

my desire in it, to the King's advantage. At noon all of us to dinner to Sir W. Pens, where a very handsome dinner. Sir J. Lawson among others, and his lady and his daughter, a very pretty lady and of good deportment – with looking upon whom I was greatly pleased. The rest of the company of the women were all of our own house, of no satisfaction or pleasure at all. My wife was not there, being not well enough nor had any great mind. But to see how Sir W. Penn imitates me in everything, even in his having of his chimney piece in his dining-room the same with that in my wife's closet – and in everything else, I perceive, wherein he can. But to see again how he was out in one compliment: he lets alone drinking any of the ladies' healths that were there (my Lady Batten and Lawson) till he had begun with my Lady Carteret, who was absent (and that was well enough), and then Mr. Coventry's mistress, at which he¹ was ashamed and would not have had him have drunk it, at least before the ladies present; but his policy, as he thought, was such that he would do it. After dinner, by coach with Sir G. Carteret and Sir J. Mennes by appointment to Auditor Beale's in Salsbury court, and there we did with great content look over some old Leigers to see in what manner they were kept; and endeed it was in an extraordinary good method, and such as (at least out of design to keep them employed) I do persuade Sir J. Mennes to go upon; which will at least do so much good, it may be, to keep them for want of something to do from envying those that do something.

8. Up and all the morning at my office and with Sir J. Mennes, directing him and Mr. Turner about keeping of their books according to yesterday's work – wherein I shall make them work enough. At noon to the Change and there long; and from thence by appointment took Luellin, Mount, and W. Symons and Mr. Pierce the surgeon home to dinner with me, and were merry. But Lord, to hear how W. Symons doth commend [her] and look sadly, and then talk bawdily and merrily, though his wife was dead but the other day, would make a dog laugh. We had great pleasure this afternoon, among other things, to talk of our old passages together in Cromwells time. And how W. Symons did make me laugh and wonder today, when he told me how he had made shift to keep in, in good esteem and imployment, through eight governements in one year (the year 1659, which were endeed, and he did name them

i. Coventry.