

Creed by the way, and they two and I to Charing cross, there to see the great Boy and Girle that are lately come out of Ireland; the latter, eight, the former four years old, of most prodigious bigness for their age. I tried to weigh them in my arms, and find them twice as heavy as people almost twice their age; and yet I am apt to believe they are very young – their father a little sorry fellow, and their mother an old Irish woman. They have had four children of this bigness and four of ordinary growth, whereof two of each are dead. If (as my Lord Ormond certifies) it be true that they are no older, it is very monstrous. So home and to dinner with my wife, and to pipe. And then I to the office, where busy all the afternoon till the evening; and then with my wife by coach abroad to Bow and Stratford, it being so dusty weather, that there was little pleasure in it; and so home and to walk in the garden, and thither comes Pelling to us to talk; and so in and to supper, and then to bed – all the world being, as I hear, very much damped that their hopes of peace is become uncertain again.

9. Up pretty betimes and to the office, where busy till office time; and then we sat, but nothing to do but receive clamours about money. This day my Lord Anglesy, our new Treasurer, came the first time to the Board, and there sat with us till noon; and I do perceive he is a very notable man and understanding, and will do things regular and understand them himself, not trust Fenn as Sir G. Carteret did, and will solicit soundly for money; which I do fear was Sir G. Carteret's fault, that he did not do that enough, considering the age we live in, that nothing will do but by solicitation – though never so good for the King or Kingdom; and a bad business well solicited shall for peace sake speed, when a good one shall not. But I do confess I do think it a very bold act of him to take upon him the place of Treasurer of the Navy at this time; but when I consider that a regular accountant\* never ought to fear anything, nor have reason, I then do cease to wonder. At noon home to dinner and to play on the flagelette with my wife; and then to the office, where very busy, close at my office till late at night; at night walked and sang with my wife in the garden, and so home to supper and to bed. This evening news comes for certain that the Dutch are with their fleet before Dover, and that it is expected they will attempt something there. The business of the peace is quite dashed again, so as now it is doubtful whether the King will condescend to what the Dutch demand, it being so near the