

then to talk of public matters; and I do find that they, and all merchants else, do give over trade and the nation for lost – nothing being done with care or foresight – no convoys granted, nor anything done to satisfaction. But do think that the Dutch and French will master us the next year, do what we can; and so do I, unless God Almighty makes the King to mind his business; which might yet save all. Here we sat talking till past one in the morning, and then home – where my people sat up for me, my wife and all; and so to bed.

15. This [morning] came Mr. Sheply (newly out of the country) to see me; after a little discourse with him, I to the office, where we sat all the morning. And at noon home, and there dined, Sheply with me, and after dinner I did pay him 70*l*, which he had paid my father for my use in the country. He being gone, I took coach and to Mr. Pierce's, where I find her as fine as possible, and himself going to the Ball at night at Court, it being the Queenes Birthday. And so I carried them in my coach; and having set them into the house, and gotten Mr. Pierce to undertake the carrying in my wife, I to Unthanes, where she appointed to be, and there told her; and back again about business to Whitehall while Pierce went and fetched her and carried her in. I, after I had met with Sir W. Coventry and given him some account of matters, I also to the Ball, and with much ado got up to the Loft, where with much trouble I could see very well. Anon the house grew full, and the candles lit, and the King and Queen and all the ladies set. And it was ended a glorious sight to see Mrs. Steward in black and white lace – and her head and shoulders dressed with Dyamonds. And the like a great many great ladies more (only, the Queene none); and the King in his rich vest of some rich silk and silver trimming, as the Duke of York and all the dancers were, some of cloth of silver, and others of other sorts, exceeding rich. Presently after the King was come in, he took the Queene, and about fourteen more couple there was, and begun the Bransles. As many of the men as I can remember presently, were: the King – Duke of York – Prince Rupert – Duke of Monmouth – Duke of Buckingham – Lord Douglas – Mr. Hamilton – Coll. Russell – Mr. Griffith – Lord Ossory – Lord Rochester. And of the ladies – the Queene – Duchess of York – Mrs. Steward – Duchess of Monmouth – Lady Essex Howard – Mrs. Temple – Swedes Embassadrese – Lady Arlington – Lord George Barkeley's daughter. And many others I remember not. But all most