

being done, I was in good humour again, and all things in good order. Anon the five brothers Houlbons came, and Mr. Hill, and a very good supper we had, and good company and discourse, with great pleasure. My new plate sets off my cupboard very nobly. Here they were till about 11 at night, with great pleasure; and a fine sight it is to see these five brothers thus loving one to another, and all industrious merchants. Our subject was principally Mr. Hills going for them to Portugall, which was the occasion of this entertainment. They gone, we to bed.

11. *Lords day.* Up, and put on a new black cloth suit to an old coat that I make to be in mourning at Court, where they are all, for the King of Spain. To church I, and at noon dined well; and then by water to Whitehall, carrying a Captain of the Tower (who desired his freight thither); there I to the park, and walk two or three turns of the Pall Mall with the company about the King and Duke – the Duke speaking to me a good deal. There met Lord Brouncker and Mr. Coventry and discoursed about the Navy business, and all of us much at a loss that we yet can hear nothing of Sir Jere. Smith's fleet that went away to the Streights the middle of December – through all the storms that we have had since, that have driven back three or four of them, with their masts by the board. Yesterday came out the King's Declaration of war against the French; but with such mild invitations of both them and [the] Dutch to come over hither, with a promise of their protection, that everybody wonders at it. Thence home with my Lord Brouncker for discourse sake; and thence by hackney coach home; and so my wife and I mighty pleasant discourse, supped, and to bed – the great wound I had Wednesday last in my thumb having, with once dressing by Mrs. Turners balsam, been perfectly cured, whereas I did not hope to save my nail, whatever else trouble it did give me. My wife and I are much thoughtful nowadays about Pall's coming up, in order to a husband.

12. Up, and very busy to perform an oath in finishing my Journall this morning for seven or eight days past. Then to several people attending upon business; among others, Mr. Grant and the executors of Barlow for the *25l* due for the quarter before he died; which I scruple to pay, being obliged but to pay every half-year. Then comes Mr. Cæsar, my boy's lute-master, whom I have not seen since the plague before, but he hath been in Westminster all this