

putting out men of experience in business, as the Chancellor; and from that, to speak of the condition of the King's party at present; who, as the papists, though otherwise fine persons, yet being by law kept for these four score years out of imployment, they are now wholly incapable of business; and so the Cavaliers for 20 years – who, says he, for the most part have either given themselves over to look after country and family business, and those the best of them, and the rest to debauchery &c.

26. Sir W. Batten, Sir J. Mennes, my Lady Batten and I by coach to Bednall green to Sir W. Riders to dinner – where a fine place, good lady, and their daughter Mrs. Middleton, a fine woman. A noble dinner and a fine merry walk with the ladies alone after dinner in the garden, which is very pleasant. The greatest Quantity of Strawberrys I ever saw, and good. At table, discoursing of thunder and lightning, they told many stories of their own knowledge at table; of their masts being shivered from top to bottom, and sometimes only within and the outside whole. But among the rest, Sir Wm. Rider did tell a story of his own knowledge, that a Genoese Gally in Legorne roade was struck by thunder so as the mast was broke a-pieces and the shackle upon one of the slaves was melted clear off of his leg, without hurting his leg. Sir Wm. went on board the vessel and would have contributed toward the release of the slave whom Heaven had thus set free, but he could not compass it and so he was brought to his fetters again. In the evening home; and I a little to my Tryangle and so to bed.

28. *Lords day.* I went to cast up my monthly accounts; and to my great trouble, I find myself 7*l* worse then I was the last month, but I confess it is by my reckoning beforehand a great many things; yet however, I am troubled to see that I can hardly promise myself to lay up much from month's end to month's end, about 4 or 5*l* at most, one month with another, without some extraordinary gettings. But I must and I hope I shall continue to have a care of my own expenses. So to the reading my vowes seriously, and then to supper. This evening there came my boy's Brother to see for him; and tells me he knows not where he is, himself being out of towne this week, and is very sorry that he is gone; and so am I, but he shall come no more. So to prayers and to bed.

29. Up betimes and to my office; and by and by to the Temple and