

content that ever I had; only, under some difficulty because of the plague, which grows mightily upon us, the last week being about 1700 or 1800 of the plague. My Lord Sandwich, at sea with a fleet of about 100 sail to the Norward, expect De Ruyter or the Dutch East India fleet. Myself having obliged both these families in this business very much, as both my Lady and Sir G. Carteret and his Lady do confess exceedingly; and the latter two also now call me Cosen, which I am glad of. So God preserve us all friends long, and continue health among us.

AUGUST

1. Slept and lay long, then up; and my Lord and Sir G. Carteret being gone abroad, I first to see the bridegroom and bride, and found them both up, and he gone to dress himself. Both red in the face and well enough pleased this morning with their night's lodging. Thence down, and Mr. Brisband and I to Billiards. Anon came my Lord and Sir G. Carteret in, who had been looking abroad and visiting some farms that Sir G. Carteret hath thereabouts – and among other things, report the greatest stories of the bigness of the Calfes they find there ready to sell to the butchers; as big, as they say, as little Cowes. And that they do give them a piece of Chalke to lick, which they hold makes them white in the flesh within. Very merry at Dinner, and so to talk and laugh after dinner, and up and down, some to [one] place, some to another – full of content on all sides. Anon, about 5 a-clock, Sir G. Carteret and his lady and I took coach, with the greatest joy and kindness that could be from the two families – or that ever I saw with so much appearance, and I believe reality, in all my life. Drove hard home, and it was night ere we got to Deptford – where, with much kindness from them to me, I left them; and home to the office, where I find all well. And being weary and sleepy, it being very late, I to bed.

6. *Lords day.* Dressed and had my head combed by my little girle, to whom I confess que je sum demasiado kind, nuper ponendo sæpe mes mains in su dos choses de son breast. Mais il faut que je leave it, lest it bring me to alguno major inconvenience. So to my business in my chamber – look[ing] over and settling more of my papers then I could do the two last days I have spent about them. In the