

Castlemaine was there – and pretty witty Nell¹ at the King's house, and the younger Marshall, sat next us; which pleased me mightily.

4. All the morning at the office busy. At noon to the Change, and then went up to the Change to buy a pair of cotton stockings, which I did at the husband's shop of the most pretty woman there, who did also invite me to buy some linen of her; and I was glad of the occasion and bespoke some bands of her, intending to make her my seamstress – she being one of the prettiest and most modest-looked women that ever I did see. Dined at home; and to the office, where very late, till I was ready to fall down asleep, and did several times nod in the middle of my letters.

5. This day was kept publicly, by the King's command, as a Fast day against the Dutch war. And I betimes with Mr. Tooker, whom I have brought into the Navy to serve us as a husband to see goods timely shipped off from hence to the fleet and other places, and took him with me to Woolwich and Deptford, where by business I have been hindered a great while of going. Did a very great deal of business. And then home, and there by promise find Creed, and he and my wife, Mercer and I, by coach to take the ayre; and where we have formerly been, at Hackny, did there eat some pullets we carried with us and some other things of the house; and after a game or two at shuffleboard, home; and Creed lay with me but being sleepy, he had no mind to talk about business, which endeed I intended by inviting him to lie with me. But I would not force it on him, and so to bed, he and I, and to sleep – being the first time I have been so much at my ease and taken so much fresh ayre these many weeks or months.

7. Up betimes to the Duke of Albemarle about money to be got for the Navy, or else we must shut up shop. Thence to Westminster hall and up and down, doing not much; then to London, but to prevent Povys dining with me (who I see is at the Change) I went back again and to Herberts at Westminster; there sent for a bit of meat and dined, and then to my Lord Treasurers and there with Sir Ph. Warwicke; and thence to Whitehall, in my Lord Treasurer's chamber with Sir Philip till dark night, about four hours talking of the business of Navy charge and how Sir G. Carteret doth order

¹. Nell Gwyn.