

not deny him that or anything else greater then that. And I find him a very cunning man, whatever at other times he seems to be. And among other things, he told me he was not for the Fanfarroons, to make a show with a great Title, as he might have had long since, but the main thing to get an estate; and another thing, speaking of minding of business, "By God," says he, "I will, and have already almost brought it to that pass, that the King shall not be able to whip a cat but I must be at the tayle of it" – meaning, so necessary he is, and the King and my Lord Treasurer and all do confess it. Which, while I mind my business, is my own case in this office of the Navy; and I hope shall be more, if God give me life and health. Thence by agreement to Sir J. Minnes's lodgings, where I find my Lord Bruncker; and so by water to the Ferry, and there took Sir W. Batten's coach that was sent for us and to Sir W. Battens, where very merry, good cheer, and up and down the garden, with great content to me. And after dinner beat Capt. Cocke at Billiards; won about 8s. of him and my Lord Bruncker. So in the evening, after much pleasure, back again – and I by water to Woolwich, where supped with my wife; and then to bed betimes, because of rising tomorrow at 4 of the clock, in order to the going out with Sir G. Carteret toward Cranborne to meet my Lord Hinchingbrooke in his way to Court. This night I did present my wife with the Dyamond ring a while since given me by Mr. [?Blayton], Dicke Vines's brother, for helping him to be a purser – valued at about 10*l* – the first thing of that nature I did ever give her. Great fears we have that the plague will be a great Bill this week.

15. Up by 4 a-clock and walked to Greenwich, where called at Capt. Cocks and to his chamber, he being in bed – where something put my last night's dream into my head, which I think is the best that ever was dreamed – which was, that I had my Lady Castlemayne in my armes and was admitted to use all the dalliance I desired with her, and then dreamed that this could not be awake but that it was only a dream. But that since it was a dream and that I took so much real pleasure in it, what a happy thing it would be, if when we are in our graves (as Shakespeere resembles it), we could dream, and dream but such dreams as this – that then we should not need to be so fearful of death as we are this plague-time.

16. To the Exchange, which I have not been a great while. But Lord, how sad a sight it is to see the streets empty of people, and