

wrought with worsteds the last year, which are too little for any use; but were good friends by and by again. But one thing I must confess I do observe, which I did not before; which is, that I cannot blame my wife to be now in a worse humour then she used to be, for I am taken up in my talk with Ashwell, who is a very witty girle, that I am not so fond of her as I used and ought to be; which now I do perceive, I will remedy.

12. Up and my office, there conning my measuring-Ruler, which I shall grow a master of in a very little time. At noon to the Exchange, and so home to dinner and abroad with my wife by water to the Royall Theatre and there saw *The Committee*, a merry but an indifferent play; only Lacy's part, an Irish footman, is beyond imagination. Here I saw my Lord Falconbrige and his Lady, my Lady Mary Cromwell, who looks as well as I have known her and well-clad; but when the House begun to fill, she put on her vizard and so kept it on all the play – which is of late become a great fashion among the ladies, which hides their whole face.

13. To the office and there had a difference with Sir W. Batten about Mr. Bowyers tarr; which I am resolved to cross, though he sent me last night, as a bribe, a barrell of Sturgeon; which it may be I shall send back, for I will not have the King abused so abominably in the price of what we buy by Sir W. Batten's corruption and underhand dealing. So from the office by water, Mr. Wayth with me, to the Parliament-house; and there I spoke and told Sir G. Carteret all, with which he is well pleased and doth recall his willingness, yesterday it seems, to Sir W. Batten, that we should buy a great Quantity of tarr, being abused by him. Thence with Mr. Wayth, after drinking a cup of ale at the Swan, talking of the corruptions of the Navy, by water; I landed him at Whitefryers, and I to the Exchange and so home to dinner, where I find my wife's brother; and thence after dinner by water to the Royall Theatre, where I am resolved to bid farewell, as shall appear by my oaths tomorrow, against all plays, either at public houses or Court, till Christmas be over.

15. Up betimes; and anon my wife rose and did give me her keys and put other things in order, and herself, against her going this morning into the country. I was forced to go to Thames street and strike up a bargaine for some tarr, to prevent being abused therein