

a little handsome; at least, ordinary people think her so. Being well satisfied with her answer, she anon went away; and I to my closet to make a few more experiments of my notions in Musique; and so then my wife and I to walk in the garden, and then home to supper and to bed.

23. Up, and after discoursing with my wife about many things touching this day's dinner, I abroad; and first to the tavern to pay what I owe there, but missed of seeing the mistress of the house. And there bespoke wine for dinner; and so away thence and to Bishopsgate street, thinking to have found a Harpsicon-maker that used to live there before the fire, but he is gone; and I have a mind forthwith to have a little Harpsicon made me – to confirm and help me in my music notions, which my head is nowadays full of, and I do believe will come to something that is very good. Thence to Whitehall, expecting to have heard the Bishop of Lincolne, my friend, preach, for so I understood he would do yesterday, but was mistaken; and therefore away presently back again and there find everything in good order against dinner; and at noon come Mr. Pierce and she, and Mrs. Manuel the Jew's wife, and Mrs. Corbett, and Mrs. Pierce's boy and girl. But we are defeated of Knepp by her being forced to act today, and also of Harris; which did trouble me, they being my chief guests. However, I had an extraordinary good dinner, and the better because dressed by my own servants – and were mighty merry; and here was Mr. Pelling, by chance came and dined with me. And after sitting long at dinner, I had a barge ready at Tower wharfe to take us in; and so we went, all of us, up as high as Barne elmes, a very fine day, and all the way sang; and Mrs. Manuel sings very finely and is a mighty discreet, sober-carriaged woman, that both my wife and I are mightily taken with her; and sings well, and without importunity or the contrary. At Barne Elms we walked round; and then to the barge again and had much merry talk and good singing; and came before it was [dark] back to the New Exchange stairs, and there landed and walked up to Mrs. Pierce's, where we sat awhile and then up to their dining-room; and so having a violin and theorbo, did fall to dance, here being also Mr. Floyd come thither, and by and by Mr. Harris. But there being so few of us that could dance, and my wife not being very well, we had not much pleasure in the dancing (there was Knepp also, by which with much pleasure we did sing a little); and so about 10 a-clock I took coach with my wife and Deb, and so home and there to bed.