

18. Up, and to see Sir W. Coventry, and walked with him a good while in the Stone Walk; and brave discourse about my Lord Chancellor and his ill managements – and mistakes – and several things of the Navy; and thence to the office, where we sat all the morning; and so home to dinner, where my wife mighty finely dressed, by a maid that she hath taken and is to come to her when Jane goes, and the same she the other day told me of to be so handsome. I therefore longed to see her, but did not till after dinner, that my wife and I going by coach, she went with us to Holburne, where we set her down. She is a mighty proper maid and pretty comely, but so-so – but hath a most pleasing tone of a voice and speaks handsomely, but hath most great hands, and I believe ugly, but very well dressed in good clothes; and the maid I believe will please me well enough. So my wife and I to Hyde park, the first time we were there this year, or ever in our own coach – where with mighty pride rode up and down; and many coaches there, and I thought our horses and coach as pretty as any there, and observed so to be by others. Here stayed till night, and so home and to the office, where busy late; and so home to supper and to bed with great content, but much business in my head of the office, which troubles me.

20. Up and to the Tower to W. Coventry, and there walked with him alone on the Stone Walk till company came to him; and there about the business of the Navy discoursed with him, and about my Lord Chancellor and Treasurer; that they were against the war at first – declaring, as wise men and statesmen at first to the King, that they thought it fit to have a war with them at some time or other, but that it ought not to be till we found the Crowns of Spain and France together by the eares; the want of which did ruin our Warr. But then he told me, that a great deal before the Warr, my Lord Chancellor did speak of a Warr with some heat, as a thing to be desired, and did it upon a belief that he could with his speeches make the Parliament give what money he pleased, and do what he would or would make the King desire; but he found himself soon deceived of that, the Parliament having a long time before his removal been cloyed with his speeches and good words – and were come to hate him. Sir W. Coventry did tell me it, as the wisest thing that ever was said to the King by any statesman of his time, and it was by my Lord Treasurer that is dead, whom I find he takes for a very great statesman; that when the King did show himself forward