

14. Up, and to St. James's to the Duke of York and thence to Whitehall, where we met about office business; and then at noon to dinner with Mr. Wren to Lambeth, with the Archbishop of Canterbury; the first time I was ever there, and I have long longed for it – where a noble house, and well furnished with good pictures and furniture, and noble attendance in good order, and a great deal of company, though an ordinary day, and exceeding great cheer, nowhere better, or so much that ever I think I saw for an ordinary table. And the Bishop mighty kind to me, perticularly desiring my company another time, when less company there. Most of the company gone, and I going, I heard by a gentleman of a sermon that was to be there; and so I stayed to hear it, thinking it serious, till by and by the gentleman told me it was a mockery by one Cornet Bolton, a very gentleman-like man, that behind a chair did pray and preach like a presbyter-Scot that ever I heard in my life, with all the possible imitation in grimaces and voice – and his text about the hanging up their harps upon the willows – and a serious good sermon too, exclaiming against Bishops and crying up of my good Lord Eglington – till it made us all burst; but I did wonder to have the Bishop make himself at this time to make himself sport with things of this kind, but I perceive it was shown him as a rarity. And he took care to have the room-door shut, but there was about twenty gentlemen there – and myself infinitely pleased with the novelty. So over to Whitehall to a little Committee of Tanger; and thence walking in the Gallery, I met Sir Tho. Osborne, who to my great content did of his own accord fall into discourse with me, with so much professions of value and respect, placing the whole virtue of the office of the Navy upon me, and that for the Controller's place, no man in England was fit for it but me when Sir J. Mennes, as he says it is necessary, is removed – but then, knows not what to do for a man in my place; and in discourse, though I have no mind to the other, did bring in Tom Hater to be the fittest man in the world for it – which he took good notice of. But in the whole, I was mightily pleased, reckoning myself now 50 per cent securer in my place then I did before think myself to be. Thence to Unthankes and there find my wife, but not dressed; which vexed me, because of going to the park, it being a most pleasant day after yesterday's rain, which lays all the dust, and most people going out thither, which vexed me. So home, sullen; but then my wife and I by water, with my brother, as high as Fulham, talking and singing and playing the rogue with the western bargemen about the women