

20. With Sir W. Batten and J. Mennes to our church to the vestry to be assessed by the late Pole bill, where I am rated at an Esquire; and for my office, all will come to about 50*l* – but not more then I expected, nor so much by a great deal as I ought to be for all my offices – so shall be glad to escape so. Thence by water again to Whitehall, and there up into the House and do hear that news is come now that the enemy doth incline again to a peace; but could hear no particulars, so do not believe it. Thence to Westminster hall, and there saw Betty Michell and bought a pair of gloves of her, she being fain to keep shop there, her mother being sick and father gathering of the tax. I aime her de todo mi corazon. Thence, my mind wandering all this day upon mauvais amours which yo be merry for. So home by water again, where I find my wife gone abroad; so I to Sir W. Batten to dinner, and had a good dinner of Ling and herring pie, very good meat – best of that kind that ever I had – thus having dined, I by coach to the Temple and there did buy a little book or two; and it is strange how Rycaut's discourse of Turkey, which before the fire I was asked but 8*s.* for, there being all but 22 or thereabouts burnt, I did now offer 20*s.*, and he demands 50*s.*; and I think I shall give it him, though it be only as a monument of the Fire. So home to the office a little, where I met with a sad letter from my brother, who tells me my mother is declared by the Doctors to be past recovery and that my father is also very ill every hour; so that I fear we shall see a sudden change there – God fit them and us for it. So to Sir W. Penn's, where my wife was, and supped with a little, but yet little, mirth and a bad nasty supper; which makes me not love that family, they do all things so meanly, to make a little bad show upon their backs. Thence home and to bed, very much troubled about my father's and my mother's illness.

22. Up and by coach to Sir Ph. Warwicke about business for Tanger, about money. And then to Sir St. Fox to give him account of a little service I have done him about money coming to him from our office; and then to Lovetts and saw a few baubling things of their doing, which are very pretty; but the quality of the people, living only by shifts, doth not please me, that it makes me I do no more care for them, nor shall have more acquaintance with them after I have got my Lady Castlemaine's picture home. So to Whitehall, where the King at chapel; and I would not stay, but to Westminster to Herbert's and there, he being not well, I sent for a quart of claret and burnt it and drank, and had a besado or three or