

to Sir Wm. Batten again, and I went along with my Lady and the rest of the gentlewomen to Maj. Holmes's, and there we had a fine supper; among others, excellent lobsters, which I never eat at this time of the year before. The Major hath good lodgings at the Trinity house. Here we stayed late, and at last home. And being in my chamber, we do hear great noise of mirth at Sir Wm. Battens, tearing the ribbands from my Lady and him. So I to bed.

4. To Westminster hall, where it was full terme. Here all the morning; and at noon to my Lord Crewes – where one Mr. Templer (an ingenious [man] and a person of honour he seems to be) dined; and discoursing of the nature of Serpents, he told us of some that in the waste places of Lancashire do grow to a great bigness, and that do feed upon larkes, which they take thus – they observe when the lark is soared to the highest, and do crawle till they come to be just underneath them; and there they place themselves with their mouths uppermost, and there (as is conceived) they do eject poyson up to the bird; for the bird doth suddenly come down again in its course of a circle, and falls directly into the mouth of the serpent – which is very strange. He is a great traveller; and speaking of the Tarantula, he says that all the harvest long (about which time they are most busy) there are fiddlers go up and down in the fields everywhere, [in] expectation of being hired by those that are stung.

5. earely at the office; Sir G. Carteret, the two Sir Wms and myself all alone, reading over the Duke's Institucions for the Settlement of our office. Whereof we read as much as concerns our owne duties, and left the other officers for another time. I did move several things for my purpose, and did ease my mind. At noon Sir W. Pen dined with me; and after dinner, he and I and my wife to the Theater and went in; but being there very earely, we went out again to the next door and drank some Renish wine and Sugar; and so to the House again and there saw *Rule a Wife and have a Wife* – very well done; and here also I did look long upon my Lady Castlemayne, who, notwithstanding her late sickness, continues a great beauty. Home, and supped with Sir W. Pen and played at Cards with him; and so home and to bed – putting some cataplasme to my testicle, which begins to swell again.

6. After dinner the Barber trimmed me; and so to the office,