

or six miles towards Branford: the Prince of Tuscany, who comes into England only to spend money and see our country, comes into the town today, and is much expected; and we met him, but the coach passing by apace, we could not see much of him, but he seems a very jolly and good comely man. By the way we overtook Capt. Ferrers upon his fine Spanish horse; and he is a fine horse indeed, but not so good, I think, as I have seen some. He did ride by us most of the way, and with us to the park and there he left us, where we passed the evening; and meeting The[oph]. Turner, Talbt., W. Batelier and his sister in coach, we anon took them with us to the Mullberry garden; and there, after a walk, to supper upon what was left at noon, and very good; only, Mr. Sheres being taken suddenly ill for a while did spoil our mirth; but by and by was well again, and we mighty merry. And so broke up, and left him at Charing cross; and so calling only at my cousin Turner's, away home, mightily pleased with that day's work: and this day came another new mayd for a middle-maid, but her name I know not yet – and for a cook-maid, we have ever since Bridget went used a blackmoore of Mr. Batelier's (Doll), who dresses our meat mighty well, and we mightily pleased with her. So by and by to bed.

11. *Lords day. Easter day.* Up, and to church, where Ald. Backewell's wife and mother and boy and another gentlewoman did come and sit in our pew – but no women of our own there, and so there was room enough. Our parson made a dull sermon; and so home to dinner, and after dinner my wife and I out by coach, and Balty with us, to Loton the landskip-drawer, a Dutchman living in St. James's market, but there saw no good pictures; but by accident he did direct us to a painter that was then in the house with him, a Dutchman newly come over, one Everelst, who took us to his lodging close by and did show us a little flower pott of his doing, the finest thing that ever I saw in my life – the drops of Dew hanging on the leaves, so as I was forced again and again to put my finger to it to feel whether my eyes were deceived or no. He doth ask 70*l* for it; I had the vanity to bid him 20*l* – but a better picture I never saw in my whole life, and it is worth going twenty miles to see. Thence, leaving Balty there, I took my wife to St. James's and there carried her to the Queen's Chapel, the first time I ever did it – and heard excellent music. Thence to the park, my wife and I; and here Sir W. Coventry did first see me and my wife in a coach of our own, and so did also this night the Duke of York, who did eye my wife