

Albemarle in his drink taking notice as of a wonder that Nan Hide should ever come to be Duchess of Yorke – “Nay,” says Troutbecke, “ne’er wonder at that; for if you will give me another bottle of wine, I will tell you as great, if not greater, a miracle.” And what was that but that “Our Dirty Besse” (meaning his Duchesse) should come to be Duchesse of Albemarle. Here we parted, and then by water (landing in Southwarke) home to the Tower; and so home, and there begun to read Potters discourse upon 666, which pleases me mightily; and then broke off, and to supper and to bed.

5. To my Lord Crews, and there dined and mightily made of, having not, to my shame, been there in eight months before. Here my Lord and Sir Tho. Crew, Mr. John, and Dr. Crew – and two strangers. The best family in the world for goodness and sobriety. Here, beyond my expectation, I met my Lord Hinchingbrooke, who is come to town two days since from Hinchingbrooke, and brought his sister and brother Carteret with him – who are at Sir G. Carteret’s. After dinner I and Sir Tho. Crew went aside to discourse of public matters, and do find by him that all the country gentlemen are publicly jealous of the Courtiers in the Parliament, and that they do doubt everything that they propose. And that the true reason why the country-gentleman is for a land Tax and against a general Excize, is because they are fearful that if the latter be granted, they shall never get it down again; whereas the land tax will be but for so much, and when the war ceases there will be no ground got by the Court to keep it up. He doth much cry out upon our accounts, and that all that they have had from the King hath been but Estimates, both from my Lord Treasurer and us, and from all people else – so that the Parliament is weary of it. He says the House would be very glad to get something against Sir G. Carteret, and will not let their enquiries die till they have got something. He doth, from what he hath heard at the Committee for examining the burning of the City, conclude it as a thing certain, that it was done by plot – it being proved by many witnesses that endeavours were made in several places to encrease the fire, and that both in city and country it was bragged by several papists that upon such a day or in such a time we should find the hottest weather that ever was in England, and words of plainer sense.

7. Up, and with Sir W. Batten to Whitehall, where we attended as usual the Duke of York; and there was, by the folly of Sir W.