

The son of one of the Embassadors was in the richest suit, for pearl and tissue, that ever I did see, or shall, I believe. After they and all the company had kissed the King's hand, then the three Embassadors and the son, and no more, did kiss the Queenes. One thing more I did observe, that the chief Embassador did carry up his master's Letters in state before him, on high; and as soon as he had delivered them, he did fall down to the ground and lay there a great while. So with Mr. Creede to the Harp and ball; and there meeting with Mr. How, Goodgroome and young Coleman, did drink and talk with them; and I have almost found out a young gentlewoman for my turn to wait on my wife, of a good family and that can sing. Thence I went away; and getting a coach, went home and sat late talking with my wife about our entertaining Dr. Clarkes lady and Mrs. Pierce shortly, being in great pain that my wife hath never a winter gowne; being almost ashamed of it that she should be seen in a taffata one when all the world wears Moyre. So to prayers and to bed.

30. To the Change-ward to see what play there was, but I liked none of them; and so homeward and calling in at Mr. Rawlinsons, where he stopped me to dine with him and two East India officers of ships and Howell our Turner. With the officers I had good discourse, particularly of the people at the Cape of Good Hope – of whom they of their own knowledge do tell me these one or two things. *viz.*, that when they come to age, the men do cut off one of the stones of each other, which they hold doth help them to get children the better and to grow fat. That they never sleep lying, but always sitting upon the ground. That their speech is not so articulate as ours, but yet understand one another well. That they paint themselves all over with the grease the Dutch sell them (who have a fort there) and Sutt. After dinner, drinking five or six glasses of wine (which liberty I now take till I begin my oath again), I went home.

31. Mr. Povy and I to Whitehall, he carrying me thither on purpose to carry me into the Ball this night before the King. All the way, he talking very ingenuously; and I find him a fine gentleman and one that loves to live nobly and neatly, as I perceive by his discourse of his house, pictures, and horses. He brought me first to the Duke's chamber, where I saw him and the Duchesse at supper, and thence into the room where the Ball was to be, crammed with