

attending here that told us he saw the other day, and did bring the draft of it to Sir Fr. Prigeon, of a monster born of an hostlers wife at Salsbury; two women-children perfectly made, joyned at the lower part of their bellies, and every part perfect as two bodies, and only one payre of legs, coming forth on one side from the middle where they were joined. It was alive 24 hours, and cried and did as all hopeful children do; but being showed too much to people, was killed. By and by we were called in, where a great many lords – Annesly in the chair. But Lord, to see what work they will make us, and what trouble we shall have to inform men in a business they are to begin to know when the greatest of our hurry is, is a thing to be lamented – and I fear the consequence will be bad to us.

13. *Lords day.* The morning to church, where mighty sport to hear our Clerk sing out of tune, though his master sits by him that begins and keeps the tune aloud for the parish. Dined at home very well. And spent all the afternoon with my wife within doors – and getting a speech out of *Hamlett*, “To bee or not to bee,” without book. In the evening, to sing psalms; and in came Mr. Hill to see me, and then he and I and the boy finely to sing; and so anon broke up after much pleasure. He gone, I to supper and so to prayers and to bed.

14. Up, and with Sir W. Batten to Whitehall to the Lords of the Admiralty and there did our business betimes. Thence to Sir Ph. Warwicke about Navy business – and my Lord Ashly; and afterward to my Lord Chancellor, who is very well pleased with me and my carrying of his business. And so to the Change, where mighty busy; and so home to dinner, where Mr. Creed and Moore; and after dinner I to my Lord Treasurers, to Sir Ph. Warwicke there, and then to Whitehall to the Duke of Albimarle about Tanger; and then homeward to the Coffee-house to hear news: and it seems the Dutch, as I afterward find by Mr. Coventrys letters, have stopped a ship of masts of Sir W. Warrens, coming for us in a Swedes ship; which they will not release upon Sir G. Downings claiming her – which appears as the first act of hostility – and is looked upon as so by Mr. Coventry.

15. That I might not be too fine for the business I intend this day, I did leave off my fine new cloth suit lined with plush and put on my poor black suit; and after office done (where much business but