

ella; and here was her sister and Mrs. Burrows; and so in the evening got a coach and home, and there find Mr. Pelling and W. Hewer, and there talked and supped (Pelling being gone); and mightily pleased with a picture that W. Hewer brought hither of several things painted upon a deal Board, which board is so well painted that in my whole life I never was so pleased or surprized with any picture, and so troubled that so good pictures should be painted upon a piece of bad deale; even after I knew that it was not board, but only the picture of a board, I could not remove my fancy. After supper to bed, being very sleepy and, I bless God, my mind at very good present rest.

19. Up, and betimes to the Old Swan and by water to Whitehall; and thence to W. Coventry, where stayed but a little to talk with him and thence by water back again, it being a mighty fine, clear Spring morning. Back to the Old Swan and drank at Michells, whose house goes up apace, but I could not see Betty; and thence walked all along Thames street, which I have not done since it was burned, as far as Billings gate and there do see a brave street likely to be, many brave houses being built, and of them a great many by Mr. Jaggard. But the raising of the street will make it mighty fine. So to the office, where busy all the morning. At noon home to dinner; and thence to the office, very busy till 5 a-clock; and then to ease my eyes I took my wife out and Deb to the Change, and there bought them some things; and so home again and to the office, ended my letters, and so home to read a little more in last night's book<sup>1</sup> with much sport, it being a foolish book. And so to supper and to bed.

20. Up betimes and to my office, where we had a meeting extraordinary to consider of several things; among others, the sum of money fit to be demanded ready money to enable us to set out 27 ships, everybody being now in pain for a fleet and everybody endeavouring to excuse themselves for the not setting out of one, and our true excuse is lack of money. At it all the morning; and so at noon home to dinner with my clerks, my wife and Deb being busy at work above in her chamber, getting things ready and fine for her

1. The Duchess of Newcastle's *Life of the thrice noble, high and puissant Prince, William Cavendish, Duke . . . of Newcastle, written by the thrice noble illustrious and excellent Princess . . . his wife* (1667).