

27. This day Mr. Pierce the surgeon was with me; and tells me how this business of my Lord Chancellors was certainly designed in my Lady Castlemaine's chamber, and that when he went from the King on Monday morning, she was in bed (though about 12 a-clock) and ran out in her smock into her Aviary looking into Whitehall garden, and thither her woman brought her her night-gown, and stood joying herself at the old man's going away. And several of the gallants of Whitehall (of which there was many staying to see the Chancellor return) did talk to her in her Bird cage; among others, Blanckford, telling her she was the Bird of paradise.

31. At the office all the morning – where by Sir W. Penn I do hear that the Seal was fetched away to the King yesterday from the Lord Chancellor, by Secretary Morrice – which puts me into a great horror, to have it done after so much debate and confidence that it would not be done at last. When we rose I took a turn with Lord Brouncker in the garden, and he tells me that he hath of late discoursed about this business with Sir W. Coventry, who he finds is the great man in the doing this business of the Chancellors, and that he doth persevere in it, though against the Duke of York's opinion. After having wrote my letters at the office in the afternoon, I in the evening to Whitehall to see how matters go; and there I met with Mr. Ball of the Excise Office and he tells me that the Seal is delivered to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the man of the whole nation that is the best spoken of and will please most people; and therefore I am mighty glad of it. He was then at my Lord Arlington's, whither I went, expecting to see him come out; but stayed so long, and Sir W. Coventry coming thither, whom I had not a mind should see me there idle upon a post-night, I went home without seeing him; but he is there with his Seal in his hand. So I home; took up my wife, whom I left at Unthanes, and so home; and after signing my letters, to bed. This day, being dissatisfied with my wife's learning so few songs of Goodgroome, I did come to a new bargain with him, to teach her songs at so much, *viz.*, 10s. a song; which he accepts of and will teach her.