

in good humour, and we three to the King's house and saw the latter end of *The Surprizall*; wherein was no great matter I thought, by what I saw. Thence away to *Polichenelli*,<sup>1</sup> and there had three times more sport then at the play; and so home and there, the first night we have been this year, in the garden late, we three and our Barker singing very well; and then home to supper; and so broke up and to bed, mightily pleased with this day's pleasure.

11. At noon, I to the Change and there hear by Mr. Hublon that letters are come that the Dutch have stopped the fitting of their great ships and the coming out of a fleet of theirs of 50 sail that was ready to come out; but I doubt the truth of it yet. Thence to Sir G. Carteret, by his invitation to his office, where my Lady was, and dined with him and very merry, and good people they are when pleased as any I know. After dinner, I to Whitehall, thinking there to have seen the Duchesse of Newcastle's coming this night to Court to make a visit to the Queen, the King having been with her yesterday to make her a visit since her coming to town. The whole story of this Lady is a romance, and all she doth is romantic. Her footmen in velvet coats, and herself in an antique\* dress, as they say; and was the other day at her own play, *The Humourous Lovers*; the most ridiculous thing that ever was wrote, but yet she and her Lord mightily pleased with it, and she at the end made her respect to the players from her box and did give them thanks. There is as much expectation of her coming to Court, that so [many] people may come to see her, as if it were the Queen of Sweden. But I lost my labour, for she did not come this night.

12. Up; and when ready, I to my office to do a little business; and coming homeward again, saw my door and hatch open, left so by Luce our cookmaid; which so vexed me, that I did give her a kick in our entry and offered a blow at her, and was seen doing so by Sir W. Penn's footboy, which did vex me to the heart because I know he will be telling their family of it, though I did put on presently a very pleasant face to the boy and spoke kindly to him as one without passion, so as it may be he might not think I was angry; but yet I was troubled at it. I close at my office all the afternoon, getting off of hand my papers, which by the late holidays and my laziness were

1. A puppet-play (probably in Moorfields), from which the modern Punch and Judy show is descended.