

hear of no disturbance there of the seamen, but that one of them being arrested today, others do go and rescue him. So to the office a little, and then home to supper and to my chamber a while, and then to bed.

24. Up, and to the office, full of thoughts how to order the business of our merry meeting tonight. So to the office, where busy all the morning. At noon home to dinner and presently to the office to despatch my business betimes; and also we sat all the afternoon to examine the loss of the *Bredagh*, which was done by as plain negligence as ever ship was. We being rose and I ending my letters and getting the office swept and a good fire made and abundance of candles lighted, I home, where most of my company come of this end of the town – Mercer and her sister – Mr. Batelier and Pendleton – (my Ladies Pen and Pegg and Mr. Lowder; but they did not stay long, and I believe it was by Sir W. Penn's order, for they had a great mind to have stayed) and also Captain Rolt; and anon, at about 7 or 8 a-clock comes Mr. Harris of the Duke's playhouse and brings Mrs. Pierce with him, and also one dressed like a country maid, with a straw hatt on, which at first I could not tell who it was, though I expected Knipp – but it was she, coming off the stage just as she acted this day in *The Goblins* – a merry jade. Now my house is full, and four fiddlers that play well. Harris I first took to my closet, and I find him a very curious and understanding person in all pictures and other things – and a man of fine conversation. And so is Rolt. So away with all my company down to the office, and there fell to dancing and continued at [it] an hour or two – there coming Mrs. Anne Jones, a merchant's daughter hard by, who dances well. And all in mighty good humour; and danced with great pleasure, and then sung, and then danced, and then sung many things of three voices, both Harris and Rolt singing their parts excellently. Among other things, Harris sung his Irish song, the strangest in itself and the prettiest sung by him that ever I heard. Then to supper in the office, a cold good supper and wondrous merry. After supper to dancing again and singing, and so continued till almost 3 in the morning and then with extraordinary pleasure broke up; only, towards morning Knipp fell a little ill, and so my wife home with her to put her to bed, and we continued dancing – and singing; and among other things, our Mercer unexpectedly did happen to sing an Italian song I knew not, of which they two sung the other two parts too, that did almost ravish me and made me in love with her