

7. Up and by water to the Exchequer, where I got my tallies finished for the last Quarter for Tanger; and having paid all my fees, I to the Swan, whither I sent for some oysters; and thither comes Mr. Falconbrige and Spicer and many more clerks, and there we eat and drank, and a great deal of their sorry discourse; and so parted, and I by coach home, meeting Balty in the street about Charing cross, walking; which I was glad to see, and spoke to him about his mustering business, I being now to give an account how the several muster-maisters have behaved themselves; and so home to dinner, where finding the cloth laid, and much crumpled but clean, I grew angry and flung the trenchers about the room, and in a mighty heat I was; so a clean cloth was laid, and my poor wife very patient; and so to dinner, and in comes Mrs. Barbara Sheldon, now Mrs. Wood, and dined with us. She mighty fine – and lives, I perceive, mighty happily; which I am glad for her sake, but hate her husband for a blockhead in his choice.¹ So away after dinner, leaving my wife and her, and by water to the Strand and so to the King's playhouse, where two acts were almost done when I came in; and there I sat with my cloak about my face and saw the remainder of *The Mayds Tragedy* – a good play, and well acted, especially by the younger Marshall, which is become a pretty good actor. And is the first play I have seen in either of the houses since before the great plague – they having acted now about fourteen days publicly. But I was in mighty pain lest I should be seen by anybody to be at a play. As soon as done, I home and there to my office awhile; and then home and spent the night evening my Tanger accounts, much to my satisfaction; and then to supper, and mighty good friends with my poor wife, and so to bed.

8. Up and to the office, where we sat all the morning; and at noon home to dinner, and there find Mr. Pierce and his wife and Betty, a pretty girl – who in discourse at table told me of the great Proviso passed the House of Parliament yesterday, which makes the King and Court mad – the King having given order to my Lord Chamberlain to send the playhouses (and bawdy houses) to bid all the Parliament-men that were there to go to the Parliament presently – this is true, it seems – but it was carried against the Court by 30 or 40 voices. It is a Proviso to the Poll Bill, that there shall be a committee of nine persons that shall have the inspection, upon oath

1. sc. in her choice of him.