

and indeed, better then the Anthemne I heard afterward at Whitehall at my coming back. I stayed till the King went down to receive the Sacrament; and stood in his Closett with a great many others and there saw him receive it – which I did never see the manner of before. But do see very little difference between the degree of the ceremonies used by our people in the administration thereof and that in the Roman church, saving that methought our chapel was not so fine, nor the manner of doing it so glorious, as it was in the Queenes chapel. Thence walked to Mr. Pierce's and there dined, I alone with him and her and their children. Very good company, and good discourse, they being able to tell me all the businesses of the Court – the Amours and the mad doings that are there – how for certain, Mrs. Steward doth do everything now with the King that a mistress should do – and that the King hath many bastard children that are known and owned, besides the Duke of Monmouth. After a great deal of this discourse – I walked thence into the park, with her little boy James with me, who is the wittiest boy, and the best company in the world. And so back again through Whitehall both coming and going. And people did generally take him to be my boy – and some would ask me.

17. Up and to the office, where all the morning. At noon dined at home, my brother Balty with me, who is fitting himself to go to sea. So I after dinner to my accounts, and did proceed a good way in settling them; and thence to the office, where all the afternoon late writing my letters and doing business. But Lord, what a conflict I had with myself, my heart tempting me a thousand times to go abroad about some pleasure or other, notwithstanding the weather foul. However, I reproached myself with my weakness in yielding so much my judgment to my sense, and prevailed with difficulty; and did not budge, but stayed within and to my great content did a great deal of business; and so home to supper and to bed. This day I am told that Mall Davis, the pretty girl that sang and danced so well at the Duke's house, is dead.

18. And by coach with Sir W. Batten and Sir Tho. Allen to Whitehall: and there, after attending the Duke as usual, and there concluding of many things preparative to the Prince and the Generalls going to sea on Monday next – Sir W. Batten and Sir Tho. Allen and I to Mr. Lillys the painter's, and there saw the heads, some finished and all begun, of the Flaggmen in the late great fight