

war. And they say it is very true but very strange, for we use to believe they cannot support themselves without trade. Thence home to dinner and then to the office, where all the afternoon and at night till very late; and then home to supper and bed, having a great cold, got on Sunday last by sitting too long with my head bare for Mercer to comb me and wash my eares.

25. Up, and busy all the morning. Dined at home upon a Hare py, very good meat; and so to my office again, and in the afternoon by coach to attend the Council at Whitehall, but come too late; so back with Mr. Gifford, a merchant, and he and I to the Coffee-house, where I met Mr. Hill and there he tells me that he is to bee Assistant to the Secretary of the Prize Office (Sir Ellis Layton), which is to be held at Sir Rd. Fords – which methinks is but something low, but perhaps may bring him something considerable. But it makes me alter my opinion of his being so rich as to make a fortune for Mrs. Pickering. Thence home and visited Sir J. Mennes, who continues ill but is something better. There he told me what a mad freaking fellow Sir Ellis Layton hath been and is – and once at Antwerp, was really mad. Thence to my office late, my cold troubling me and having, by squeezing myself in a coach, hurt my testicles; but I hope I will cease its pain without swelling. So home, out of order, to supper and so to bed.

30. This is solemnly kept as a Fast¹ all over the City; but I kept my house, putting my closett to rights again, having lately put it out of order in removing my books and things in order to being made clean. At this all day, and at night to my office, there to do some business. And being late at it, comes Mercer to me to tell me that my wife was in bed and desired me to come home, for they hear, and have night after night lately heard, noises over their head upon the leads. Now, it is strange to think how, knowing that I have a great sum of money in my house, this puts me into a most mighty affright, that for more then two hours I could not almost tell what to do or say, but feared this and that – and remembered that this evening I saw a woman and two men stand suspiciously in the Entry in the dark; I calling to them, they made me only this answer: the woman said that the men came to see her. But who she was I could not tell. The truth is, my house is mighty dangerous, having

1. In commemoration of the execution of Charles I.