

22. *Lords day.* At my chamber all the morning, making up some accounts to my great content. At noon comes Mr. Sheres, whom I find a good engenuous man, but doth talk a little too much of his travels. He left my Lord Sandwich well, but in pain to be at home for want of money, which comes very hardly. Most of the afternoon talking of Spain and informing him against his return how things are here. And so spent most of the afternoon, and then he parted. And then to my chamber busy, till my eyes were almost blind with writing and reading and I was fain to get the boy to come and write for me. And then to supper, and Pelling come to me at supper and then to sing a Psalm with him; and so parted and to bed – after my wife had read something to me (to save my eyes) in a good book. This night I did even my accounts of the house, which I have (to my great shame) omitted now above two months or more; and therefore am content to take my wife's and maids' accounts as they give them, being not able to correct them, which vexes me; but the fault being my own, contrary to my wife's frequent desires, I cannot find fault; but am resolved never to let them come to that pass again. The truth is, I have indulged myself more to pleasure for these last two months then ever I did in my life before since I came to be a person concerned in business – and I doubt when I come to make up my accounts, I shall find it so by the expense.

27. Up and to the office, where very busy all the morning. While I was busy at the office, my wife sends for me to come to home, and what was it but to see the pretty girl¹ which she is taking to wait upon her; and though she seems not altogether so great a beauty as she had before told me, yet ended she is mighty pretty; and so pretty, that I find I shall be too much pleased with it, and therefore could be contented as to my judgment, though not to my passion, that she might not come, lest I may be found too much minding her, to the discontent of my wife. She is to come next week. She seems by her discourse to be grave beyond her bigness and age, and exceeding well-bred as to her deportment, having been a scholar in a school at Bow these seven or eight year. To the office again, my [thoughts] running on this pretty girl; and there till noon, when Creed and Sheres come and dined with me; and we had a great deal of pretty discourse of the ceremoniousness of the Spaniards – whose ceremonies are so many and so known, that he tells me, upon all

1. Deborah Willet.