

Sir W. Pens, which minded me of my own former times; and then I begin to read to my wife upon the globes, with great pleasure and to good purpose, for it will be pleasant to her and to me to have her understand those things. In the evening to the office, where I stayed late reading Rushworth, which is a most excellent collection of the beginning of the late quarrels in this kingdom. And so home to supper and to bed with good content of mind.

26. Up; and walked forth first to the Minerys to Brown's, and there with great pleasure saw and bespoke several Instruments – and so to Cornhill to Mr. Cades, and there went up into his warehouse to look for a map or two; and there finding great plenty of good pictures, God forgive me how my mind run upon them. And bought a little one for my wife's closet presently, and concluded presently of buying 10*l* worth, upon condition he would give me the buying of them. Now, it is true I did still within me resolve to make the King one way or other pay for them, though I saved it to him another way. Thence to the Coffee-house; and sat long in good discourse with some gentlemen concerning the Roman Empire. So home and find Mr. Hollyard there; and he stayed and dined with us, we having a pheasant to dinner. He gone, I all the afternoon with my wife to Cards. And God forgive me, to see how the very discourse of plays, which I shall be at liberty to see after New Year's day next, doth set my mind upon them, that I must be forced to stint myself very strictly before I begin, or else I fear I shall spoil all. So to my office, writing letters, and then to read and make an end of Rushworth; which I did, and do say that it is a book the best worth reading for a man of my condition, or any man that hopes to come to any public condition in the world, that I do know. So home to supper and to bed.

31. We had to dinner, my wife and I, a fine Turkey and a mince-pie, and dined in state, poor wretch, she and I; and have thus kept our Christmas together, all alone almost – having not once been out. But tomorrow my vowes are all out as to plays and wine; but I hope I shall not be long before I come to new ones, so much good, and God's blessing, I find to have attended them. Thence to the office and did several businesses and answered several people; but my head akeing and it being my great night of accounts, I went forth, took coach, and to my brother's, but he was not within; and so I back again and sat an hour or two at the Coffee[-house], hearing