make it wider – but God knows when they will begin to act again. But my business here was to see the inside of the Stage and all the tiring roomes and Machines; and endeed it was a sight worthy seeing. But to see their clothes and the various sorts, and what a mixture of things there was, here a wooden leg, there a ruff, here a hobby-horse, there a Crowne, would make a man split himself to see with laughing – and perticularly Lacy's wardrobe, and Shotrell's. But then again, to think how fine they show on the stage by candlelight, and how poor things they are to look now too near-hand, is not pleasant at all. The Machines are fine, and the paintings very pretty.

20. Up, and to the office, where busy all the morning. At noon dined in haste, and so my wife, Mrs. Barbary, Mercer, and I by coach to Hales, where I find my wife's picture now perfectly finished in all respects, and a beautiful picture it is, as almost I ever saw. I sat again, and had a great deal done; but whatever the matter is, I do not fancy that it hath the ayre of my face, though it will be a very fine picture. Thence home and to my business, being post-night; and so home to supper and to bed.

23. Up, and going out of my dressing-room when ready to go downstairs, I spied little Mrs. Tooker, my pretty little girl, which it seems did come yesterday to our house to stay a little while with us, but I did not know of it till now. I was glad of her coming, she being a very pretty child and now grown almost a woman. I out by 6 a-clock by appointment to Hales's, where we fell to my picture presently very hard, and it comes on a very fine picture – and very merry, pleasant discourse we had all the morning while he was painting. Anon comes my wife, and Mercer and little Tooker. And having done with me, we all to a picture drawer's hard by, Hales